



DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Grants Management Division

m e m o r a n d u m

TO: Elizabeth H. Tyler, AICP, City Planner/Director

FROM: John A. Schneider, Manager, Grants Management Division

DATE: March 22, 2007

SUBJECT: CDBG Public Service Funding as part of the Consolidated Social Service Funding Pool

Description

In its advisory function to the Urbana City Council, the Community Development Commission is charged with developing funding priorities for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Public Service Funding, as part of the Consolidated Social Service Funding Pool.

Issues

The issue is for CDC to identify priorities for allocation of the CDBG Public Service Funds included in the FY2007-2008 Annual Action Plan.

Background

In September 1996, the City of Urbana and Cunningham Township established a Consolidated Social Service Fund to provide grants to non-profit organizations that sponsor social services for Urbana residents. The consolidated fund combines City of Urbana general funds, Cunningham Township general funds, and City of Urbana CDBG funds. Funds are granted to organizations by joint decision of the Urbana City Council and Cunningham Township Board. A single application process is administered by the Grants Management Division of the City's Department of Community Development Services. Two offices monitor grants funded through the consolidated fund: the Grants Management Division for programs funded through CDBG, and the office of the Cunningham Township Supervisor for city- and township-funded programs.

Consolidated Social Service Funding applications for FY2007-2008 were made available Monday, March 12, 2007. The deadline for submission of completed applications is 4:00 p.m. Friday, April 13, 2007. Grant allocations are formalized through approval of the City and Township budgets in June.

Federal regulations require that CDBG funds allocated for public services be consistent with needs identified by the City in its Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan. It is the role of the CD Commission to determine which of these needs should be addressed during the planned program year and to prioritize same by importance to the community. In the past, focus has been on job-

training, youth services, health care, crime awareness, and assistance to the homeless population.

Previously, CDC designated the priorities in the following order beginning with highest importance: youth, job-training, community facilities, special populations, seniors, and anti-crime. In Fiscal Year 2006/2007, CDBG public service funding was provided to the following agencies: Champaign County Regional Planning Commission (Senior Services & Court Diversion Services programs), Crisis Nursery, and Mental Health Center Homeless Youth Program to address the priorities.

Options

The Commission may determine funding priorities that are related to the following needs referenced in the Consolidated Plan:

Affordable Housing	Barriers to Affordable Housing
Public Housing	Services & Training for Low- & Moderate-Income Persons
Homelessness	Special Populations
Seniors/Youth	Lead Based Paint
Infrastructure	Public Facilities

Fiscal Impacts

The \$16,500 in CDBG funding is included in the proposed City of Urbana and Urbana HOME Consortium FY 2007-2008 Annual Action Plan that allocates funds to be combined with City of Urbana and Cunningham Township for Consolidated Social Service Grants.

Recommendations

In the past, CDC has favored the same priority options of youth, job-training, community facilities, special populations, seniors, and anti-crime. Staff recommends that CDC choose the same options as in previous years, because it would allow a great amount of flexibility and provides for a large range of funding possibilities.

Memorandum Prepared By:

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