



FIVE COUNTY NEWS FROM 'R' VIEW

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Very Important !

See the back page of this newsletter for the dates & locations of the mandatory CDBG "How-to-Apply" workshops.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program FY 2017

It is time to start planning for the next application cycle of the Utah Small Cities Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. The 2017 program year will be the thirty-fifth year in which the CDBG Program has been administered by the state of Utah. The purpose of CDBG is *"To assist in developing viable communities by providing decent housing, a suitable living environment and expanding economic opportunities, principally for persons of low and moderate income (LMI)"*.

This program allocates federal Housing and Urban Development funds through Utah's Department of Workforce Services' Division of Housing and Community Development, to communities with a population less than 50,000 and counties less than 200,000. Since 1982 the CDBG program has provided over \$19 million towards meeting our region's infrastructure, community facilities, and health and safety needs.

Local projects have included water system improvements, fire stations, sewer systems, senior citizen centers, housing projects, ambulance garages, etc. In addition to the \$19 million allocated to local projects, \$5.6 million in CDBG funds have also been used regionally to: 1) enrich the region's economy by providing supplemental financing to growing businesses through the revolving loan fund (RLF); 2) planning and technical assistance through the AOG to eligible local governments coping with community planning and zoning challenges; and 3) construct the Five County AOG office building located in St. George City.

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 begins with the "How-to-Apply" workshops in early November, which explains the steps in the 18-month contract period between June 2017 and

December 2018. CDBG applications are due January 30, 2017, and will be submitted via Utah's Webgrants system.

Application policies and procedures will be explained and an applicant guidebook 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) Alleviate conditions of slum or blight; or 3) provide for urgent health and safety needs.
- * Capital Improvement projects must be included in your community's capital improvement list to be submitted to the AOG.
- * Sub-recipient applicants other than local governments must be sponsored by a local or county 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.

The Five County region receives an annual allocation based upon a statewide formula utilizing a base amount and a per capita population distribution. Last year's total regional CDBG allocation was \$776,439. FY 2016 funding was awarded to the following pre-approved projects: 1) **Five County Association of Governments, \$90,000**-- Program administration, Consolidated Plan update, Housing planning; and RLF Program technical assistance and program delivery; 2) **Milford City on behalf of the Beaver Housing Authority**-- \$63,599 for affordable housing in Milford; and 3) **LaVerkin City**-- \$100,000 for year two of a fire station expansion project. Rating and

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ranking of other projects for FY 2016 was as follows: 1) **Washington County, on behalf of the Northwestern Special Service District**, \$200,000-- To purchase a 4 x 4 pumper truck for the newly completed Gunlock Fire Station; 2) **Enterprise City**, \$200,000-- Purchase of a new Pierce fire truck; and 3) **Beaver City**, on behalf of the Beaver Housing Authority, \$122,840-- For completion of new offices, construction of a parking lot and complete rehabilitation of the old office (home) into a single family rental home. This project received partial funding.

Projects must be: 1) mature and ready for timely implementation within the contract program year with secured funding commitments from other sources, and 2) Prioritized by local elected officials and the 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).

All of the five counties, as well as towns and our cities under 50,000 population, are eligible to participate in the Small Cities CDBG program.

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.

Here are some examples of the types of eligible CDBG project activities:

Affordable Housing Projects

Property acquisition for multi-family and rental housing units; construction of homeless shelters; rehabilitation of rental housing units; clearance and demolition; relocation expenses; site improvements; development hard costs

Community Development Projects

Culinary water/sewer improvements; solid waste disposal improvements; flood drainage improvements; fire stations/equipment; street improvements; historic preservation; ADA accessibility for public buildings; acquisition of real property; community & senior centers; rehabilitation of slums & blighted areas; parks, recreational facilities; public services

Economic Development Projects

Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) program; Funding provides for

a regional RLF and Micro-Enterprise assistance; industrial park infrastructure and commercial centers.

