

2014 IACC Conference

“Planning Your Funding And Funding Your Planning”

Panel:
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Community Development Block Grant

Planning-Only Grants

October 2014

Community Development Block Grant Planning-Only Grant

Program:	CDBG Planning-Only Grant
Purpose:	To benefit low- and moderate-income (LMI) persons by assisting rural local government to address priority community development and housing needs
Eligible Applicants:	Rural cities/towns with less than 50,000 in population and not participating in a CDBG entitlement urban county consortium; and counties with less than 200,000 population. Districts and non-profits may partner with city/county and be a grant subrecipient.
Eligible Projects:	Planning - including infrastructure system plans, community strategic plans, feasibility studies, pre-engineering reports (no final design), housing needs assessments, and other community planning activities
Loan/Grant:	Grant (federal funds from HUD) \$400,000 available for grants Up to \$24,000 Up to \$35,000 to addressing urgent public health & safety and there is financial need
Match:	None required, but those with match receive more points
Timeline:	Applications accepted on a rolling basis, beginning October 1 st and ongoing until all funds awarded or end of April (whichever comes first).



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Community Development Block Grant

What's New in 2014

What's New: Income Data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Low and moderate income (LMI) percentage data for cities/towns/tracts from HUD Some communities may be able to use HUD block group data to be eligible More communities may need to conduct an income survey to be eligible Only surveys done since 2011 are acceptable
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5-Part “test” for CDBG:

1. Eligible Applicant?
2. Eligible Activity?
3. Meet a National Objective (LMI)?
4. Compliant with CDBG/federal requirements (i.e., procurement)?
5. Other funding secured? Ready to begin?



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Local Gov't's Served by WA State CDBG



Non-Entitlement Counties These counties and the cities/towns in these counties except the 11 listed to the far right, are served by the state CDBG program.	Entitlement Counties These 7 counties and their cities/towns in these counties are not served by the state CDBG program except Snohomish, Pierce and Kitsap County.	Entitlement cities not served by the state CDBG program, but in non-entitlement counties. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Anacortes - Bellingham - Longview - Mount Vernon - Richland, Pasco, Kennewick - Wenatchee, East Wenatchee - Walla Walla - Yakima
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Eligible Planning Activities

- (1) Comprehensive plans;
- (2) Community development plans;
- (3) Functional plans, in areas such as:
 - Housing and housing consolidated plan;
 - Land use and urban environmental design;
 - Economic development;
 - Open space and recreation;
 - Energy use and conservation;
 - Floodplain management;
 - Transportation;
 - Utilities; and
 - Historic preservation.

Also:

- Neighborhood plans;
- Capital improvements programs;
- Individual project plans (except engineering and design);
- Parts of environmental design and historic preservation studies.



CDBG POGs

Types of planning activities funded since 2010:

- Water
- Sewer
- Community Facilities
- Strategic Plans
- Streets

45%	Drinking Water Systems
	New Water Source Feasibility Study
	Water System Plans (new or update)
	Small Water System Management Program
	Water Rights Transfer Plan
26%	Wastewater Systems
	Wastewater Treatment Facility Treatment Plan
	Wastewater/Sewer Plan
	Inflow & Infiltration Study
	Large OnSite Sewage System Plan
	Groundwater Study
	Stormwater Plan
19%	Community Facilities
	Community Center Feasibility
	Library Plan
	Food Bank
	Senior Center Plan
	Emergency Mgt. Svcs. / Fire Stations
7%	Strategic Plans
	Flood Prevention Plan
	Growth Mgt Comprehensive Plan
	Housing Needs/Affordability Assessment
3%	Streets
	Truck Bypass Feasibility Study
	Pavement Management Plan
100%	



CDBG Primary National Objective

Principally benefit persons of low- and moderate-income (LMI)

Two ways to meet objective:

1. Area Benefit –when the activity serves ALL residents of a primarily residential area (i.e., sewer improvements or a fire station)
2. Direct Benefit – when the activity benefit is targeted to LMI persons (i.e. food bank, housing rehab)



Area Benefit

Use if all persons in service area will benefit, and at least 51% of them are LMI.

Two ways to document Area Benefit:

1. HUD 2014 LMI data
 - a) LG is on HUD (place) list of “At Least 51% LMI”
 - b) Census tracts/block groups, overall over 51% LMI
2. Income survey meeting CDBG standards
 - a) CDBG Income Survey Guide
 - b) IACC Income Survey Guide



HUD LMI Data

“Place” data

- HUD calculated, based on things like household income and population
- Data provided for cities, towns, and counties
- NEW 2014 list . . .lots of changes

Block Group data

- Compare service area tract/block group boundaries
- Consult CDBG before using



Income Surveys

Two options:

1. CDBG Income Survey Guide
2. Washington State Infrastructure Assistance Coordinating Council (IACC) Income Survey Guide

Both guides are available on CDBG website at www.commerce.wa.gov/cdbg or upon request

Consider other funders’ requirements when selecting guide, so survey works for the other funders too.



Direct Benefit

- Limited services or facilities to LMI (Limited Clientele)
 - Exclusively benefits a “presumed benefit” group (i.e., senior center)
 - abused children, elderly persons, disabled, battered spouses, homeless, illiterate, migrant farmworkers, or persons w/AIDs.
 - Income eligibility requirements limited to LMI persons (i.e., food bank facility feasibility study)
- Housing for LMI (i.e., housing rehab planning or housing needs assessments)



Get Started

- Become familiar with handbook and website resources www.commerce.wa.gov/cdbg
- Early partner consultation/citizen participation best
- (If water or sewer plan), hold a pre-plan meeting with the regulatory agency involved and also use the Affordability Review tool to evaluate your rate structure and why you need a grant (vs using user fees to fund plan)
- Collect data and documents to support narratives and budget
- Plan for or begin NEPA environmental/cultural review
- Start with due date and work back to allow enough time for application development and final review





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Questions?



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