

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.



Washington State
Department of
Commerce

We strengthen communities

RURAL COMMUNITY GRANTS FOR ACTIVITIES THAT BENEFIT LOW-AND MODERATE-INCOME PERSONS

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG)

General Purpose Grants **\$12,000,000**

For planning or construction of public infrastructure, community facilities, affordable housing, and economic development projects.

Competitive. Maximum grant up to \$900,000 based on project type. Application materials available in March and due in June.

Housing Enhancement Grants **\$200,000**

For off-site infrastructure or the community facility component of a state Housing Trust Fund project. Competitive. Maximum grant is \$200,000, with potential additional hardship funding. Initial CDBG application forms are submitted with a HTF Stage 2 application.

Public Services Grants **\$1,500,000**

For 17 counties and community action agencies to fund new or expanded services for lower income persons. Allocated by a formula based on population and poverty. Application materials available in February and due in April.

National Objectives

Funded by the US Department of Housing & Urban Development, CDBG activities must meet one of these national objectives:

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

Funding is contingent on HUD approval of the state CDBG Action Plan.

Agency contact

Jon Galow
SECTION MANAGER

Local Government Division
jon.galow@commerce.wa.gov
Phone: 509.847.5021

www.commerce.wa.gov/CDBG

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS:

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. A complete list is on Commerce's CDBG webpage.

Other public and non-profit entities and Indian tribes are not eligible to apply directly for state CDBG funding, but may be a partner in projects and subrecipient of funding with an eligible city/town or county.

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
BLOCK GRANT**