

FIVE COUNTY NEWS FROM 'R' VIEW



VOLUME I NUMBER 7

JULY, 2001

Director's Dialogue:

One of the most popular and successful programs we administer here at the Five County Association of Governments is the Utah State Small Cities Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. This program funnels allocations of federal Housing and Urban Development funds through the Utah State Division of Community Development to communities of less than 50,000 and counties of less than 200,000 in population. Since the program's inception in 1982, the CDBG program has injected over \$9.5 million into the region's local infrastructure, community facilities, and urgent health and safety needs. Local projects have included water system improvements, fire stations, sewer systems, senior citizen centers, ambulance garages, and rehabilitation of community facilities to meet the Americans with Disabilities Act. CDBG funds have also been used to foster the region's economic growth by capitalizing the regional Revolving Loan Fund, which provides supplemental financing to growing businesses. Finally, the CDBG program allows the AOG to provide extensive planning and technical assistance to eligible local governments trying to cope with community planning and zoning enforcement challenges.

Last year's CDBG allocation was awarded to the AOG for use in constructing a new AOG office building, which will allow the organization to better serve our clientele, and decrease our lease and other overhead costs, thus leaving more funds available for program activities.

Utah is unique in the system which distributes CDBG funds. Unlike most states, Utah allows locally-elected officials to prioritize potential projects, and to make grant award decisions. This happens at the regional level. The AOG Steering Committee acts as the Regional Review Committee, employing a rating and ranking matrix to score applications. This system allows for extensive project review and evaluation by local officials. An AOG staff member visits every applicant, tours the project site, and provides required technical advice. Unfortunately, proposed applications always exceed the amount of CDBG funds available. We do our best to assist unsuccessful applicants in refining their project scope of work, and to locate other possible funding sources.

It is time to start preparing for the next round of CDBG funding. The Steering Committee will be reviewing and approving the rating and ranking matrix at their August meeting. "How to Apply" workshops will be conducted in September. Applications will be due in December 2001. Applications and workbooks will be distributed at the workshops. As you begin this process, please remember some important points:

Projects must meet one of three "national objectives" - benefit to individuals with low or moderate incomes; the alleviation of slums or blight; or urgent health and safety needs.

Capital improvement projects must be included in your community's capital improvement list, as submitted to the AOG.

Applicants other than local governments must be sponsored by a local government entity.

AOG staff is available to assist in the preparation of applications.

Additional details are included in this newsletter. Please review the information, and feel free to contact our office with any questions. I look forward to reviewing another slate of excellent projects this fall. One final note: the state allocates CDBG funds to the regions using a formula which is heavily weighted on population. St. George City has exceeded a population of 50,000, and will become eligible for its own allocation of CDBG funds from HUD. The loss of the St. George population base will substantially decrease the region's CDBG allocation in the future. We are aware of the impacts of this action, and will be discussing its ramifications in future Steering Committee meetings. (John S. Williams)

DID YOU KNOW? The Utah Small Cities Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program is federally funded and operated under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended. The new program year, FY2002-2003, will be the 21st year in which the Small Cities program has been administered by the state of Utah. Funds are allocated in this region to prioritized projects by the local elected officials serving on the FCAOG Steering Committee using a regionally developed and approved criteria. **Over the past 20 years approximately \$9.5 million in CDBG funding has been allocated to local projects in the five counties (Beaver, Garfield, Iron, Kane and Washington).**



Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program Announcement

It is time to start preparing for the next application cycle of the Utah Small Cities Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. This year's application cycle, which begins with two "How to Apply Workshops" in September, will be for the eighteen-month contract period of June, 2002 through December, 2003.

How to Apply Workshops: Any jurisdiction that is contemplating applying for CDBG funding must assign at least one elected official from their governing body to attend one of the two scheduled workshops whether you are applying directly, or if you are sponsoring another entity through your jurisdiction. A representative of the "other entity" must also be in attendance with the elected official.

