

APPENDIX 2: NY BRICKS (Round 2) Application Program Specific Questions

The “**Applicant Worksheets to Calculate Community Need and Project Planning for NY BRICKS**” and “**Using the ‘Grants Map for Unplug & Play FY27’ for FY 2027**” are included at the end of this document.

PROGRAM SPECIFIC ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The Applicant must attest that the facility identified in this application meets the following eligibility criteria. (For facilities not yet built, Applicants will answer according to the planned use of the facility).

The Applicant has adequate Site Control of the property to be utilized as a Community Center and has the authority to operate the facility as a Community Center.	☐ YES or ☐ NO
The Applicant is the primary operator of the facility and is responsible for its management, administration, and day-to-day operations.	☐ YES or ☐ NO
The Applicant schedules, coordinates, and convenes programming at the facility and is the entity ultimately responsible for the activities conducted there.	☐ YES or ☐ NO
The primary or dedicated purpose of the facility is to provide scheduled programming and services to the community it serves.	☐ YES or ☐ NO
The facility maintains regular published hours of operation and scheduled programming accessible to the community.	☐ YES or ☐ NO
The facility is open to the public and serves the community in which it is located.	☐ YES or ☐ NO
The facility typically operates year-round, except for reasonable closures.	☐ YES or ☐ NO
The Applicant offers a range of social activities for the community at the facility.	☐ YES or ☐ NO
The Applicant offers a range of educational activities for the community at the facility, such as after-school education or workforce training.	☐ YES or ☐ NO
The Applicant offers a range of recreational activities for the community at the facility, such as athletics.	☐ YES or ☐ NO
The Applicant offers a range of cultural activities for the community at the facility.	☐ YES or ☐ NO
Programming at the facility serves youth.	☐ YES or ☐ NO
Programming at the facility serves adults.	☐ YES or ☐ NO
Programming at the facility serves seniors.	☐ YES or ☐ NO

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Program Specific Questions

PROGRAM SPECIFIC ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA *Continued*

Programming offered includes activities such as meetings by neighborhood or community organizations.	☐ YES or ☐ NO
Programming offered includes activities such as the delivery of wraparound services, including behavioral health supports.	☐ YES or ☐ NO
The primary function of the facility is not as a commercial enterprise, library, school, gym, daycare facility, house of worship, food pantry, or health care facility.	☐ YES or ☐ NO

Does the Applicant have an open, previously awarded NY BRICKS Grant?*	☐ YES or ☐ NO
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*See Section 4.1 in the NY BRICKS (Round 2) RFA for restrictions.

Will the Applicant be the entity entering into contracts and paying project related costs?	☐ YES or ☐ NO
Will the Project be funded in whole or in part by an existing or proposed tax credit structure (e.g., New Market Tax Credits, Low-Income Housing Tax Credits, etc.) or other similarly structured financing arrangements, or will Project Costs serve as an eligible basis to generate Tax Credits?	☐ YES or ☐ NO

NY BRICKS FUNDING

Refer to Section Three of the RFA and select the correct "Application Project Purpose Priority and Grant Funding Level."	☐ Priority 1 - New Community Centers- New Construction or Expansion for additional square footage (Grant Funding Level: \$5,000,001 - \$15,000,000) ☐ Priority 2 - New Community Centers- New Construction or Expansion for additional square footage (Grant Funding Level: \$1,000,000- \$5,000,000) ☐ Priority 3 - Renovation of existing Community Center Projects (Grant Funding Level: \$250,000 - \$5,000,000)
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NY BRICKS FUNDING *Continued*

Requested Grant Amount	\$
Required 20% Match Amount	\$
Other Funding	\$
Total Project Cost (Sum of Requested Grant Amount + Required Match Amount + Other Funding)	\$

SITE CONTROL

If your lease requires the permission of the landlord to undertake the proposed project, please provide a letter of support from the landlord or realty entity, on their letterhead, indicating support for the project. **Such a letter must be uploaded with the lease in the DASNY Grants Application Portal, Project Location(s) and Site Control Documentation.**

ENVIRONMENTAL OR REGULATORY PERMITS

Specify the environmental or regulatory permits required for this Project. If none are required, respond with "N/A."	
If environmental or regulatory permits are required, have those permits been secured?	☐ YES ☐ NO ☐ N/A
If "no," please explain.	

