



DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Grants Management Division

m e m o r a n d u m

TO: Community Development Commission

FROM: John Schneider, Manager, Grants Management Division

DATE: January 27, 2006

SUBJECT: Review of CDBG & NOG Grant Applications for FY 2006-2007

Description

The City of Urbana Grants Management Division has received three (3) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Applications and one (1) Neighborhood Organization Grant Application (NOG). Staff is requesting input and recommendations regarding these requests for CDBG funds for Fiscal Year 2006-2007.

Issues

The issue before the Community Development Commission (CDC) is to review and evaluate the CDBG applications for FY 2006-2007. The recommendations for funding would then be placed in the Draft AAP for FY 2006-2007. After the thirty-day public review period for the draft AAP, CDC would be presented the Draft with changes and would forward a recommendation to Urbana City Council.

Background

Applications for both CDBG & NOG grants became available on December 13, 2005 and were due to the City of Urbana by 4:00 P.M. on January 13, 2006. Applications requesting CDBG funding for FY2006-2007 for certain projects were submitted by the three following agencies: Community Health Improvement Center (Frances Nelson), Developmental Services Center, and Habitat for Humanity. One NOG application, from the United Citizens And Neighbors, was submitted for consideration.

Staff recommendations concerning CDBG applications are summarized below, which includes the grant application received and a description of the agency; the amount of funding requested, the score for each request, a brief overview of the proposed project, what Con Plan goal/strategy is being met, and staff recommendations regarding funding of the project.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT

Applications received for CDBG funding of projects are listed as follows:

**1) Community Health Improvement Center (CHIC): Amount Requested - \$20,000.00
Points: 285**

Funding would be used towards the relocation of CHIC - Frances Nelson, to support the build out of 13,100 square feet of leased space, located at 819 Bloomington Road in Champaign, formerly Leath Furniture. The remodeled facility would have eighteen (18) exam rooms, a lab area, private office space where patients could meet with medical providers, mental health specialists, and other counselor; a small conference room for group educational meetings.

This project meets the Con Plan goal of supporting infrastructure improvements in Urbana's Community Development Target Area (p. 81), specifically the strategy regarding the majority of CDBG funds be targeted toward improvements in and services to the City's Community Development Target Area. CHIC- Frances Nelson provides primary medical care to approximately 5,400 low-income persons in Champaign Count and 35% of those persons live in the City of Urbana. CHIC- Frances Nelson provides a direct benefit to Urbana citizens through its health care services. This funding would allow CHIC – Frances Nelson to expand their services in a location more accessible to their clients.

Staff recommends that FNHC receive the full amount of funding requested at \$20,000.00.

**2) Developmental Services Center (DSC): Amount Requested - \$2,888.00
Points: 185**

The request is for the purchase and installation of one automatic door opener for their 24-hour residential home in Urbana on Hartle St. The automatic door opener would be installed on the back door of the group home in order to provide easier accessibility for the consumers who reside there.

This project also meets the Con Plan goal, supporting infrastructure improvements in Urbana's Community Development Target Area (p. 81), specifically the strategy regarding the majority of CDBG funds be targeted toward improvements in and services to the City's Community Development Target Area.. The mission of Developmental Services Center is to enhance the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities by providing services and supports that enable them to live, work, learn, and participate in their communities. This project will provide a more accessible structure for the residents. The property for which DSC is requesting assistance is within Urbana City limits..

Staff recommends that DSC receive the full amount of funding requested at \$2,888.00.

2) Habitat for Humanity: Amount Requested - \$45,125.00

Points: Request Not Eligible for Funding

Funds are being requested to assist in the relocation of Habitat for Humanity/HOMEWORKS store from its present location at 111 N. Market, Champaign to the former Illini Swallow building on Neil St., Champaign.

Because of the unique nature of this request and the type of business that is the main function of HOMEWORKS store, staff requested a determination regarding the eligibility of this project from the City's HUD Representative, Amy Hudson-Davis. This project does not qualify for CDBG funding because it would not provide a direct benefit to low- and moderate-income households, as required by HUD regulations.

This application for CDBG program funds does not meet HUD requirements and is not eligible to be funded.

NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATION GRANTS

1) United Citizens And Neighbors (UCAN): Amount Requested - \$2,500.00

The amount of NOG funds available per neighborhood organization is limited to \$1,250.00, due to the overall reduction of CDBG funding by HUD. UCAN has requested \$2,500.00 to pay for printing, postage, and staff/consulting expenses that they will incur as a result in the undertaking of their neighborhood organizing activities.

This project meets the Con Plan goal, with regard to Public Facilities, of preserving and supporting Urbana's neighborhoods as vibrant places to live, specifically the strategy of supporting the development of private non-profit organizations to deliver programs on the neighborhood level, through its Neighborhood Organization Grants. The activity would be to use CDBG monies to fund a Neighborhood Organization Grant program to encourage the creation and development of local groups concerned with furthering the interests of the neighborhood. United Citizens And Neighbors is a north Urbana neighborhood, which serves the greater Crystal Lake Park and much of the King Park areas in north Urbana.

Staff recommends that UCAN receive the funding amount of \$1,250.00.

Staff is requesting that Community Development Commission provide direction regarding the above projects to be funded with CDBG program funds for inclusion in the City of Urbana Draft Annual Action Plan for 2006-2007

Fiscal Impacts

Over the past three years, the CDBG grant for the City of Urbana has been reduced a total amount of \$96,000. The total amount of CDBG grant for FY 2006-2007 is \$481, 651. The decisions made by the CDC and Urbana City Council will determine the budget allocations for both the CDBG & NOG grants.

Recommendations

Staff recommends that CDC approve funding of the CDBG Housing and Public Facility grants for Fiscal Year 2006-2007 Annual Action Plan as follows:

1. Fund Community Health Improvement Center project for the relocation of Frances Nelson in the full amount requested of \$20,000.
2. Fund Developmental Services Center project to purchase and installation of one automatic door opener would for the DSC 24-hour Urbana residential home in the full amount requested of \$2,888.00
3. Fund United Citizens And Neighbors grant application to pay for printing, postage, and staff/consulting expenses in the amount of \$1250.

Memorandum Prepared By:

**Kelly Hartford
Grants Coordinator II
Grants Management Division**

Attachments:

Community Health Improvement Center FY2006-2007 CDBG Grant Application
Developmental Services Center FY2006-2007 CDBG Grant Application
Habitat for Humanity FY2006-2007 CDBG Grant Application
United Citizens And Neighbors (UCAN) FY2006-2007 Neighborhood Organization Grant (NOG) Application