



DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Grants Management Division

m e m o r a n d u m

TO: Elizabeth H. Tyler, Community Development Director

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

DATE: March 20, 2008

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

Description

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

Issues

The issue is for the CDC to identify priorities for allocation of the CDBG Public Service Funds included in the FY 2008-2009 Annual Action Plan.

Background

In September 1996, the City of Urbana and Cunningham Township established a Consolidated Social Service Funding Pool to provide grants to non-profit organizations that sponsor social services for Urbana residents. The consolidated fund combines the City of Urbana general funds, City of Urbana CDBG funds, and Cunningham Township funds. This year, the amount of funding from the City of Urbana general funds is estimated at \$207,620, the CDBG amount will be \$12,500, and Cunningham Township funding will be determined after April 1, 2008, when tax extension information will be available.

Funds are granted to organizations by joint decision of the Urbana City Council and the 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 FY 2008-2009 were made available Monday, March 10, 2008. The deadline for submission of completed applications is 4:00 p.m. Friday, April 11, 2008. 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 CDC to determine which of these needs should be addressed during the planned program year and to prioritize the same by importance to the community.

Last year, CDC designated the priorities in the following order beginning with highest importance: (1) Affordable Housing, (2) Special Populations, (3) Seniors/Youth, (4) Services and Training for Low- & Moderate-Income Persons, (5) Homelessness, and (6) Community Facilities. In order to address these priorities, CDBG public service funding was provided to the following agencies: Crisis Nursery, Frances Nelson Health Center, Mental Health Center/Homeless Youth Program, and Persons Assuming Control of their Environment (PACE, Inc.).

Options

The CDC 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 (Community)

Fiscal Impacts

The \$12,500 in CDBG funding is included in the proposed City of Urbana and Urbana HOME Consortium FY 2008-2009 Annual Action Plan that allocates funds to be combined with City of Urbana general funds (\$207,620) and Cunningham Township funds (to be determined after April 1, 2008), for Consolidated Social Service Funding grants.

Recommendations

Staff recommends that CDC choose the following options, as it would allow a greater amount of flexibility and provides for a larger range of funding possibilities: Seniors, Special Populations, Homelessness, and Youth.

Memorandum Prepared By:

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