ELIGIBILITY FOR TAX-EXEMPT FINANCING

Has the Applicant previously received financing from the sale of tax-exempt bonds for <u>this Project</u> ? If <u>yes</u> , attach a schedule describing the details of such financing.	☐ YES or ☐ NO
Does the Applicant anticipate applying for financing for <u>this Project</u> from the sale of other bonds?	☐ YES or ☐ NO

ELIGIBILITY FOR TAX-EXEMPT FINANCING *Continued*

*Costs incurred and paid on or before April 1, 2026, are not eligible for NY BRICKS funding.

Applicants with a Worksheet 3 score (total of Worksheet 1 and Worksheet 2) of 30 or below will not be Eligible for a Grant and will not be scored further.

Question 1: What specific community needs or challenges does the proposed project aim to address? Your response must include how the needs were identified (e.g., community survey, demographic data, stakeholder engagement report).

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Program Specific Questions**

Question 2: What dedicated programs or services are included for seniors and the aging population?
Question 3: How will the programs referenced in the response to Question 2 improve social engagement, health, mobility, or quality of life for older adults?
Question 4: What programs or services will be offered to youth and school-aged children?
Question 5: How will the programs referenced in the response to Question 4 promote educational enrichment, personal development, or recreational development?

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Question 6: What career training, workforce development, or job-readiness services will be made available?

Question 7: Which populations will have access to the services referenced in the response to Question 6, and how do they align with local labor market needs?

Question 8: Does the project include indoor or outdoor spaces accessible for recreational or athletic activities?

Question 9: How will these spaces that are referred to in the response to Question 8 support physical activity, community gatherings, or safe play for the public?

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Question 10: How does the project respond to evolving demographics and emerging social conditions in the community?

Question 11: What strategies are in place to ensure the project remains adaptable to future community needs?

Question 12: Will the project provide space for neighborhood associations, community groups, or public meetings?

Question 13: How will these spaces referenced in the response to Question 12 be managed and made accessible to local organizations?

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Question 14: How does the project ensure open, equitable, and reasonable access to persons of various abilities?

Question 15: What design elements or program accommodations ensure compliance with ADA and universal design principles?

Question 16: Will the project offer or connect participants to wraparound services such as health care, behavioral health, or licensed childcare?

Question 17: How will these services referred to in the response to Question 16 be integrated to provide comprehensive support for individuals and families?

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Question 18: What is the estimated total number of people the project will serve annually across all programs and services? Please represent this as a whole number and as a percent of overall community population.

Question 19: What hours and days of operation will the community center maintain to ensure access to all populations served?

Question 20: What strategies are in place to ensure affordability or offer subsidies, scholarships, or free programming for low-income participants?

Using the “Grants Map for NY Unplug and Play Programs” for FY 2027

Use the “Grants Map for NY Unplug and Play Programs,” an online, layered map, to answer questions for the application at: <https://tinyurl.com/unplugplay27>.

