

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT – ENTITLEMENT COMMUNITIES PROGRAM

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Entitlement Communities Program provides annual grants on a formula basis to eligible metropolitan cities and urban counties (called “entitlement communities”). Since 1974, CDBG has awarded grants to these entitlement community grantees to carry out a wide range of community development activities directed toward revitalizing neighborhoods, economic development, and community facilities and services.

Entitlement communities have the flexibility to develop their own programs and funding priorities. However, grantees must give maximum feasible priority to activities that benefit low- and moderate-income persons. A grantee may also carry out activities that aid in the prevention or elimination of slums or blight. Additionally, grantees may fund activities when the grantee certifies that the activities meet other community development needs having a particular urgency, because existing conditions pose a serious and immediate threat to the health or welfare of the community and other financial resources are not available to meet such needs. CDBG funds must be used for activities that meet one of more of these three broad national objectives.

Funds may be used for activities that include, but are not limited to: (1) acquisition of real property; (2) relocation and demolition; (3) rehabilitation of residential and non-residential structures; (4) construction of public facilities and improvements, such as water and sewer facilities, streets, and neighborhood centers, and the conversion of school buildings for eligible purposes, (5) public services, within certain limits, activities relating to energy conservation and renewable energy resources; and (6) provision of assistance to profit-motivated businesses to carry out economic development and job creation/retention activities.

Generally, the following types of activities are ineligible: (1) acquisition, construction or reconstruction of buildings for the general conduct of government; (2) political activities; (3) certain income payments; and (4) construction of new housing by units of general local government.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Principal cities of Metropolitan Statistical Areas, other metropolitan cities with populations of at least 50,000 and qualified urban counties with populations of at least 200,000 (excluding the population of entitled cities) are entitled to receive annual grants; HUD determines the amount of each entitlement grant by a statutory dual formula that uses several objective measures of community needs, including the extent of poverty, population, housing overcrowding, age of housing and population growth lag in relationship to other metropolitan areas; non-entitlement municipalities that are located in an entitlement county have the option of participating with their county in the CDBG entitlement program through a signed agreement. (Note: cities that sign this entitlement participation agreement with their county government are not eligible to participate in the competitive Florida Small Cities CDBG program administered by the state.)

TYPE OF ASSISTANCE

Entitlement grants.

AVAILABLE FUNDING

Call the numbers in the “contact” section for up-to-date information.

SOURCE OF FUNDS

U.S. Congress; authorized under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, Public Law 93-383, as amended; 42 U.S. Code 5301 et seq.

APPLICATION PROCESS/DEADLINES

To receive an annual CDBG entitlement grant, a grantee must develop and submit to HUD its consolidated plan (a jurisdiction’s comprehensive planning document and application for funding under the following community planning and development formula grant programs: CDBG, HOME Investment Partnerships, Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS and Emergency Shelter Grants); in its consolidated plan, the jurisdiction must identify its goals for these programs as well as for housing programs; the goals will serve as the criteria against which HUD will evaluate a jurisdiction’s plan and its performance under the plan; also, the consolidated plan must include several required certifications, including that not less than 70 percent of the CDBG funds received (over a one-, two- or three-year period specified by the grantee) will be used for activities that benefit low- and moderate-income persons, and that the grantee will affirmatively further fair housing; HUD will approve a consolidated plan submission unless the plan (or a portion of it) is inconsistent with the purposes of the National Affordable Housing Act or is substantially incomplete;

Following approval, HUD will make a full grant award unless the secretary has made a determination that the grantee: (1) has failed to carry out its CDBG-assisted activities in a timely manner; (2) has failed to carry out those activities and its certifications in accordance with the requirements and the primary objectives of Title I or the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, and with other applicable laws; or (3) lacks a continuing capacity to carry out its CDBG-assisted activities in a timely manner.

MATCHING/OTHER REQUIREMENTS

A grantee must: (1) develop and follow a detailed plan that provides for, and encourages, citizen participation and which emphasizes participation by persons of low- or moderate-income, particularly residents of predominantly low- and moderate-income neighborhoods, slum or blighted areas, and areas in which the grantee proposes to use CDBG funds (the plan must provide citizens with reasonable and timely access to local meetings, information and records related to the grantee’s proposed and actual use of funds); (2) provide public hearings to obtain citizen views and to respond to proposals and questions at all stages of the community development program, including at least the development of needs, the review of proposed activities and review of program performance; (3) provide for timely written answers to written complaints and grievances; and (4) identify how the needs of non-English speaking residents will be met in the case of public hearings where a significant number of non-English speaking residents can be reasonably expected to participate.

(over)

CONTACT

Community Connections (Notice of Funding Availability): 1-(800) 998-9999.

There are four HUD offices serving the State of Florida.

Jacksonville:

400 W. Bay Street, Suite 1015
Jacksonville, FL 32202
(904) 232-2627
Fax: (904) 232-3759

Jurisdiction: the following 36 counties in North Florida: Alachua, Baker, Bay, Bradford, Calhoun, Columbia, Clay, Dixie, Duval, Escambia, Flagler, Franklin, Gadsden, Gilchrist, Gulf, Hamilton, Holmes, Jackson, Jefferson, Lafayette, Leon, Levy, Liberty, Madison, Marion, Nassau, Okaloosa, Putnam, St. Johns, Santa Rosa, Suwannee, Taylor, Union, Wakulla, Walton and Washington.

Miami:

Brickell Plaza Federal Building
909 S.E. First Avenue, Room 500
Miami, FL 33131-3028
(305) 536-4456
TTD: (305) 536-4743
Fax: (305) 536-5765

Jurisdiction: the following 10 counties in South Florida: Broward, Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry, Lee, Martin, Miami-Dade, Monroe and Palm Beach.

Orlando:

3751 Maguire Boulevard, Suite 270
Orlando, FL 32803
(407) 648-6441
Fax: (407) 648-6310

Jurisdiction: the following nine counties in East Central Florida: Brevard, Indian River, Lake, Okeechobee, Orange, Osceola, St. Lucie, Seminole and Volusia.

Tampa:

Timberlake Federal Building
500 E. Zack Street, Suite 402
Tampa, FL 33602-2945
(813) 228-2026
TTD: (813) 228-2115
Fax: (813) 228-2431

Jurisdiction: the following 12 counties in West Central Florida: Citrus, DeSoto, Hardee, Hernando, Highlands, Hillsborough, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, Sarasota and Sumter.