The specific dates, times, and locations of the "How to Apply Workshops" will be mailed to all eligible local governments and other entities in August. Applicants and their jurisdictional representative are required to attend only one application workshop for the year in which they are applying.

Public Hearings: Local units of government are required to hold a "First Public Hearing" to solicit public input for potential CDBG projects in their jurisdiction. Other entities desiring CDBG funding should be in attendance and have their project included in the meeting minutes, rather than holding separate hearings for each project. **(Only the Legal Applicant can officially hold a CDBG First Public Hearing.)**

The "First Public Hearing" may be held prior to, or after, the "How to Apply Workshops", but must be completed prior to the application submission deadline. Contact FCAOG if your jurisdiction wishes to hold this before attending the workshop.

The estimated amount of CDBG funding available for allocation for 2002-2003 will be approximately \$900,000 for the Five County District. This amount should be mentioned in the First Public Hearing and documented in the minutes.

A "Second Public Hearing" is held after the application has been regionally approved for funding.

CDBG Projects: Must meet one of the three congressionally mandated **National Objectives:** 1) Low-moderate income benefit; 2) Aiding in the prevention or elimination of slums or blight; or 3) Urgent health and welfare compliance, and be a CDBG program **eligible activity**.

Projects must be in compliance with the regional

Consolidated Plan yearly update and, if applicable, be included in the jurisdiction's Capital Investment Plan.

Projects must be mature - ready for timely implementation within the contract program year with secured funding commitments from other sources.

In addition to the above, projects must be prioritized by the local elected officials and the region Rating and Ranking system.

Examples of Some of the Types of Eligible CDBG Project Activities

Affordable Housing Projects:

- Acquisition of Property
- New Construction
- Rehabilitation
- Relocation Expenses
- Demolition
- Site Improvements
- Development Hard Costs
- Multi-family, single family, transitional, special needs housing and homeless shelters

Community Development Projects:

- Culinary Water Improvements
- Waste Water Improvements
- Natural Gas Line Accessibility/Expansions
- Road, Street & Pedestrian Walkways
- Fire Stations & Emergency Equipment
- ADA Accessibility for Public Buildings
- Flood Control Systems
- Rehabilitation of Slums & Blighted Areas
- Historic Preservation
- Acquisition of Property/Land
- Community & Senior Centers
- Parks, Recreation & Beautification Projects
- Public Services

Economic Development Projects:

- Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) Program
- Interim/Short-term Financing Program
- Industrial Parks & Commercial Centers
- Stimulate Private Investments

Examples of Some Past CDBG Projects



Minersville Senior Citizen Center



Cannonville Community Center



Wheelchair List (ADA accessibility)
Pioneer Courthouse, St. George City



Panguitch Fire Station

Long Valley Senior Citizens Center

Long Valley consists of the following towns: Orderville, Glendale, Mt. Carmel, Mt. Carmel Junction and Alton in southern Utah. It is close to Zion National Park, Coral Pink Sand Dunes, the North Rim of the Grand Canyon, Lake Powell and Bryce Canyon, with rich soil for farming and the majestic mountains.

The Long Valley Senior Citizens Center is nestled in the town of Orderville next to the fire station. With a lot of work and dedication from some of the citizens of Long Valley, the Center reopened after being closed for 1 ½ years. Many long hours were spent sanding and painting cupboard doors, painting walls, cleaning the kitchen and appliances, light fixtures, windows and bathrooms, as well as doing minor repairs and restocking the kitchen trying to get the Center ready to open. There were 29 students and one teacher from the High School in Orderville who donated a total of 18 ½ hours to help clean. Mary Stevens and Wallace Gibson donated over 350 hours doing the majority of the work. Mary even broke her right wrist in the line of duty when she tangled with a column.

The Center officially reopened on January 3, 2001 to serve their first meals. Wallace Gibson was hired as the Director of the Long Valley Senior Citizen Center, Julie Taylor as cook, Patty Henderson as assistant cook, and Mary Stevens is the all around helper as a volunteer.

