



DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Grants Management Division

m e m o r a n d u m

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

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

DATE: June 20, 2008

SUBJECT: **Community Development Block Grant Subrecipient Agreements for FY 2008-2009:**
A Woman's Fund – A Woman's Place
Center for Women in Transition
C-U Independence

Description

Included on the agenda of the June 24, 2008 Community Development Commission meeting are agreements for projects to be undertaken by not-for-profit agencies and organizations using Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds during the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2008 and ending June 30, 2009. The proposed agreements are for Public Facilities and Improvements projects included in the City of Urbana and Urbana HOME Consortium Annual Action Plan for Fiscal Year 2008-2009.

Issues

The issue is whether the Community Development Commission should forward the ordinances approving the agreements to the Urbana City Council with a recommendation for approval.

Background

On April 21, 2008, the Urbana City Council passed Ordinance No. 2008-04-028 approving the City of Urbana and Urbana HOME Consortium Annual Action Plan (AAP) FY 2008-2009. The approving resolution defined the actions necessary for the implementation of the CDBG Program. The FY 2008-2009 AAP was submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) on May 8, 2008 for approval.

As required by HUD, environmental reviews for the above activities were completed and a Finding of No Significant Impact on the Environment was published on May 24, 2008 in the News-Gazette. A Request for Release of Funds was submitted to HUD on Monday, June 9, 2008. After the fifteen-day comment period is completed, and upon approval of the FY 2008-2009 AAP, HUD will provide Authority to Use Grant Funds. Once the AAP is approved by HUD, the City may proceed with executing agreements for the projects included in the plan.

The proposed agreements are for projects that received CDBG allocations in the AAP as follows:

1. A Woman's Fund – A Woman's Place: Repair of a chimney, site grading, and sanding and refinishing the dining room floor.
2. Center for Women in Transition: Installation of a new HVAC system at the Evans House (506 East Church St., Champaign).
3. C-U Independence: Installation of an automatic fire sprinkler at its supportive living apartment building for individuals with development disabilities.

The Center for Women in Transition (CWIT) recently sent a letter to the City of Urbana, dated May 8, 2008, indicating their intent to withdraw CWIT's 2008 CDBG Public Facilities application for renovation of 304 North Fifth Street. The reason for the withdrawal is that the project would be unable to meet the guidelines set forth by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the Department of Labor (Federal Davis Bacon Prevailing Wage Act).

Options

1. Forward the ordinances approving the agreements to Urbana City Council with a recommendation for approval.
2. Forward the ordinances approving the agreements, with changes, to Urbana City Council with a recommendation for approval.
3. Do not recommend that Council approve the ordinances approving the agreements.

Fiscal Impacts

There is no impact to the City budget because CDBG funding for the Public Facilities and Improvements is included in the City of Urbana and Urbana HOME Consortium FY2008-2009 Annual Action Plan.

The City's major investments in the CDBG Program for FY2008-2009 are identified in the Annual Action Plan. Failure to forward agreements to City Council within a reasonable period of time can delay projects and impact the timely expenditure of CDBG funds.

Recommendations

Staff recommends that the Community Development Commission forward the Ordinances approving the Agreements to the Urbana City Council with a recommendation for approval.

Memorandum Prepared By:

Kelly Hartford
Grants Coordinator
Grants Management Division

Attachments:

1. An Ordinance Approving a Community Development Block Grant Agreement (A Woman's Fund – A Woman's Place, Project No. 0809-AAP-01)
2. City of Urbana Community Development Block Grant Agreement A Woman's Fund – A Woman's Place, Project No. 0809-AAP-01
3. An Ordinance Approving a Community Development Block Grant Agreement (Center for Women in Transition, Project No. 0809-AAP-02)
4. City of Urbana Community Development Block Grant Agreement Center for Women in Transition, Project No. 0809-AAP-02
5. An Ordinance Approving a Community Development Block Grant Agreement (C-U Independence, Project No. 0809-AAP-03)
6. City of Urbana Community Development Block Grant Agreement C-U Independence, Project No. 0809-AAP-03