



DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Grants Management Division

m e m o r a n d u m

TO: Elizabeth H. Tyler, FAICP, Community Development Director

FROM: Kelly H. Mierkowski, Manager, Grants Management Division *KHM*

DATE: March 23, 2012

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

Description

In its advisory capacity to the Urbana City Council, one of the responsibilities of the Community Development Commission (CDC) is to develop priorities for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding portion of the City's 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 2012-2013 Annual Action Plan (AAP).

Background

In September 1996, the City of Urbana and Cunningham Township established a Consolidated Social Service Funding (CSSF) 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, Cunningham Township funds, and City of Urbana CDBG funds.

This year, \$9,000 in CDBG funding has been budgeted in the CSSF pool. The amount is less than the amount allocated last fiscal year (FY 2011-2012), which was \$12,500. This year's reduction is due to a 13.9% budget cut in CDBG from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The total allocation available for FY 2011-2012 was \$316,900, with the CDBG allocation of \$12,500. The City of Urbana general fund allocation and Cunningham Township funding will be determined at a later date.

The Grants Management Division of the City's Department of Community Development Services administers a single application process, and funds are granted to non-profit organizations by joint decision of the Urbana City Council and the Cunningham Township Board. 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.

The Consolidated Social Service Funding applications for FY 2012-2013 were made available Monday, March 5, 2012. The deadline for submission of completed applications is 4:00 p.m. Thursday, April 5, 2012. Grant allocations will be formalized through approval of the City and Township budgets in June 2012.

Federal regulations require that use of 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) Youth & Seniors, (2) Homelessness, (3) Special (Needs) Populations and (4) Services & Training for Low- & Moderate-Income Persons.

In order to address these priorities, CDBG public service funding was provided to the following agencies: Champaign County Regional Planning Commission (Seniors), Mental Health Center/Roundhouse Youth Shelter (Youth & Homelessness), Greater Community AIDS Project (Special Needs Population), and Urbana Neighborhood Connections Center (Services & Training for Low- & Moderate-Income Persons.)

Options

The CDC may determine funding priorities for public services to be funded with CDBG that are related to the following needs referenced in the 2010-2014 Consolidated Plan:

Affordable Housing	Lead-Based Paint	Infrastructure
Public Housing	Seniors/Youth	Special (Needs) Populations
Homelessness	Services & Training for Low- & Moderate-Income Persons	

Of the priorities above, Affordable Housing, Lead-Based Paint, Infrastructure, and Public Housing activities are also addressed through other CDBG and HOME funded programs.

Fiscal Impacts

The \$9,000 in CDBG CSSF funding is included in the proposed City of Urbana and Urbana HOME Consortium FY 2012-2013 AAP. These funds will be combined with City of Urbana general funds and Cunningham Township funds for Consolidated Social Service Funding Pool grants.

Recommendations

Staff recommends that CDC choose the following options for funding priorities: Youth/Seniors, Homelessness, and Special (Needs) Populations, because they provide for a larger range of funding possibilities

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