



# FIVE COUNTY NEWS FROM 'R' VIEW

VOLUME V NUMBER 1

JANUARY-MARCH, 2005

## Funding History of the Community Development Block Grant Program in Southwestern Utah 1982-2004



The Five County Association of Governments is one of seven multi county organizations in the state of Utah established to: "identify, discuss, study and resolve area-wide problems of common interest and concern, as well as to engage and carry out planning and

development programs with respect to the physical, economic and human resources of the area." The Five County Association of Governments is governed by a board consisting of county commissioners, mayors and school board members from each county. Staff of the Association provides technical expertise and advice to local governments in southwestern Utah.

A major function of the Association has been to administer numerous "block grant" programs of the federal government. The block grant concept was established by the federal government in the early 1980's as a means to provide "blocks" of federal funds to the states, with the understanding that the states would determine the specific ways in which the funds would be used. The federal government did require that the funds be used for the broad congressional purposes outlined in the legislation authorizing the block grants.

The Community Development Block Grant program (CDBG) is but one of the many block grants from the federal government. The primary objective of the CDBG program is "the development of viable urban communities, by providing decent housing and suitable living environment and expanding economic opportunities, principally for persons of low or moderate income." [Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended]. With the exception of St. George City, which was recently designated by the U. S. Department of

Housing and Urban Development (HUD) as a HUD Entitlement Community, the remainder of this region falls under the auspices of what is known as the Utah Small Cities CDBG program. The Small Cities CDBG program is specifically for communities with a population of less than 50,000 persons and counties with less than 200,000 persons.

This is the 24th year in which the Utah Small Cities CDBG program is being administered by the state of Utah. Each year the Governor of the state of Utah must elect whether to continue its administration of the Small Cities CDBG Program. The Utah Small Cities CDBG program is administered by the Utah Division of Housing and Community Development which has been given the responsibility to assure compliance with the many regulations and directives of HUD, which administers the CDBG programs at the federal level.

The Strengthening America's Communities Initiative proposed in the new budget recently released by President Bush could have a devastating affect on rural Utah communities. The block grant programs established during the Reagan administration have allowed virtually every community in southwestern Utah to improve the quality of life for residents and visitors. Millions of dollars of federal assistance have been injected into community infrastructure, housing projects, economic development efforts, and social assistance programs. These block grant programs also allow local officials to wield maximum flexibility in determining where and how federal funds are spent. We believe that such programs are a model of cooperation between federal, state and local governments.

The Office of Management and Budget announcement of the initiative states that many communities are no longer in need of assistance. The reality is that while many communities have improved their economic bases, there remain segments of communities and certain groups that meet the intent of Congress to alleviate barriers to community and individual well-being. Existing programs ensure that targeted communities and groups benefit from block grant programs.

(See Next Page for Additional Information)

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Those entities, non-profit organizations and human service providers who may be impacted by the proposed changes are encouraged to contact and provide the Utah congressional delegation documentation of the many successes made possible by block grant programs. These programs provide investments in communities that strengthen the ability to address pressing community needs as determined by local elected officials.

From the beginning, the state of Utah established an innovative method of disbursing Community Development Block Grant dollars. Rather than establishing a large state administrative structure to distribute the funds, it was decided that the local associations of governments were the appropriate organizations to determine the distribution of block grant funds. This method of allocation allows the locally elected officials of a region to allocate funds, based upon regionally determined priorities, rather than a state-wide group and/or staff.

Several Congressional mandates must be met by the state of Utah in assuming the administration of the program in Utah which include:

- [1] Continuing a program of planning for community development activities;
- [2] Providing technical assistance to units of local government and workshops for local citizens;
- [3] Continuing to provide funds from state resources for community development; and
- [4] Consulting with local elected officials in determining the method of fund distribution.

Between 1982 and 2004, \$12,145,514 has been allocated, through the CDBG Rating and Ranking process, to 159 separate community development projects benefitting the residents of the local towns, cities, and counties in southwestern Utah. It is estimated that those CDBG funds were, on average, leveraged on a one to one basis with local match of local and/or other funding; resulting in a significant investment over the years in meeting prioritized community development needs throughout this region.