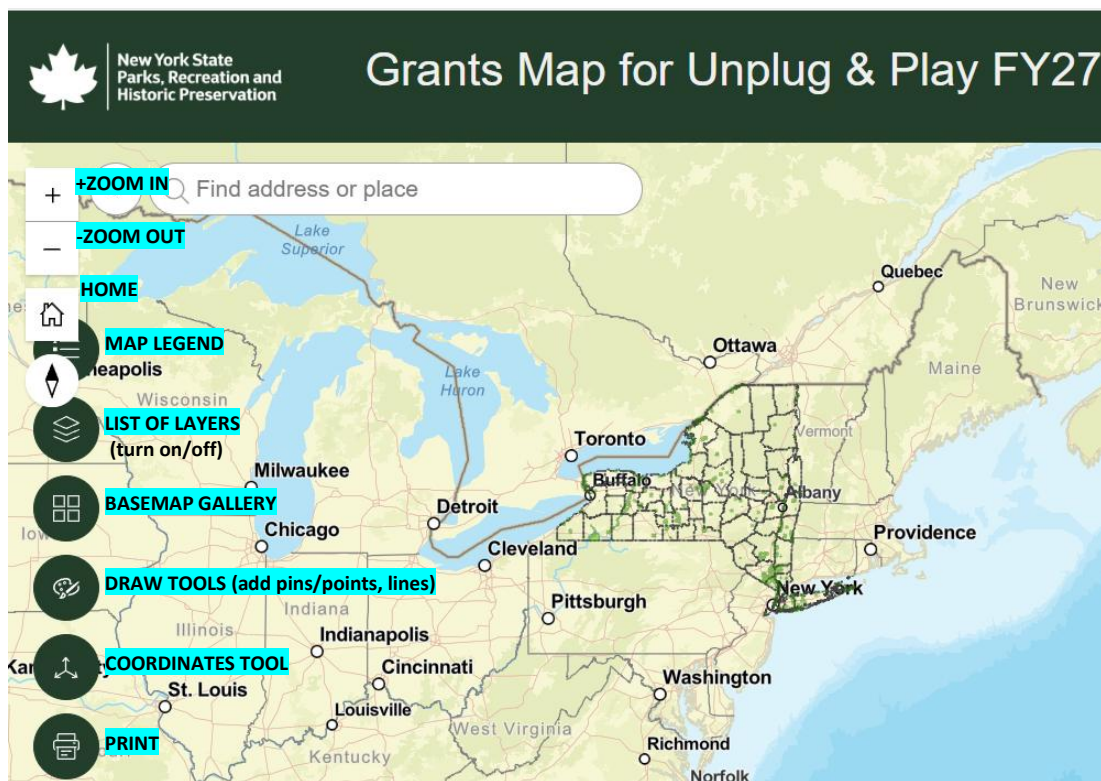
Identify location information for your project location:

- ZIP Code Tabulation Area (ZCTA) and Poverty data,
- Disadvantaged Communities (DAC) and census tract ID numbers, or
- Distressed Communities.

The map is made up of several layers. Layered files allow users to turn data layers on and off. It is recommended that you select only a few layers at a time to avoid a lengthy wait for data to load.

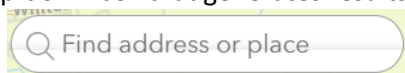
Most icons on the map allow you to hover your mouse over them to view text describing that tool.

Below is a flat image of the map to introduce you to the available features.



Answer Questions for your project location using the Grants Map

1. Enter the street address, city, and state for your project location into the Find Address search box. Click the magnifying glass to search or select the appropriate address if it is in the search results drop-down box that generates results as you type.



If your project location does not have a street address, select the zoom in  or zoom out  tools (as needed) which will magnify or minimize portions of the map. Then, click and drag the map to center your project location.

2. If your project location has a street address, view the marked location on the map. If it is incorrect, try zooming in or out to find your project location on the map.
3. To identify any of the features listed above (Poverty by ZCTA, DAC, Distressed Communities, etc.), use the layers tool. Click on the List of Layers tool . Select the layer that you wish to view for your project location such as Poverty by ZCTA, 2024 ACS (ACS=American Community Survey). The boundaries for the ZIP Code Tabulation Areas will then appear on the map. If you do not see anything added, try zooming out to see the boundaries. The map legend tool  will show you which layer you are viewing based on the color of the boundaries or shading. See table below. Close the List of Layers box by clicking the X in the upper right-hand corner of that box.

Map Legend

Poverty by ZCTA 2024 (ACS)	
	
Census Tracts - Disadvantaged Communities (DAC)	
	Not Designated as DAC
	Designated as DAC
ESD Distressed Communities (2026)	
	Severely Distressed
	Moderately Distressed
	Slightly Distressed
	Not Distressed

4. Once the boundaries appear, click on the point marking your project location. Note the ZIP Code Tabulation Area (ZCTA) and the Percent Below Poverty Level (%) for your project location and enter that information into the related Applicant Worksheet of the application.

