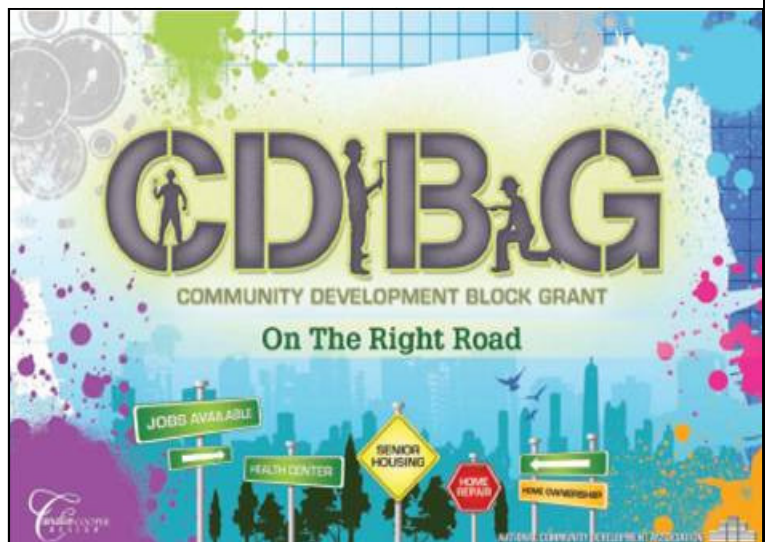


2008 NATIONAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WEEK: A PLANNING GUIDE (MARCH 24 - 30, 2008)

The National Community Development (NCD) Week is coming up and for everyone who works with the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, this is big news! If you don't already know, NCD Week is our opportunity to tell everyone just how great the CDBG Program is. It is a chance to showcase our CDBG-funded projects, brag about our accomplishments, and let people know just how much this Program can do for our communities. We can create opportunities for positive press events and publicity for the Program. It is an excellent time to meet with and inform our Congressional members of the value of the CDBG Program to our community, outline how the funds are used, and what we are planning for in the future. CDBG participants are encouraged to plan out these kinds of events and involve the media, Congressional representatives, Mayors, local officials, business leaders, residents, and community groups for this week-long celebration. It is our opportunity to stand up and let everyone know about this successful Program.

NOW ITS MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER

NCD Week is all about the big picture. It is an important tool with which participants, grantees, recipients, and beneficiaries of the CDBG Program can advocate for the pressing needs this essential Program serves. Based primarily on observations of funding levels for the CDBG Program from Fiscal Year (FY) 2002 to 2008, it is clear that the Program has had its funding reduced and continues to face threats of sharp cuts to its budget. The CDBG Program saw about a 24% decrease in funding from FY 2002 to FY 2008. If there is to be any hope of achieving funding levels that are in step with the needs of our communities, aggressive action needs to be undertaken.



WHAT CAN MY AGENCY/CITY DO TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE NCD WEEK CELEBRATION?

There are no limits to the style or scope of activity you may wish to plan or participate in to commemorate NCD Week. Here are some items that are simple and effective in getting the word out:

- Have you briefed your local elected officials, community groups, banks, or businesses on CDBG activities in your community?
- When was the last time an article about the CDBG Program appeared in your local newspaper? Take advantage of the free media in your community.
- Have you spoken to a member of your Congressional delegation regarding CDBG recently?
- Announce your events to mark the beginning of NCD Week with press releases and informational materials that can be distributed as soon as possible.
- Select positive venues that showcase CDBG-funded programs and projects.
- Meet with your Congressional members in their district offices and invite members to tour CDBG-funded projects, creating events that attract media attention.
- Have your local community participate by inviting local elected officials, neighborhood groups, and businesses. Ask local businesses and banks to sponsor activities. Involve the media by providing a press release on your NCD Week activities, talk with them and provide them with information that can be helpful and positive when they write an article on the event.

CDBG E-NEWSLETTER



WHAT IS LOS ANGELES COUNTY DOING FOR NATIONAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WEEK?

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors will approve a motion that will proclaim the week of March 24th as the NCD Week in the County of Los Angeles in order to recognize the history and accomplishments of the CDBG Program and will announce continued support for CDBG funding by the Board. As well, the CDBG Division is developing a special presentation for NCD Week to be posted on our website (www.lacdc.org), and will also be distributed to the Los Angeles Congressional Delegation.

MEETING WITH YOUR CONGRESSIONAL MEMBER

Meeting with a member of Congress is a very effective way to convey a message about a specific issue or legislative matter. With the recent cuts to the CDBG Program, it can be extremely beneficial to meet with your Congressional members during NCD Week to gain support for increased formula funding for the Program. Here are six (6) simple steps that can make for a successful meeting.

1. First, make an appointment at least four (4) to six (6) weeks in advance. You can obtain your members' information at http://www.house.gov/house/MemberWWW_by_State.shtml#ca.
2. Make the issues real: convey to your member how the CDBG Program helps constituents in their district. Be sure to provide examples.
3. To elaborate on the last point in step two (2), provide good data and show how the cuts in the CDBG Program have negatively affected your program.
4. Show data on the economic loss to the community. Examples should include the number of jobs lost; number of businesses that have lost revenue or may lose it in the future; or the loss/potential loss of economic activity.
5. Be sure to show how the CDBG-funded programs are working in your community. Detail how they have assisted your community over at least the past five (5) years.
6. Be responsive and follow up. Prepare to answer questions and provide additional information.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE REFER TO THE EDL REGARDING NCD WEEK.

HAPPY TENTH ANNIVERSARY COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER!

Has it been ten (10) years already? Yes, that's right, the Community Resource Center (CRC) of South Whittier will soon celebrate a decade of success, addressing the needs of local residents relating to health, welfare, recreation, education, and housing.

Opened in February 1998, the CRC is a result of a unique partnership between the Community Development Commission (CDC) and the City of Santa Fe Springs. It serves as a "one-stop community center" for over 82,000 residents of the unincorporated Whittier communities.

The CRC provides many onsite services that include: after-school homework assistance, classes for English language learners, computer classes, home repair programs, and youth counseling. In addition, the CRC also provides help with employment referrals and obtaining healthcare services. Please join us in celebrating and congratulating the CRC on this, its Ten-Year Anniversary. The CRC is located at 10750 Laurel Avenue, in unincorporated South Whittier. For more information about the CRC, please visit their website at: <http://www.lacdc.org/CDCWebsite/SWCRC/Home.aspx>.



February

2/18/2008
Presidents' Day - Observed (CDC Offices Closed)

March

3/24 - 3/30/2008
NCD Week

3/27/2008
Cities: City Quarterly Meeting (10:00 A.M.)

3/31/2008
Cities: Deadline to meet Drawdown Requirements

3/31/2008
All Agencies: FY 2006-2007 Single Audit Reports are due