Chart 1 on the insert page is a regional summary chart detailing the number of projects funded by project type, as well as the amount and percentage of CDBG dollars allocated to each type of project. Projects are categorized as (Culinary) Water, Fire (Protection), Wastewater (sewage), Community Facilities (i.e., senior citizens centers or community centers, etc.), LMI Housing/Redevelopment (i.e., removal of blighted conditions, etc.), ADA (accessibility barriers removal), Public Services (i.e., the Meals on Wheels Delivery Trucks), Medical Facilities (clinics), and Flood Control (storm water drainage) projects.

Charts 2 through 6 on the insert page detail the number of projects by type, amount and percentage of CDBG dollars allocated by each type of project by county.

Additional and more detailed information on CDBG project funding within the individual counties can be found in the Community and Economic Development section of the Association's website: [www.fcaog.state.ut.us](http://www.fcaog.state.ut.us)

In addition to the aforementioned funding of traditional brick and mortar, public utility infrastructure, housing, and human service-type projects, a total of \$2,790,271 has been allocated by this region's locally elected officials for regional Community and Economic Development Planning and Technical Assistance. This assistance has been provided by Association's staff to every jurisdiction over the same preceding 23 years; an important investment resulting in better planned communities and counties, improvement of housing stock and enhanced economic development potential.

Our locally elected officials also created a Revolving Loan Fund to assist private businesses in creating permanent, long-term jobs within the Five County region by providing "gap" financing to qualified private businesses for eligible activities. A total of \$576,420 in CDBG funds has been allocated to capitalize this important economic development program designed to increase job creation and retention throughout the region.

Finally, the local elected officials prioritized CDBG funding in the amount of \$950,529 in 2001 for the acquisition of a permanent Five County Association of Governments office facility to house the many programs and associated staff of the Association and provide much needed meeting space.

The staff of the Five County Association of Governments appreciates the nearly quarter century of dedicated support provided by our local elected officials who have assisted, and continue to assist, in the difficult yet rewarding process of prioritizing many diverse, quality, and significant community development projects and activities funded with CDBG, always cognizant of the limited amount of CDBG funds available to allocate to the many competing community needs.

Again, we encourage your efforts to inform the congressional delegation of the positive effects of the funding through the CDBG and other block grant programs over the years as well as your concerns should the proposed changes be implemented.

The Community Development Block Grant in southwestern Utah is managed at the Association by Diane Lamoreaux. Questions related to the CDBG program, including the funding history of the program, should be directed to Diane who can be reached by phone at (435) 673-3548 ext. 105, or via e-mail: [dlamoreaux@fcaog.state.ut.us](mailto:dlamoreaux@fcaog.state.ut.us)

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## Staff Spotlights:



**Judy Rees** began work as a HEAT Intake Worker with the Five County Association of Governments nine years ago, in October of 1995. Our records indicate that during the program year ending 1996, Washington County gave HEAT assistance to 768 families. At that time, Judy was a one-person show,

single-handedly answering the phone, scheduling appointments, conducting interviews, and doing all the paperwork. The program has grown so much that this year we now have an additional HEAT intake worker and a secretary to schedule the appointments. Last HEAT season Washington County served 1,321 families. That is an increase of 72% over the past nine years.

Judy is extremely knowledgeable of the HEAT program and gives friendly assistance to those which whom she meets. She is accurate in her reporting and is conscientious of her responsibilities to abide by the rules of the program. She is always dependable. Judy gives a familiar face to the program in Washington County and always has a friendly smile. She goes the extra mile in all aspects of the program. She is knowledgeable about other service programs in the area and is able to dovetail the workings of each program so that a variety of services is offered, when needed, to the citizens in her community. Her wealth of experience makes the program function very efficiently in Washington County. Judy is often called upon by other HEAT offices to give advice and ideas on improving their individual programs.

Judy's husband, Dexter, has been retired for several years but has been supportive of her desire to work and serve the citizens of Washington County. They are wonderful parents and devoted grandparents. They are contributing members of the community in many ways.

This will be Judy's last year with the HEAT program. When the end of April arrives, she will say good-bye to the HEAT program and hello to some well deserved time with her wonderful family. We salute Judy for nine dedicated years of service. She will be sorely missed by all of us.

### Announcing Southwest Utah's 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Human Services Public Forums

This year marks the 12<sup>th</sup> consecutive year the Five County Association of Governments has brought people together to discuss important issues affecting our local communities. Over the past decade, many important program developments have had their start from our Public Forum gatherings.