A Couple of Recent CDBG Assisted Projects in the Five County Region:



Beaver Housing Authority Program Delivery Office in Beaver



Northwest Special Service District Gunlock, UT Fire Station

Travel Training Takes Off



Travel training is education and orientation on how to use transit and transportation technology. Five County Association of Governments offers travel training to agencies and AOG case workers who are interested in becoming travel trainers. We focus on training trainers who can work as ambassadors to provide information and orientation to their clients and others. Travel training allows targeted populations such as the elderly, disabled or low income people a greater level of personal freedom by riding the bus or other services as they become available.

This outreach training will provide for many more qualified and knowledgeable travel trainers throughout the region.

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This summer we've really stepped up our efforts at providing travel training to service providers and our own FCAOG case managers in aging and



human services in all five counties. We have continued to see need for improved transportation services throughout the five county region and we are exploring ways that existing transportation service providers can be more efficient, additional services can be funded, and how we can help promote current options and train people how to use them. I've been very encouraged by the enthusiasm that both service providers/advocacy agencies and our own case managers have shown towards participating in travel training.

Travel training is available to qualified people on the first Wednesday of every month at Dixie State University in the Disability Resource Office (just across the parking lot from the transit center). These one to two hour classes start at 10 a.m. If you would like to participate in this travel training program or if you have people who have critical transportation needs, please contact me, Jay Aguilar, the Five County Mobility Manager at (435)673-3548, extension 117, so that I can determine what assistance is needed and what is available.

Seniors Serving Their Community



Did you know Five County AOG has two Senior Corps Programs? The **Senior Companion Program** and the **Foster Grandparent Program** are designed to encourage seniors to

stay active and provide service in their communities. In return, they can earn a little extra income. Currently in the Five County area we have 45 volunteers!

What does a Senior Companion do?

- Assists the frail elderly with transportation to medical appointments and essential errands.
- Offers companionship to homebound clients and respite for caregivers.
- Senior Companions make independence for the frail elderly a reality and prevent premature nursing home placement!

What does a Foster Grandparent do?

- Works one-on-one with children at school who may need a little extra assistance to master reading and math skills.
- They are role models, mentors, and friends to our youth.
- Helps children learn to appreciate and respect the senior population.
- Foster Grandparents share their wisdom today to shape tomorrow's citizens!

Volunteering promotes a positive outlook on life! It's good for the volunteer and good for those they serve!

These programs are administered by the Five County Association of Governments with grant funds from the Corporation for National and Community Services and matching funds from donations, grants, sponsors and fundraising efforts, including: United Way Dixie, Washington County, Utah Council for the Blind, Intermountain Health Care and others.



For more information about these programs please contact Joni Lyman at our St. George office location at telephone number 435-673-3548, extension 122. Or you may e-mail Joni at: jlyman@fivecounty.utah.gov

Medicare Open Enrollment is Here Now

It's the Medicare open enrollment time again!

You only have from October 15 to December 7, 2016 to check out new prices as well as new plan information. If you



are looking for options that relate to Medicare, now is the time to do so. If you need help with any Medicare issues

feel free to call either of these knowledgeable Five County AOG employees:



Tom Everett at our Five County AOG office in St. George at (435) 673-3548.

Amy Brinkerhoff at our Five County AOG office in Cedar City at

(435)-867-6020.

**CDBG HOW-TO-APPLY WORKSHOP
DATES AND LOCATIONS:**

Thursday, November 3, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.
Five County AOG Office Bldg., Conference Room
1070 West 1600 South, Building B, St. George, UT

Friday, November 4, 2016 at 10:00 a.m.
Panguitch City Fire Station, Training Room
40 North 100 East, Panguitch, UT

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

A jurisdiction contemplating applying for CDBG funds must assign at least one elected official to attend one of the two scheduled mandatory workshops, whether you are applying for your jurisdiction, or plan to sponsor a sub-recipient applicant through your jurisdiction. A representative of the "sub-recipient 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 contact Nate Wiberg, our CDBG Program Specialist at (435) 673-3548, extension 105, to answer any questions or 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, or suggestions for them, to our Newsletter editor via e-mail to (newsletter@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://www.fivecounty.utah.gov>

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