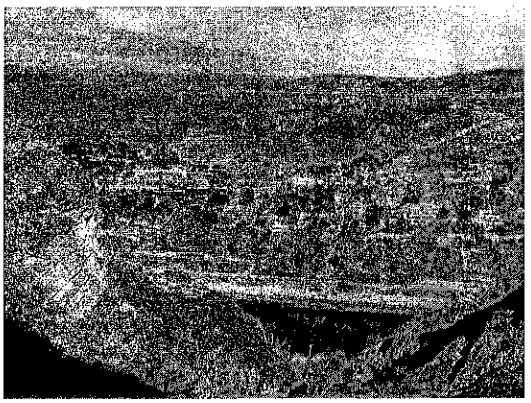
Department of Commerce
Innovation is in our nature.



Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG)

Helping rural communities with projects that benefit low- and moderate-income persons

The Washington State CDBG Program offers six grant funds:

General Purpose Grants $8,500,000
For public infrastructure, community facilities, affordable housing, or economic development

Economic Opportunity Grants $7,000,000
For state and local priority economic development and energy efficiency projects that promote vibrant rural communities

Planning-Only Grants $350,000
For planning activities that improve community services, public safety or further strategic planning

Housing Enhancement Grants $200,000
For off-site infrastructure or the community facility component of a state housing trust fund project

Imminent Threat Grants $100,000
For unanticipated emergencies posing a serious immediate threat to public health and safety

Public Services Grants $1,500,000
For county and community action agencies to fund new or expanded services to lower income persons

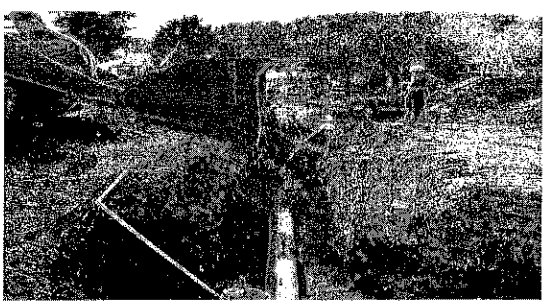
2015 funding levels are contingent upon federal allocation

Fast Facts

- Commerce receives an estimated $11 million annual CDBG allocation from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
- Maximum grants are generally $1 million for construction; $500,000 for housing rehabilitation; and $35,000 for planning
- Since 1982 the CDBG program has distributed $456 million to rural cities, towns and counties
- Statutory Authority: Title 1, Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (Federal)

Contact Information:

Name: Kaaren Roe
Phone: (360) 725-3018
Fax: (360) 586-8440
Email: kaaren.roe@commerce.wa.gov
Web: www.commerce.wa.gov/cdbg



HUD National Objectives

CDBG project activities must meet one of three HUD National Objectives:

- Principally benefits low-and moderate-income persons
- Aids in the prevention or elimination of slums or blight
- Addresses imminent threat to public health or safety

CDBG Eligibility Guidelines

Eligible applicants are Washington State cities/towns with less than 50,000 in population and not participating in a CDBG entitlement urban county consortium; and counties with less than 200,000 in population. Eligible cities/towns and counties are listed on the CDBG website.

Special purpose districts, public housing authorities, community action agencies, economic development councils, other non-profit organizations, and Indian tribes are not eligible to apply directly to the state CDBG Program for funding, but may be a partner in projects and subrecipient of funding with an eligible city/town or county applicant.

Applicants may submit one request per fund each program year. Exception: an eligible city/town or county may apply for a second General Purpose Grant if one application is for a local microenterprise assistance program.

Application materials and due dates are on the CDBG website.

Federal Citizen Participation Requirements for Local Government Applicants to the State CDBG Program

Federal Regulations 24 CFR 570.486 (a)

(a) *Citizen participation requirements of a unit of general local government.* Each unit of general local government shall meet the following requirements as required by the state at Sec. 91.115(e) of this title.

(1) Provide for and encourage citizen participation, particularly by low and moderate income persons who reside in slum or blighted areas and areas in which CDBG funds are proposed to be used;

(2) Ensure that citizens will be given reasonable and timely access to local meetings, information, and records relating to the unit of local government's proposed and actual use of CDBG funds;

(3) Furnish citizens information, including but not limited to:

(i) The amount of CDBG funds expected to be made available for the current fiscal year (including the grant and anticipated program income);

(ii) The range of activities that may be undertaken with the CDBG funds;

(iii) The estimated amount of the CDBG funds proposed to be used for activities that will meet the national objective of benefit to low and moderate income persons; and

(iv) The proposed CDBG activities likely to result in displacement and the unit of general local government's anti-displacement and relocation plans required under Sec. 570.488.

(4) Provide technical assistance to groups representative of persons of low and moderate income that request assistance in developing proposals in accordance with the procedures developed by the state. Such assistance need not include providing funds to such groups;

(5) Provide for a minimum of two public hearings, each at a different stage of the program, for the purpose of obtaining citizens' views and responding to proposals and questions. Together the hearings must cover community development and housing needs, development of proposed activities and a review of program performance. The public hearings to cover community development and housing needs must be held before submission of an application to the state. There must be reasonable notice of the hearings and they must be held at times and locations convenient to potential or actual beneficiaries, with accommodations for the handicapped. Public hearings shall be conducted in a manner to meet the needs of non-English speaking residents where a significant number of non-English speaking residents can reasonably be expected to participate;

(6) Provide citizens with reasonable advance notice of, and opportunity to comment on, proposed activities in an application to the state and, for grants already made, activities which are proposed to be added, deleted or substantially changed from the unit of general local government's application to the state. *Substantially changed* means changes made in terms of purpose, scope, location or beneficiaries as defined by criteria established by the state.

(7) Provide citizens the address, phone number, and times for submitting complaints and grievances, and provide timely written answers to written complaints and grievances, within 15 working days where practicable.