



United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:

L2225

September 28, 2022

MEMORANDUM

To: LWCF ORLP Contacts

From: Joel Lynch 
Chief, State and Local Assistance Programs Division, National Park Service

Subject: Clarification poverty rate requirement in the round 6 ORLP NOFO

We have received some questions from a few States and potential applicants about the minimum population poverty rate requirement in the round 6 ORLP notice of funding opportunity. The NOFO stated that the poverty rate of Census Tract with the economically disadvantaged community being served by the project "must be at least 20% or at least 10% greater than that of the city, county and state." Our goals of setting this as a minimum, rather than as a "goal," was to ensure that projects were being submitted for projects with poverty rates of 20% or more, as many proposals in past rounds were submitted for projects with much lower rates, making the review panel question whether the community met the ORLP program objectives. We also tried to make some allowance for communities that happen to be within a city, county and state having relatively lower poverty rates overall (maybe not exceeding 7 or 8%) by allowing them to be eligible provided the target Census Tract poverty rate is at least 10 percentage points higher than the rate of the city, county and state. However, the NOFO language stated "10% greater" rather than "10 percentage points greater," which is a significant difference.

As far we are aware, this discrepancy has only affected one state that has already made initial project selections for round 6A. All of our public trainings and email guidance has reflected the intended interpretation. We are therefore notifying all our state partners that we will require all projects to serve a community in a Census tract with a poverty rate of at least 20% or at least 10 percentage points greater than that of the city, county and state (whichever rate is the highest of the 3). We are posting a correction to this language in Grants.gov and have updated the language in the funding opportunity. A copy of the corrected funding opportunity is attached.

Please contact Ginger Carter if you have any questions at ginger_carter@nps.gov.