PROJECT CONNECT ANTI-DISPLACEMENT INITIATIVES
NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY (NOFA)
CLARIFICATION # 2 - QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

*This Clarification does not change the original Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) Documents, dated April 11, 2022. It is intended to provide additional clarification based on additional questions received by Austin Housing Finance Corporation (AHFC) as of June 10, 2022. Addendum # 1 replaced the original NOFA and changes are highlighted in yellow within the revised document. **QUESTIONS # 1 – 24 WERE ANSWERED AS PART OF ADDENDUM # 1.***

Logistics

QUESTION # 25: **Can the deadline to complete the NOFA application be extended?**

ANSWER: No, the NOFA has already been extended once to allow more time to complete the application.

QUESTION # 26: **Where can we get help if the application portal doesn't function, or we need IT support?**

ANSWER: AHFC is providing this email: AntiDisplacement@AustinTexas.gov for those individuals that may be having difficulty with the platform. The cut-off for this assistance is 4:00 PM, Friday, June 24, 2022. NOTE: Assistance cannot be provided to assist with filling out your application or developing your proposed program.

QUESTION # 27: **Can you notify us when the application has been received. The only confirmation received was a screen that said thank you for your submission. Should we expect a confirmation email?**

ANSWER: Yes, you will receive an automated email receipt. Please note that this does not determine if the application is complete or may be rejected upon review.

QUESTION # 28: **Uploaded documents (Tax Exempt Letter and Audited Financials) do not show up when I go back into the application (from the saved link). Do you know if there is a way to see if the document has been successfully uploaded? It shows when I upload it, but it is gone when I go back into the link to continue working on the application.**

ANSWER: When using Save & Resume, files uploaded will NOT be saved until your application is submitted. So please do not upload files until you are ready to submit a completed application.
Here is more information on the Save & Resume function of formstack: https://help.formstack.com/s/article/Allowing-Users-to-Save-Resume-Forms

Funding Priority

QUESTION # 29: **Can we submit more than one application, is there a limit and what is the minimum and max that we can request funding?**

ANSWER: You may submit multiple applications. There is no limit to the number of applications you submit or teams you can be on. We do ask that you only select one **Funding Priority** per application, although, other strategies to some degree may be included. We anticipate having three community

review panels to evaluate funding proposals -one panel for each of the **Funding Priority**. The reason for selecting a **Funding Priority** is to know which panel to send your application to, so you should select the priority that most aligns with your application. The $250,000 minimum applies to each application submitted. There is no maximum limit.

QUESTION # 30: **Can we pay residents directly so they can pay their rent? If so, what tracking would be required?**

ANSWER: If selected, the awardee will establish how funds are distributed and to who funds will be distributed to as part of the program guidelines, which will also be part of the contract. The awardee should also create and have readily available a tracking system(s) to include all finance related operations. The City may upon reasonable notice, request to inspect, monitor, audit all books, accounts, reports, files, records, contracts, and all other papers or property relating to the administration the program to include proof of payments are made for the intended purposes outlined in the contract.

QUESTION # 31: **Can you explain the difference between Program and Administrative costs?**

ANSWER: Program costs are the activities or items associated entirely with the project or program. This may include project materials, program staff salaries, and other fees that pertain only to the program. Administrative costs encompass grant expenses associated with administering the grant. Administrative expenses include salaries and related benefits of those employees who perform administrative/clerical (non-technical) activities, and other non-salary administrative expenses incurred to support a project.

General

QUESTION # 32: **We would kindly ask to explore how we can capture displacement pressures on residents at our property that best match the nature of the NOFA. We look forward to discussing this in a meeting in the coming days, if at all possible.**

ANSWER: To protect the integrity of the application process and to be equitable to all applicants applying, we are unable to meet one on one to discuss specifics to your proposal such as: how funding should be used, community needs your proposal will address, and your proposed solution that addresses community needs. This is your opportunity to be innovative and creative. If you have not done so, the Nothing About Us Without Us Report is a great tool that provides additional guidance to use before preparing your application. All applications are welcomed, and we encourage you to apply detailing how your program will support housing related initiatives that promote economic mobility within the impacted area of Project Connect. Keep in mind, this round of funding is to assist existing residents who live within 1 mile of Project Connect stations and lines **and** in communities with vulnerable, active, and chronic displacement risk.

PROJECT CONNECT ANTI-DISPLACEMENT INITIATIVES
NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY (NOFA)
CLARIFICATION # 2 - QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

QUESTION # 33: **Our data analyst is interested in the data available through the CISF dashboard linked in the application. However, he is not able to use the data in the format it's currently in, for the mapping he's hoping to do. Can you provide a shapefile of the dashboard data?**

ANSWER: Your data analyst should be able to download shapefiles from the Open Data Portal by going to "Export" and then selecting the Shapefile format. See screenshot below:
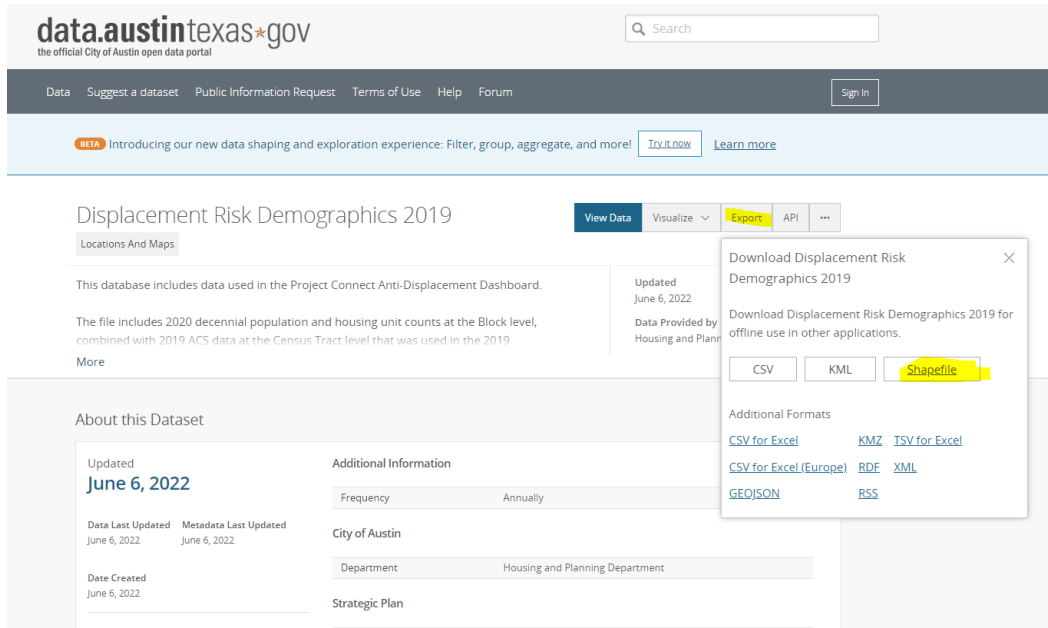
QUESTION # 34: **I'm realizing that I missed the deadline to submit application to be on the Community Evaluation Panel. Do you know if the application period will be extended?**

ANSWER: No, the selection process is already completed.