



MAXIMIZE THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) IN YOUR REGION BY FUNDING ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE THE CITY BOUNDARIES

For participating cities that may have difficulty programming remaining CDBG funds, community development staff may want to consider projects that provide benefit to presumed low- and moderate-income persons that may be in a transient/temporary situation and do not have a permanent residence. Most people who are familiar with the Program are aware that these types of activities are eligible. But, are they eligible if they assist individuals outside of a city's boundaries? The answer is yes. Although CFR 570.309 restricts the location of CDBG-funded projects outside the Urban County jurisdiction, which includes 47 participating cities and unincorporated areas of the County, these types of projects are excluded from this limitation because of the beneficiaries that are served. Therefore, you can provide assistance to these individuals regardless of their location.

Such projects could include construction or rehabilitation of housing facilities and service projects geared to benefit abused or neglected children (foster youth), battered spouses (victims of domestic violence), and homeless persons. Examples include a homeless shelter expansion project located in the City of Long Beach or a domestic violence shelter project located in the City of Pasadena. Participating cities may want to combine their resources with neighboring cities in a regional approach to projects or services that benefit the persons who are homeless, abused or neglected children, or battered spouses. Please consult with your Program Manager for more ideas on how you can maximize the use of your CDBG dollars.



INFO CORNER

Welcome to the new *Info Corner* of the E-Newsletter! Here at the CDBG Division, we are starting a new feature called the *Info Corner*, which will identify programmatic concerns, monitoring-related problems, and specific eligibility issues our agencies have encountered. We will discuss what the challenge was and how we addressed it. Also, no names will be used so everyone will remain anonymous. In focusing on issues in this way and sharing our experiences, we hope to help all our agencies to run better programs.

Please contact your Program Manager if you have a challenge that you would like to share.



A NEW CONSOLIDATED PLAN IS IN THE WORKS

Fiscal Year 2007-2008 signals the end of the five-year planning cycle for the 2002-2007 Consolidated Plan (Plan). The Plan is required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for assessing a community's five-year needs and strategizing how it will use CDBG, HOME Investment Partnership, and Emergency Shelter Grant funding to meet those needs. Updating the Plan will take about a year and require the Community Development Commission (CDC) to work closely with each of its participating agencies.

To develop our long-term strategy, we will be asking each of our participating cities for their five-year community development goals and the expenditure projections needed to meet the goals. Using these projections, the Plan will map out our cities' planned accomplishments for the next planning cycle (2008-2013). To prepare for this task, we will be providing each of our cities with all of the necessary tools to estimate their funding needs and to forecast the types of activities they are planning for the next five (5) years.

Our cities will also be asked to identify the primary needs of their residents. To accomplish this and obtain the information that will be requested in the future (September 2007), each city will receive a survey designed to gauge their citizen's needs. For this effort, we will be encouraging our cities to promote and market the surveys to a wide percentage of their population so that an accurate assessment of their community's needs can be obtained. This needs appraisal will contribute to the substance of the new Plan.

Important Dates:

May 2007

5/22/07

Action Plan Report Submitted to the Board of Supervisors for Approval

5/28/07

Memorial Day (CDC Offices Closed)