Poverty by ZCTA data

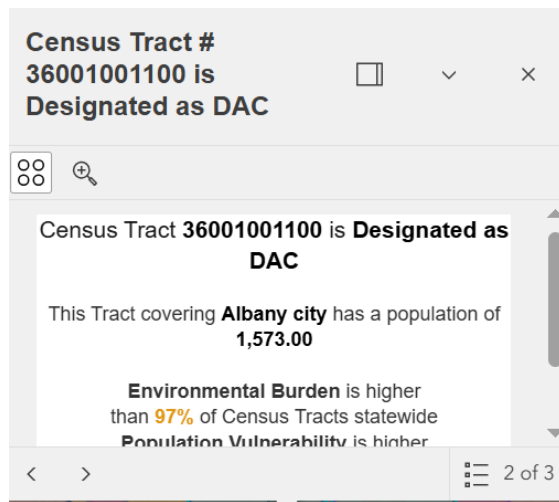
NYS ZCTAs with ACS 5yr Poverty Estimates (2024): 12207

 Zoom to

ZCTA	12207
Population	1957
Population Below Poverty Level	682
Percent Below Poverty Level	34.8

5. If you selected more than one layer in the List of Layers tool, your results box will have an arrow. Click the Next arrow to view the results of another layer such as Census Tract # and Disadvantaged Communities or ESD Distressed Communities (2026):

Census Tract 11-digit ID# and
Designation as a Disadvantaged Community (DAC)



Distress Level Description from ESD Distressed Communities data

ESD Distressed Communities

 Zoom to

Census Tract 001100

Distress level of **Moderately Distressed**.

- To view other features, go back to the List of Layers tool. Uncheck the box for the layer(s) you already viewed. Select another layer that you wish to identify for your project location. The boundaries of that feature will then be added to the map. Once the boundaries appear, click on the point marking your project location to view the data associated with that layer. Record the requested information on the Applicant Worksheet.

Applicant Worksheets to Calculate Community Need and Project Planning for NY BRICKS

All worksheets must be entirely completed.

Applicant Name

WORKSHEET 1: CALCULATING COMMUNITY NEED

To complete Worksheet 1, follow instructions found in “Using the ‘Grants Map for NY Unplug and Play Programs’ for FY 2027”. The map can be found at: <https://tinyurl.com/unplugplay27>.

RATING CATEGORY: COMMUNITY NEED

Sub-category: Zip Code Tabulation Area (ZCTA) Points from “Grants Map for NY Unplug and Play Programs for FY 2027”