Join political leaders, agency representatives, local businessmen, faith based organization representatives, low-income individuals and concerned citizens for the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Human Services Public Forums. This year special emphasis will be on housing issues, mental health, and self-sufficiency. As always, we will come prepared to address other human service issues including: employment, literacy, senior programs, health care, emergency food and shelter, transportation, disability issues, volunteering and child care. This year the Five County AOG Human Services Council will be including Head Start and the Southwest Regional Interagency Council as partnering co-sponsors.

The aforementioned topics affect all people in our communities and nation. If you are challenged with any of these issues, or have resources/solutions to offer, please come. If you are interested in the self-sufficiency of your families, friends or community, please come. We especially encourage the participation of local elected officials and representatives of community groups.

Dates and times for each of the five scheduled forums are listed below:

#### **Iron County**

**Tuesday, March 29, 2005**

**Paiute Tribal Office - Conference Room**

440 North Paiute Drive

Cedar City, UT

3:00 to 4:30 p.m.

#### **Beaver County**

**Wednesday, March 30, 2005**

**Beaver High School - Multi-purpose Room**

195 East Center Street

Beaver, UT

3:00 to 4:30 p.m.

#### **Garfield County**

**Thursday, March 31, 2005**

**Panguitch Fire Station**

50 North 100 East

Panguitch, UT

3:00 to 4:30 p.m.

#### **Washington County**

**Tuesday, April 5, 2005**

**Dixie State College - Gardner Center, Room B**

225 South 700 East

St. George, UT

3:00 to 4:30 p.m.

#### **Kane County**

**Wednesday April 6, 2005**

**Kanab City Library**

374 North Main

Kanab, UT 3:00 to 4:30 p.m.

For more information on the Human Services public forums contact: Beth Cottam at 435-673-3548.

**Community Development Block Grant  
2005 Funding Allocations**

<b>Jurisdiction</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Iron County on behalf of Iron County Council on Aging	Cedar Senior Citizen Center Expansion (Year 2)	\$140,000.00
Beaver County on Behalf of Beaver County Council on Aging	Milford Senior Citizen Center Replacement (Year 1)	\$150,000.00
Cedar City on behalf of Iron County Care and Share	Road Infrastructure and Equipment for Food Pantry	\$150,000.00
Kanab City on behalf of Color Country Community Housing Inc.	Mesa Hills Affordable Housing Project	\$149,746.00
Washington County	ADA Project for all County Facilities	\$ 80,000.00
Five County Association of Governments	Planning, Admin., and Technical Assistance Grants	\$150,000.00

Please submit articles to Diane Lamoreaux via e-mail (newsletter@fcaog.state.ut.us) or in writing to: P.O. Box 1550; St. George, Utah 84771-1550. For other information or services, please call (435) 673-3548 or visit our web site at: [www.fcaog.state.ut.us](http://www.fcaog.state.ut.us)

***Steering Committee Meeting  
Schedule***

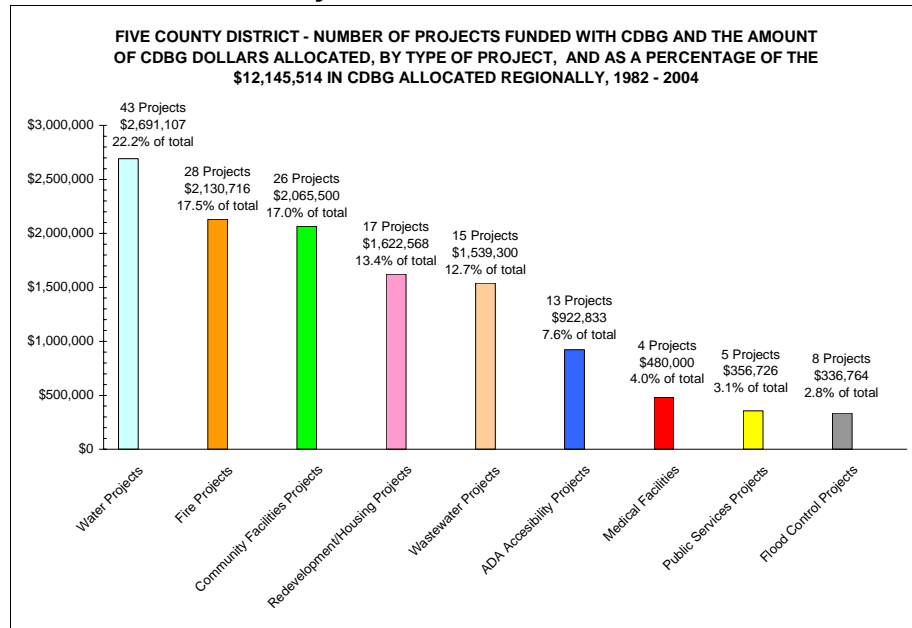
**Wednesday, March 9, 2005 - 1:00 p.m.**  
Beaver County Administration Building  
Conference Room  
105 East Center; Beaver, UT

