



FIVE COUNTY NEWS FROM 'R' VIEW

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Director's Dialogue

September 17th is Constitution Day in America; or -- when the United States Constitution was officially adopted as the governing document for the new country. At this moment I can't help but think of the words of Benjamin Franklin as I hear of the sad news of my good friend Marreen Casper's passing over last weekend. Franklin said, "Tell me and I forget, teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn."

Marreen and I worked together in southern Utah for two different senators. She was an absolute master teacher to me about the Constitution, the role of the senate, and the dedicated work to helping the constituents of Utah. She was the Area Director for Senator Hatch and was responsible for Beaver, Garfield, Iron, Kane, and Washington counties. She defended the Constitution and advocated for rural Utah in every meeting that I was present; from access to travel plans, to resource plans, to water needs with the government, etc.

We definitely attended a plethora of Five County Association of Governments Steering Committee meetings over the years together. Again, she loved to involve and mentor me, and I am better for having had the privilege and opportunity to have worked and learned with her. Just like the Constitution has left a mark, I would say that her time and service in southern Utah has left a huge mark as well in the Five County area.

Marreen was six months into her LDS mission with her husband, Ron, in Tennessee --something she talked about doing all the time. One of the greatest life lessons she taught me was that family is the most important value we have to get through any problem or trial; she had a wonderful family.

Her funeral was held Saturday, September 21, 2013, at the LDS Church located at 1610 North Dixie Downs Road, St. George, Utah. Interment followed at the Tonaquint Park Cemetery. Life goes on and we work hard every day to build our communities stronger for the next generation.

Important!! See the inside pages for information on the CDBG program and the back page of this newsletter for CDBG "How to Apply Workshop" dates & locations.

Announcing the New Community Resource Center and Pantry



The Volunteer Center of Washington County and Friends of The Volunteer Center are eager to announce the opening of The Community Resource Center and

Pantry, located at 198 North 100 East in St. George. The Center will be a one-stop shop for families and individuals needing assistance with housing, food, employment assistance, resume building, Medicare and Medicaid application assistance and much more. The Pantry hours will be extended to complement the other pantries in the area. It will be open from 3-7 p.m. on week nights and 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Saturday.

The mission of the Volunteer Center is to mobilize people and resources to meet the community needs and bring solutions. This center will utilize volunteers, students from Dixie State University and VISTA members to meet the needs present in our community.

Medicare Annual Open Enrollment (AEP) will begin October 15th and run through December 7. Free Medicare counseling will be provided at the Volunteer Center, in the new Community Resource Center and Pantry at their new location, 198 North 100 East, St. George. Medicare beneficiaries can receive assistance with Part D, Extra help, A and B, and any other Medicare related issues.

We want to express our gratitude and appreciation to the LDS Humanitarian Services for the furniture donations, Utah Food Bank for food, Community Action Program for a start up grant, Habitat for Humanity for the use of their moving van and the efforts of our staff and especially our support from Bryan Thiriot, our Executive Director at Five County Association of Governments.

The Grand Opening will be October 15th, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., and refreshments will be provided.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program FY 2014

Once again it is time to start planning for the next application cycle of the Utah Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program. The 2014 program year will be the thirty-third year in which the Small Cities CDBG Program has been administered by the state of Utah. The purpose of Community Development Block Grants is *"To assist in developing viable urban communities by providing decent housing, a suitable living environment and expanding economic opportunities, principally for persons of low and moderate income (LMI)"*.

This program funnels allocations of federal Housing and Urban Development funds through the Utah State Division of Housing and 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 \$17.5 million into our 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, housing projects, ambulance garages, etc. Additionally, \$5.5 million in CDBG funds has also been used to foster the region's economic growth by capitalizing the regional Revolving Loan Fund providing supplemental financing to growing businesses; allowed the AOG to provide extensive planning and technical assistance to eligible local governments coping with community planning and zoning challenges; and was used to construct the Five County AOG office building located in St. George, UT.

The Steering Committee reviews and approves the rating and ranking matrix for the upcoming funding cycle on an annual basis during their August meeting. The application cycle, which begins with two "How to Apply" workshops in early November, will cover the 18-month contract period of June 2014 through December 2015. Applications will be due January 31, 2014, and will be submitted through the state of Utah Webgrants system. Application Policies and Procedures will be distributed at the workshops.

As you begin the process, please remember some important points:

- * Projects must meet one of three "national objectives" - 1) Benefit to individuals with low or moderate incomes; 2) The alleviation of slums or blight; or 3) Urgent health and safety needs.
- * Capital Improvement projects must be included in your community's capital improvement list to be submitted to the AOG.
- * Applicants other than local governments must be sponsored by a local government entity.
- * Communities should contact the AOG to determine if an income survey of residents is necessary.
- * AOG staff is available to assist in the preparation of applications.

