



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

DATE: March 22, 2013

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 2013-2014 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, \$5,000 in CDBG funding has been budgeted in the CSSF pool, which is less than the \$9,000 allocated last fiscal year (FY 2012-2013). This year's reduction is due to an estimated 5% budget cut in CDBG from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The total combined pool allocation available for FY 2012-2013 was \$313,400, with the CDBG allocation of \$9,000. For this year, 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 some city funded programs, and the office of the Cunningham Township Supervisor for grants funded through the township and some city funded programs.

The Consolidated Social Service Funding applications for FY 2013-2014 were made available Thursday, March 7, 2013. The deadline for submission of completed applications is 4:00 p.m. Thursday, April 8, 2013. Grant allocations will be formalized through approval of the City and Township budgets in June 2013.

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, and (3) Special (Needs) Populations.

In order to address these priorities, CDBG public service funding was provided to the following agencies: Champaign County Regional Planning Commission (Seniors), Community Elements/Roundhouse Youth Shelter (Youth & Homelessness), and Greater Community AIDS Project (Special Needs Population).

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.

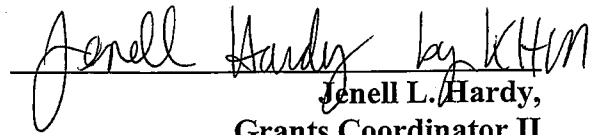
Fiscal Impacts

The \$5,000 in CDBG CSSF funding is included in the proposed City of Urbana and Urbana HOME Consortium FY 2013-2014 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.

Memorandum Prepared By:



**Jenell L. Hardy,
Grants Coordinator II
Grants Management Division**

Attachments:

(1) Guiding Principles for Consolidated Social Service Funding (adopted March 4, 2013 by the Urbana City Council)

Guiding Principles for Consolidated Social Service Funding

March 1, 2013 (adopted March 4, 2013)

Our Consolidated Social Service Funding Program should focus on documented Urbana needs, with the goal of having long-term impact. It should be consistent with goals and strategies outlined in the Consolidated Plan 2010-2014, Appendix A.

1. As a municipal entity, the City of Urbana is bound by the Constitution of the State of Illinois, specifically Articles I and X. Accordingly, agencies or programs that are religiously based, exist for the advancement of religious doctrine, or require participants to engage in religious activities or religious programs as a condition of assistance, may not be eligible to receive Consolidated Social Service Funding.
2. Agencies and programs shall not discriminate, as consistent with the provisions of the City of Urbana Human Rights Ordinance
3. We aim to provide support for multi-year efforts, subject to availability of funds.
4. We focus on five key service areas:
 - a. Basic Needs (i.e. food, shelter/housing)
 - b. Health (including Mental Health), Counseling, and Substance Abuse
 - c. Family Support/Special Needs
 - d. Senior Citizens
 - e. Children and Youth, including Prenatal
5. Grants will be prioritized to encourage partnerships and cooperation among agencies. Preference will be given to previously funded agencies with a strong performing track record. We reserve the right to solicit and fund innovative new programs that meet identified needs, focus on targeted neighborhoods, or meet other city-identified priorities.
6. We will seek cooperation with the City of Champaign if agencies serve clients in both communities.
7. Applicants must have experience with federal/ state/ local grant programs and proof of 501c3 status
8. Agencies funded by Cunningham Township may be required to participate as a workfare site for General Assistance clients. Requirements are attached to the application.
9. We encourage public-private partnerships to leverage funding.
10. We expect that Consolidated Social Service Funding will supplement agencies' services in Urbana rather than replace or supplant funding for services allocated to Urbana residents to the extent possible.

For 2013-14, our funding priorities will be in the areas of early childhood (including prenatal) and summer youth jobs and programming. Where appropriate to the mission of the agency and the degree of training required, paid youth internships associated with the mission of the applicant agency are encouraged. Other key service areas are not excluded; however, funding to these areas may be reduced compared to previous years, based on monies available.