**Wednesday, April 13, 2005 - 1:00 p.m.**  
Parowan Public Library, Meeting Room  
16 South Main Street, Parowan, UT

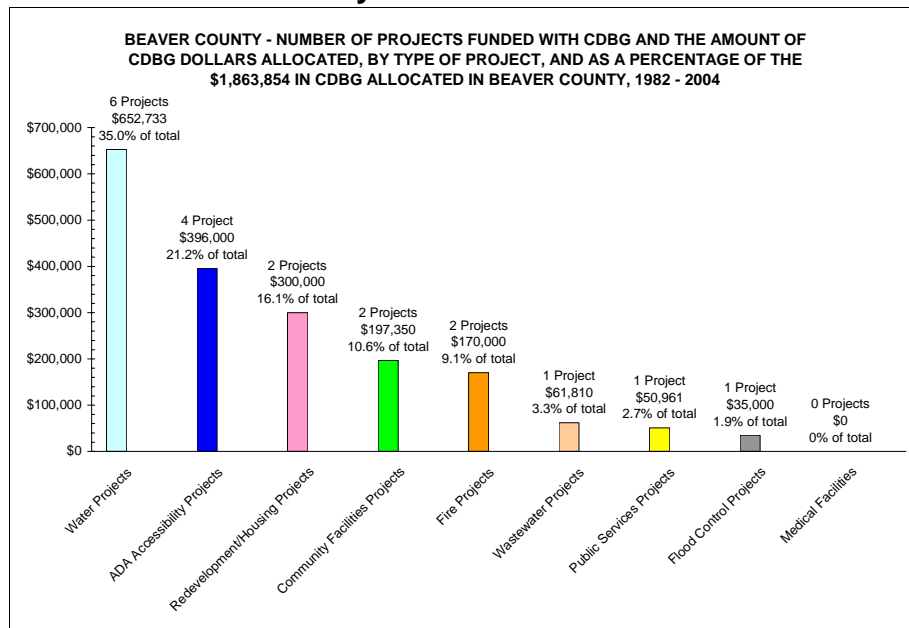
**FIVE COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS**