Each year the Five County region receives an allocation based upon a statewide formula utilizing a base amount and a per capita population distribution. Last year's total regional CDBG allocation was \$704,332. FY 2013 funding was awarded to the following projects: **1) Five County Association of Governments, \$90,000--** Consolidated plan planning, administration, economic development technical assistance/housing planning, and housing/RLF program delivery; **2) Milford City, on behalf of the Beaver Housing Authority, \$150,000--** LMI housing property acquisition; **3) Panguitch City, \$150,000--** Procurement of a new fire truck; **4) Cedar City, on behalf of the Cedar Housing Authority, \$164,332--** LMI housing property acquisition (year 1 and a portion of year 2 funding of multi-year project); and **5) Washington City, on behalf of the Erin Kimball Memorial Foundation, 150,000--** Transitional housing rehabilitation project.

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 local elected officials and the region Rating and Ranking system.

The CDBG "How-to-Apply" workshops are held for any town, city, county, special service district or non-profit agency in the Five County region that is considering applying for CDBG funding. Attendance at the workshop is required to be eligible to apply. (Note: all special service districts and non-profit agencies must arrange to have a city or county sponsor their project in order to be eligible to receive CDBG funding).

Jurisdictions may formally designate a third party representative (i.e., other city/county staff, consultant, engineer, or architect) to attend the workshop on their behalf. However, said designation by the jurisdiction must be in writing. The letter of designation must be provided to the Five County Association no later than at the beginning of the "How-to-Apply" workshop.

Examples of some of the types of eligible CDBG project activities:

Affordable Housing Projects:

Acquisition of Property; New Construction; Rehabilitation; Demolition; Relocation Expenses; 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; Flood Control Systems; Road, Street & Emergency Equipment; Historic Preservation; ADA Accessibility for Public Buildings; Acquisition of Property/Land; Community & Senior Centers; Rehabilitation of Slums & Blighted Areas; Parks, Recreation & Beautification Projects; Public Services

Economic Development Projects:

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

Examples of Previous CDBG Projects



Mountain View Suites II Housing Project in Cedar City



Minersville Library with New Expansion



Alton Town Fire Station



Hatch Community Center

Options Counseling Program

The case management department has teamed up with the Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC) at the University of Utah to bring Options Counseling to the Five County area. We are currently working on a contract to have Options Counseling available by January 1, 2014.

Options Counselors will work with individuals and families to answer questions about long term care supports and services related to aging and disabilities; and assisting them one step further by connecting them to additional resources and services available in our area. This will improve service delivery and help many from falling through

the cracks; in particular, those who do not qualify for other the services available through Five County.

As part of this project, we will also be working with the ADRC & the Veteran's Administration to provide additional support to our disabled Veterans.

Five County Association of Governments Revolving Loan Fund and Microloan Fund



Did you know that since 1987 the Five County Association of Governments has had a Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) for new and expanding businesses as well as a Microloan Fund specifically designed to assist small start up business.

The purpose of the Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) is to create permanent, long-term jobs within the southwestern region of Utah by providing "gap" financing to qualified businesses for eligible activities.

Financing for Your Growing Business

Our loans are intended to bridge any gap created by shortfalls in commercial financing. Funds repaid are revolved out to other businesses, allowing for a sustainable job creation program. Loans can be made in Beaver, Garfield, Iron, Kane and Washington counties. RLF loans are usually subordinated to private sector lenders. By taking a subordinate position on collateral, private lenders are more willing to help with financing because their risks are reduced. During the history of the program almost \$8 million in RLF has been lent from a total fund capitalization of \$1.7 million. In addition the Five County RLF funds have leveraged over \$36 million in private business funding and owner equity.

For information on the two business loan funds, please contact Gary Zabriskie, Director of Community and Economic Development at the Association. This past June Gary received certification through the National Development Council as an Economic Development Finance Professional (EDFP) and manages these two funds.

The Association has a web site devoted to the loan funds. It is located at <http://www.southernutahloans.com>

CDBG HOW-TO-APPLY WORKSHOPS

Thursday, November 7, 2013 - 6:30 p.m.
Five County AOG Office, Conference Room
1070 West 1600 South, Building B, St. George, UT

Friday, November 8, 2013 - 10:00 a.m.
Panguitch City Fire Station, Training Room
40 North 100 East, Panguitch, UT

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. A post card will be mailed in October reminding jurisdictions of the upcoming workshops.

Please feel free to contact our office with any questions or to obtain further details. Additional information regarding the Community Development Block Grant Program can be found on the Five County website at:
<http://fivecounty.utah.gov/programs/community/cdbg.php>

Please submit articles to Diane Lamoreaux via e-mail to (diamoreaux@fivecounty.utah.gov) 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 website at:
<http://fivecounty.utah.gov>

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Five County Association of Governments
1070 West 1600 South, Building B
P.O. Box 1550
St. George, Utah 84771-1550