

Community Development Block Grant: Comprehensive Neighborhood Revitalization Planning Grant

CDBG
Community Development Block Grant

**2023 Application
Workshop**

IOWA
economic development

Joyce Brown, Project Manager

Purpose & Available Funds

- » As PLANNING only funds, these projects are not required to meet a national objective but are intended to lead directly to activities that will benefit low-to-moderate income persons and may also include the alleviation of slum and blight.
- » Purpose is to provide CDBG planning funds to enable cities or counties to hire qualified consultants to prepare a detailed plan or study focused upon a selected neighborhood that is beset by problems relating to public infrastructure, public facilities, housing, recreation, low-income levels and overall blight or neglect.
- » Funding for both the Planning & Implementation programs designed for Neighborhood Revitalization are derived from an allocation presently set at 15% (currently totaling about \$3.3 million) of the annual CDBG formula allocation received by IEDA from HUD. Of that \$3.3 million, the annual amount reserved for the PLANNING component of the neighborhood revitalization program at present is approximately \$150,000.

Purpose & Available Funds Continued....



- » The maximum award per project is \$25,000. This is inclusive of the planning activity and up to \$2,000 for administrative costs.
- » There is also a local match requirement of 15%.

Request for Proposals

» RFP for plan writing services:

- If awarded, all RFP 's must be submitted for review by IEDA before it goes out .
- We would also like to see your criteria for evaluating the proposals received
- Keep in mind that the quality of this plan will determine who gets invited to apply for activity funding next year
- **Please Note:** If the local COG assisted the City in completing the application and creating the RFP for the plan, they would not be eligible post-award to submit a proposal to write the plan itself.

What the Plan Should Contain

- » Maps & photos - graphs, tables, charts as necessary
- » Estimated population and number of households (maximum area of 200 households)
- » Clearly defined plan area boundaries
- » LMI percentages & other socioeconomic data
- » Historical/cultural background
- » Blighting factors and any other special conditions
- » Synopsis of reasons for the decline of the area
- » Community development, social and housing needs in the neighborhood
- » Identification of the types of CDBG activities that could address identified issues
- » A “ballpark” estimate of the total cost of those activities and the anticipated CDBG share
- » Evidence of local support, especially from the affected neighborhood



****When plans are completed, they should be uploaded in "Electronic Documents.****

Project Time Period



- » Other CDBG programs have grant periods of anywhere from two to four years
- » This program is far shorter at just over nine months. We are hoping to shoot for September 30, 2024, but that will depend on when the awards are made.
- » It would take some extremely dramatic or unique circumstances for IEDA to process any extensions on these grants
- » That being the case, be sure to be very clear on when the plan must be fully completed with the consultant who is awarded a contract to compose the plan

Environmental Review

- » Planning projects are considered to be Categorically Exempt under 24 CFR 58.34 (1).

However, please note when choosing your neighborhood, anything in the 100-year flood plain **WILL NOT** be eligible; and per HUD's new guidance, anything in the 500-year flood plain will be reviewed and **MAY** or **MAY NOT** be eligible. If you have any questions or for further clarification, please contact Robert Jonet or me for further explanation.

- » Clearing the ERR requires no publications or comment periods
- » No Section 106 and no tiered reviews
- » All you need do is fill out and upload two forms: Level of Determination and 58.6 Checklist



Environmental Review Forms

- » What to turn in for exempt projects:
 - 1. Fill out the DETERMINATION LEVEL OF REVIEW form. Make sure to mark the citation from 24 CFR 58.34 for Exempt Activities
 - 2. Fill out the 24 CFR 58.6 Requirements Form.
 - 3. Upload the Environmental Review Record (ERR) with all the documents to lowaGrants.gov by creating a new status report in the Compliance Forms component.
 - **These projects do not require a local publication, comment period or a release of funds form.**
 - There is no State comment period either, so you can receive approval very quickly if documents are correct.

Tips For A Successful Program

- » Select consultant with due process and care
- » Keep track of consultant's progress
- » Watch timeframe
- » Have a plan for how the document will be used, and by whom, when complete
- » Involve the neighborhood affected during plan formulation and after
- » Let IEDA know of any problems or potential problems



Questions

Joyce Brown

joyce.brown@iowaeda.com

515-348-6209