**1070 WEST 1600 SOUTH, BUILDING B  
P.O. BOX 1550  
ST. GEORGE, UTAH 84771-1550**

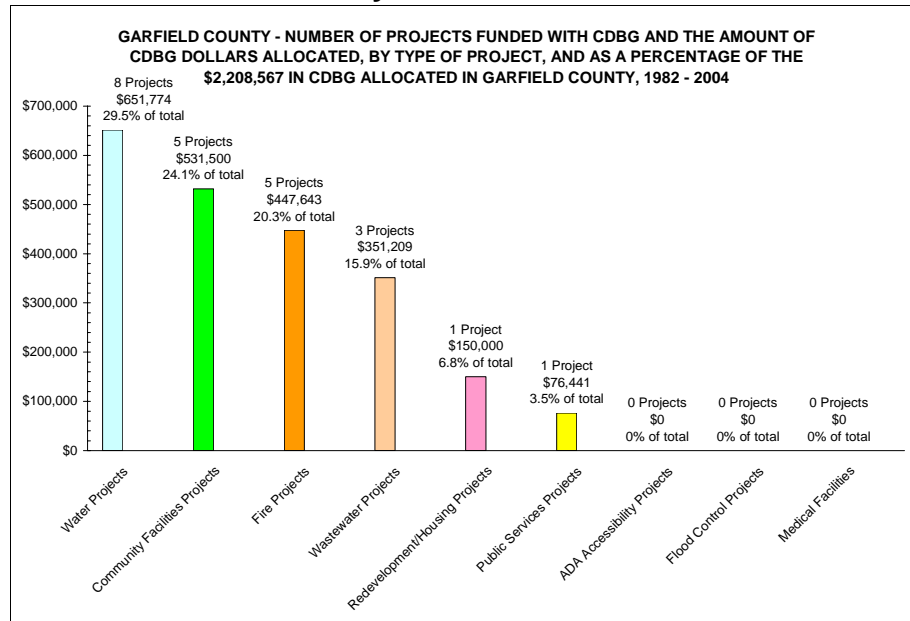
### Chart 1 - Five County District



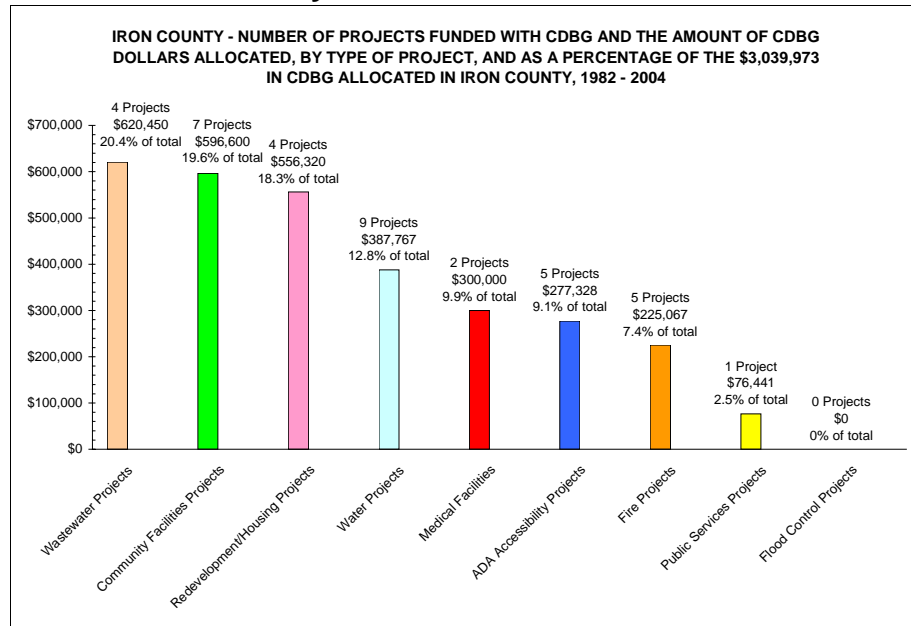
### Chart 2 - Beaver County



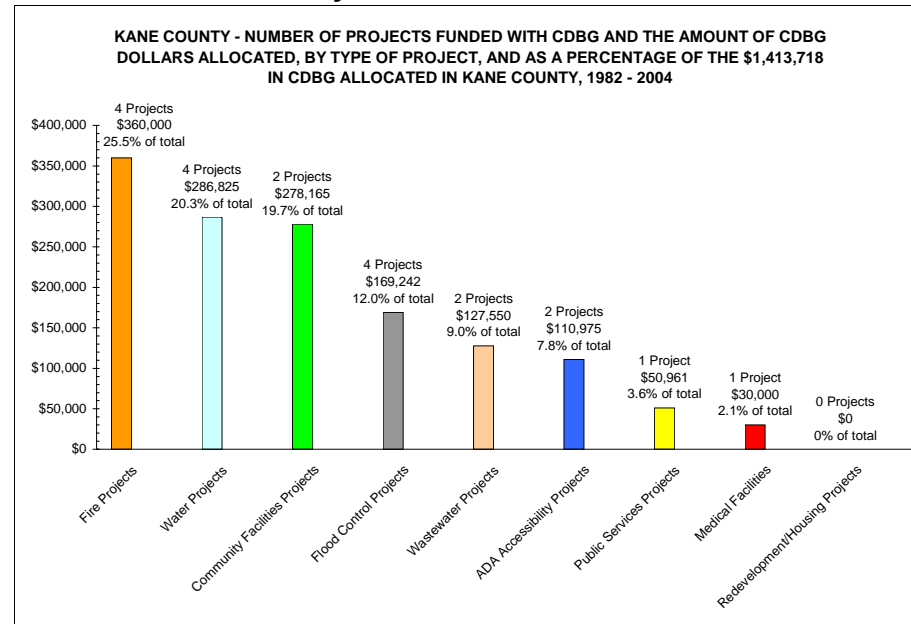
### Chart 3 - Garfield County



### Chart 4 - Iron County



### Chart 5 - Kane County



### Chart 6 - Washington County