The first dinner served consisted of 26 congregate and 12 home delivered meals. Everyone was excited that they had a full house. During the first month of operation, 139 home delivered and 295 congregate meals were served. Since that time, an average of 449 meals have been served each month. The secret is they have an excellent cook who serves great food, and a great atmosphere is provided with live music once or twice a week. The center is open three days a week, Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

A 15 passenger van is used to deliver meals in Glendale, Orderville and Mt. Carmel as well as pick up those who want to ride to the center for their meal. Marty Dering drives the van, with Heather Ruckman delivering the meals and coordinating the Care and Share. The van is unable to go to Alton because of the distance and direction of travel. It is hoped that one day soon another van will be available to service that area. Several trips are made each month in addition to shopping twice a month in the St. George area.

The Care & Share Food Bank is now open in the Center. The addition of this service eliminates the need to drive to Kanab to obtain food. The food bank is open two days a week and is serving approximately 25 families. Efforts are underway to secure a separate building to house the Care and Share. (Fayann Christensen)

Staff Spotlights:

Diane Lamoreaux joined the Five County Association of Governments staff 20 years ago. She moved to St. George in 1981 with her son Jason Cade. Previous to coming to Five County, she had worked with the MX Missile Policy Board and Southern Utah University with the Upward Bound and Headstart/Early Intervention programs.



Diane has worked with the Division of Community and Economic Development and as the Executive Secretary for the past number of years. Recently, Diane has been assigned to work with the Community Development Block Grant and First Time Home Buyers Programs. She is very excited about assuming these new roles and looks forward to the challenges associated with the programs.

In her spare time, Diane likes to crochet and spend time with family and friends. She collects dolls and loves to display her collection through various mediums. She was born and raised in Paragonah and still loves her small hometown.

Suzanne Tronsdal has been with the Five County Association of Governments since February 2000. She moved to St. George in April 1999 after working for the Boeing Company in Everett, Washington.

Suzanne is the Accounting Technician for the Welfare to Work Program and for the Transportation department. She is responsible for generating both fiscal and program reports. With her help and resourcefulness, the agency has started to represent program reports using colorful graphics to illustrate productivity. Suzanne also helps train and mentor interns working to develop and improve employment skills. Her programming role is valuable to the Welfare to Work efforts.



During off hours, she's found bowling to be right down her alley! She enjoys participating with a couple of A.O.G. co-workers in a local bowling league. Suzanne's hobbies include music, computers and keeping up with her kids. She has 5 children, ages ranging from 20 to 5. Born and raised in Salt Lake City, she moved to Washington in 1986 and spent 13 years there before moving back to Utah.



Senior Companions

"I am so lonely," said a plaintive little voice on the other end of the Senior Companion Program office phone. In the same day, an adult daughter called from California pleading for someone to help her father, a recent widower who was trying to adjust to the death of his wife of 51 years. And before the office lights were turned out for the day, another cry for help. "I'm having a spell . . . I need to get to the hospital. Is there someone who can drive me?" These and myriads of other problems are daily occurrences in the Senior Companion office. Try as we might, we can't solve them all . . . without YOU! The number of those in need of a Senior Companion remains constant - sometimes for weeks at a time. If you - or someone you know - is over age 60 and earns less than \$10,737 in a single person household (or \$14,512 in a two-person household), please encourage them to call the Senior Companion Program at 435-674-5757 for more information. (Linda Sappington)

Please submit articles to Diane Lamoreaux via e-mail (diamoreaux@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: <http://www.fcaog.state.ut.us>

Steering Committee Meeting Schedule:

Wednesday, August 8, 2001, 1:00 p.m.
Panguitch City Library, Meeting Room
25 South 200 East, Panguitch, UT

Wednesday, Sept. 12, 2001, 1:00 p.m.
Beaver Co. Administration Building
Conference Room (Old Commission
Chambers) 105 East Center, Beaver, UT

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