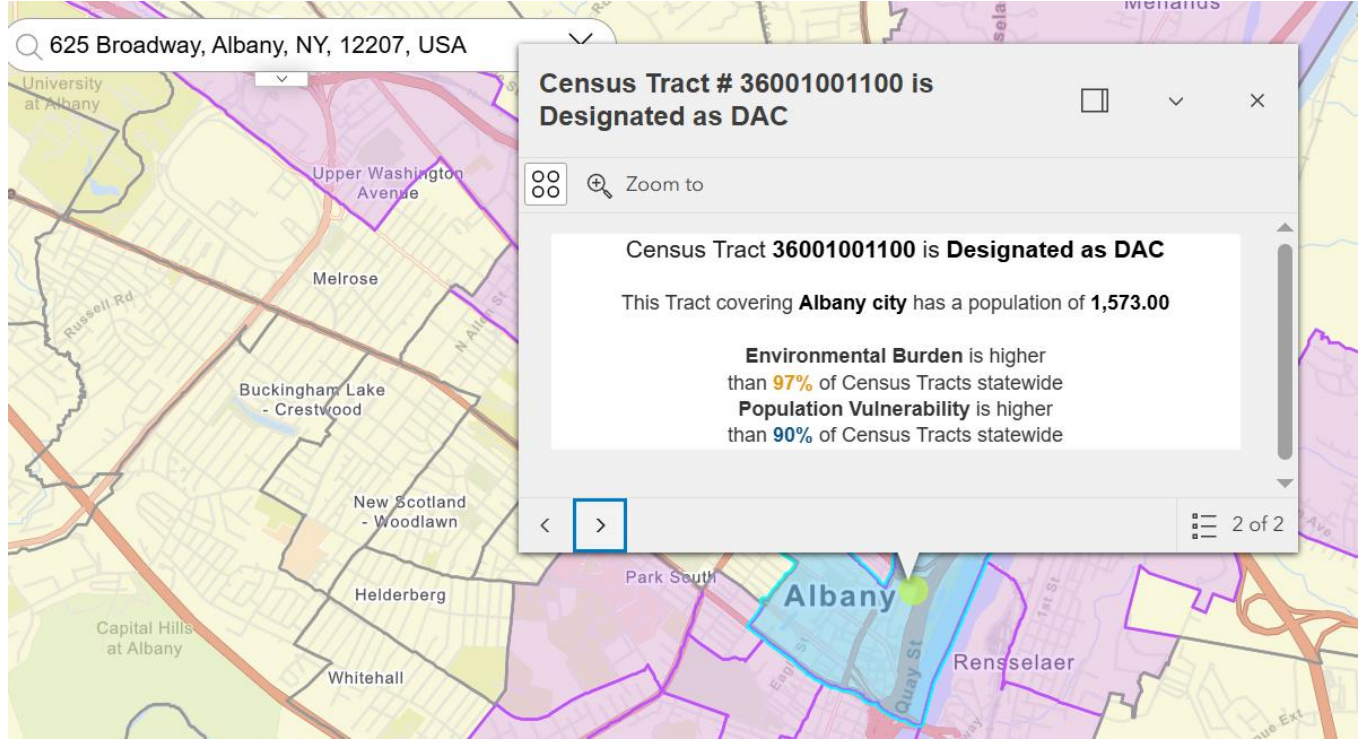
Percent Below Poverty Level From “Grants Map for NY Unplug and Play Programs for FY 2027”	A.																										
Points for Poverty Level from Point Breakdown for Chart	B.																										
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">POINT BREAKDOWN FOR POVERTY LEVEL</th></tr> <tr> <th style="width: 70%;">Percent Poverty</th><th style="width: 30%;">Points</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>0 - 3.2</td><td style="text-align: center;">0</td></tr> <tr><td>3.3 - 4.7</td><td style="text-align: center;">1</td></tr> <tr><td>4.8 - 6.5</td><td style="text-align: center;">2</td></tr> <tr><td>6.6 - 8.4</td><td style="text-align: center;">3</td></tr> <tr><td>8.5 - 10.0</td><td style="text-align: center;">4</td></tr> <tr><td>10.1 - 11.7</td><td style="text-align: center;">5</td></tr> <tr><td>11.8 - 13.7</td><td style="text-align: center;">6</td></tr> <tr><td>13.8 - 17.4</td><td style="text-align: center;">7</td></tr> <tr><td>17.5 - 18.7</td><td style="text-align: center;">8</td></tr> <tr><td>18.8 - 19.9</td><td style="text-align: center;">9</td></tr> <tr><td>20+</td><td style="text-align: center;">10</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	POINT BREAKDOWN FOR POVERTY LEVEL		Percent Poverty	Points	0 - 3.2	0	3.3 - 4.7	1	4.8 - 6.5	2	6.6 - 8.4	3	8.5 - 10.0	4	10.1 - 11.7	5	11.8 - 13.7	6	13.8 - 17.4	7	17.5 - 18.7	8	18.8 - 19.9	9	20+	10	
POINT BREAKDOWN FOR POVERTY LEVEL																											
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Calculate the Total Score for ZCTA by multiplying Box B by 2 (e.g., <i>Box B x 2= ZCTA Score</i>)	C.
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Sub-category: NYS Disadvantaged Community (DAC) Designation from “Grants Map for NY Unplug and Play Programs for FY 2027”

Use the “Grants Map for NY Unplug and Play Programs for FY 2027” interactive map to identify the project location Census Tract (11-digit number) and to determine a NYS Disadvantaged Community (DAC) designation. DAC parcels are shaded purple on the interactive map. Use the search icon within the map to enter the address for the project location. There are 1,736 census tracts that have been designated as DACs along with summary data and ratings on individual indicators for all the state’s census tracts.

Once the project location is identified on the interactive map, capture a screen view image that includes Census Tract and designation information. An example for an Albany, NY location is below:



Enter the 11-digit Census Tract identification code found on the interactive map on the line:

_____.

If the project location is designated as a DAC enter “5” in Box D. All others enter “0”.

