Community Development Block Grant: Comp. Neighborhood Revitalization Planning



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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-tomoderate 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 \$3.5 million) of the annual CDBG formula allocation received by IEDA from HUD. The annual amount reserved for the planning component of the neighborhood revitalization at present is approximately \$150,000.





Request for Proposals

- » RFP for plan writing services:
 - Uploading it is a contract condition, (most of you have already done this)
 - We would like to review and approve it before it goes out
 - We would also like to see your evaluation criteria for proposals received
 - Keep in mind that the quality of this plan will determine who gets invited to apply for activity funding early next year
 - If you have not sent this to us for review yet, please do so ASAP





Environmental Review

- » An ERR is still required, but it is a very simple one
- » Planning projects are considered to be Categorically Exempt
- » Exempt Activities (24 CFR 58.34): (1) Environmental and other studies, resource identification and the development of plans and strategies.
- » 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 IowaGrants.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.



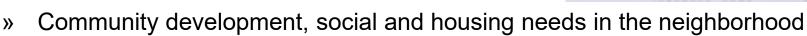


Project Time Period

- » Other CDBG programs have grant periods of anywhere from two to four years
- » This program is far shorter at just over nine months, <u>ending on</u> <u>December 31, 2024. Plans must be submitted along with a</u> <u>Resolution from the Council approving said plan, on or before this</u> <u>date.</u>
- » IEDA will not process any extensions on these grants
- » That being the case, be sure to be very clear on when the plan has to be fully completed with the consultant who is awarded a contract to compose the plan

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 area



- » 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.**





Proposed Outline for <u>Activity</u> Funds

- » Application window likely to be opened in February/March of 2025 with a deadline 45 days after and awards announced within about 45 days after that
- » Will likely be able to fund only two projects
- » Communities with the top 3 rated plans will be <u>invited</u> to submit an application for the activity funds of up to \$1.75 million
- » Remember that these are 4-year grants that can pay up to \$70,000 in administrative costs



Plan Reminder:

- » The plan MUST fund several inter-related but distinct activities such as:
 - > Owner or tenant occupied single family housing rehabilitation
 - Commercial building facades (Maximum of 5 addresses)
 - Parks and open-space
 - Sidewalks and trails
 - Storm water and drainage improvements
 - Community facilities
 - ➤ Water and sewer upgrades
 - Curb and gutter/street repair
 - > Demolition and clearance (Stipulations apply. Talk with PM.)
 - Streetscape improvements
 - ≻ Wi-Fi



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.....







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