

Community Development Block Grant Program

The Small Cities CDBG Program is administered by the Wisconsin Department of Administration, Division of Housing (DOH). Following is a summary of the 2016 CDBG programs and opportunities for local units of government. The DOH is in the process of finalizing the program so some of the information is subject to change.

2016 Small Cities CDBG Schedule

Following is a tentative summary of the 2016 implementation schedule:

- The 2016 applications will be released in late February, 2016.
- Training sessions will be held on February 24 and March 2, 2016. The training sessions will be held in Madison and Minocqua. There will also be an on-line webinar on February 24, 2016.
- **CDBG Public Facilities and CDBG Planning Programs:** Application deadline is May 27, 2016.
- **CDBG Public Facilities for Economic Development Program and Economic Development Program:** Applications will be accepted on a continuous basis.
- **CDBG Rural Economic & Area Development Initiative Program:** Applications deadline will be developed if HUD approves program.
- **CDBG Housing Program:** The biennial application deadline is late 2016.
- Grant awards are expected to be made 45 to 60 days after the submittal deadline.

CDBG Eligibility Criteria

Pursuant to HUD guidelines, 70% of the total CDBG allocation must be used to benefit Low-to-Moderate Income persons. To be eligible for the CDBG Program, the project must meet one of the following national objectives:

- 51 percent Low-to-Moderate Income (LMI) benefit
- Slum and Blight Removal
- Local Urgent Need

CDBG Grant Categories & Funding Levels

The CDBG program includes the following grant categories and funding levels:

HOUSING

- **CDBG Housing**

Approximately \$11.0 million is available for Housing activities. Eligible activities include: owner-occupied and renter occupied rehabilitation, accessibility modifications, homestead (down-payment and closing cost assistance), new housing site development and certain acquisition costs, and small-scale public facilities improvements. Housing grants are available through a regional approach with grants to a lead county agency, or to individual communities that choose not to belong to a regional organization. The next biennial CDBG Housing application deadline will be in 2017.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- **CDBG-Public Facilities for Economic Development (CDBG-PFED)**

Approximately \$6 million is available to fund infrastructure that directly supports business expansion, increased employment opportunities for LMI persons, and adding to the local tax base. Eligible projects include sanitary sewer collection & treatment, water supply and distribution, streets and sidewalks. CDBG-PFED applications may be submitted on a continuous basis. Maximum grant is \$500,000.



- **CDBG-Public Facilities (CDBG-PF)**

Approximately \$5 to \$9 million will be available on an annual competitive application process. Funded projects will include: 1) Replacement or reconstruction of deteriorating infrastructure including sanitary sewer systems, municipal water systems, streets, parks, sidewalks and handicapped access improvements, 2) Essential community facilities such as community centers, senior centers, fire stations, health clinics and libraries, and 3) Downtown revitalization including blight elimination, infrastructure, parking and Main Street activities such as streetscape, building façade improvements and historic preservation. The CDBG Public Facilities annual application deadline is planned for May 27, 2016. Maximum grant is 50% of the project cost up to a \$500,000 grant.



- **CDBG-Planning**

Approximately \$835,000 will be available for planning projects that address a major economic or community development project, or unexpected economic activities that adversely impact the community. Maximum grant: 50% of the project cost, up to a \$25,000 grant. Eligible activities: assist communities to develop clear and actionable strategies for addressing specific site, neighborhood or community development needs; or, to improve the quality of community or economic development projects. Typical projects include: economic development plans, downtown revitalization plans, or neighborhood revitalization plans. The CDBG Planning application annual deadline is May 27, 2016.

- **CDBG Rural Economic & Area Development Initiative (CDBG-READI) (Subject to HUD Approval)**

Approximately \$10 million will be set aside for this new proposed program. The purpose of the program is to provide targeted economic development investment in either single communities or a rural region. 100% of the funds must benefit low-to-moderate income individuals. READI grants will be awarded to local units of government, which will be passed on to a Community Development Organization (CDO). The CDO will award loans for economic development, workforce housing projects. Grant awards will also be made for job training. The maximum economic development grant is \$500,000, the maximum workforce housing grant is \$300,000, and the maximum job training grant is \$200,000

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

CDBG Economic Development: Approximately \$8 million will be available for economic development projects that benefit LMI persons. Grants will be awarded on a continuous basis for: loans to business in order to create or retain jobs, awards to business for training needs and awards to business for capital investment or new technologies. Maximum grant is \$500,000.

Vierbicher has been successful in securing more than \$87 million in grant funding for public projects. For additional information regarding any of these programs, or other opportunities for public funding, please contact:

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