

2021 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 2021 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.

2021 Small Cities CDBG Schedule

Following is a tentative summary of the 2021 implementation schedule:

- The 2021 applications will be released in early February 2021.
- Training sessions will be held in early February 2021.
- **CDBG Public Facilities Program:** Application deadline is May 13, 2021.
- **CDBG Public Facilities for Economic Development Program, Planning and Economic Development Programs:** Applications will be accepted on a continuous basis.
- **CDBG Rural Economic & Area Development Initiative Program:** Applications will be accepted on a continuous basis.
- **CDBG Housing Program:** The biennial application deadline will be in 2021.
- 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 7 million is available for Regional Housing applications. Approximately \$500,000 is available for Non-Regional Housing Applications. 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 Regional Housing application deadline will be in December 2021. The next CDBG Housing Non-Regional Housing Application deadline is in May 2022.



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, storm sewer and sidewalks. CDBG-PFED applications may be submitted on a continuous basis. Maximum grant is 50% of project cost up to \$750,000.

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

Approximately \$12 million is available on an annual competitive application process. Funded projects will include: 1) 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, streetscape, building façade improvements and historic preservation. The next application deadline is May 13, 2021. Maximum grant is 67% of the project cost up to a \$1,000,000 grant.



- **CDBG-Planning**

Approximately \$235,000 is available for planning projects that address a major economic or community development project, or unexpected economic activities that adversely impact the community. Maximum grant: 67% of the project cost, up to a \$25,000 grant or a single project plan and \$50,000 grant for a community wide plan. 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. Applications are accepted on a continuous basis.

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

Approximately \$10 million is available for this 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 grants for economic development and 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.

- **CDBG– Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program** - The State of Wisconsin received \$15.3 million of CDBG DR grant funds to assist community who lost housing in the 2018 flood. 80% of the funds are allocated for Dane and Vernon Counties. 20% can be spent in other counties included in the Presidential Disaster Declaration. Priority projects includes creating new residential units. The application deadline is March 12, 2021.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

CDBG Economic Development: Approximately \$5.9 million will be available for economic development projects that benefit LMI persons. This program has been recently revised to provide grants directly to businesses that commit to creation or retention of jobs. Funds may be used for working capital, equipment or construction. \$7,000 to \$10,000 of grant funds is available for each FTE job. Maximum grant is 50% of costs up to \$500,000.

*Vierbicher has secured over \$100 million in grant funding and created over 125 tax increment districts.
For additional information regarding public funding programs, please contact:*

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