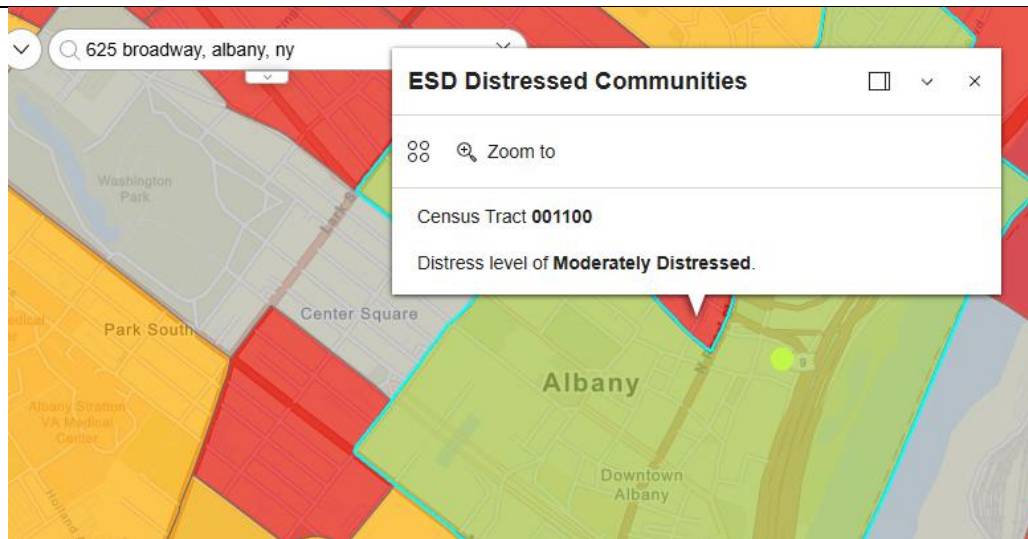
D.

Additional information concerning NYS Disadvantaged Communities (“DACs”) is available on the Climate Act website (<https://climate.ny.gov/Resources/Disadvantaged-Communities-Criteria>).

Sub-category: ESD Distressed Community Designation from “Grants Map for NY Unplug and Play Programs for FY 2027”

Use the “Grants Map for NY Unplug and Play Programs for FY 2027” to identify the project location to determine a designation. Use the search icon within the map to enter a specific project location address.

Once the project location is identified on the interactive map, capture a screen view image that includes Census Tract and Distress level description designation information. An example for 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12207 is below:



Considering the project location, enter the score value associated with the designation.

- If Severely Distressed enter “5” in Box E.
- If Moderately Distressed enter “3” in Box E.
- If Slightly Distressed enter “1” in Box E.
- If Not Distressed enter “0” in Box E.

E.

Additional information concerning the ESD Distressed Communities is available at the NYS GIS Clearinghouse Data website (<https://data.gis.ny.gov/datasets/sharegisny::esd-distressed-communities/about>).

COMMUNITY NEED SCORE SUBTOTAL= Box C + Box D + Box E

F.

If an applicant’s “Community Need” score is 20 or higher, the project will be considered part of the pool of underserved communities.

WORKSHEET 2: CALCULATING PROJECT PLANNING

Applicant Name

SECTION: PROJECT PLANNING

For purposes of this RFA, “evidence of planning” shall mean design documents related to the proposed Project.

Acceptable evidence of planning includes the cover page and table of contents of:

- Construction Documents, and/or
- Design Development Documents, and/or
- Schematic Design Documents.

Any design document submitted must be accompanied by a signed and dated letter from the designer of record on business letterhead that indicates the most advanced stage of design.

Can you provide evidence of the Project being planned?

- If Yes, attach evidence of planning efforts as defined above for the Project and
 - If Applicant submits Construction Documents that are directly relevant to the proposed Project and a signed letter from the designer of record, enter “20” in Box G.
 - If Applicant submits Design Development Documents that are directly relevant to the proposed Project and a signed letter from the designer of record, enter “10” in Box G.
 - If Applicant submits Schematic Design Documents that are directly relevant to the proposed Project and a signed letter from the designer of record, enter “5” in Box G.
- If No, enter “0” in Box G.
Applicant fails to submit meaningful evidence of planning; or submitted materials are general in nature, unrelated to the proposed Project, or are incomplete.

G.

PROJECT PLANNING SCORE SUBTOTAL= Box G

H.

WORKSHEET 3: TOTAL RATING FOR COMMUNITY NEED AND PROJECT PLANNING

Applicant Name

TOTAL COMMUNITY NEED AND PROJECT PLANNING SCORE= Box F on page 3 + Box H on page 4

If the value of the score is greater than 40, enter “40” in Box I.

I.