

2024-26 CDBG Community Projects Q&A Transcript

Hello everyone.

Hi, we have folks who are coming into the meeting.

Then we'll get started.

All right.

Well, we'll go ahead and get started.

Correspond just like to say hello to everyone.

Good afternoon.

Thanks for joining us today for this Q&A session.

We are holding this Q&A session regarding the 2024 to 2026 Community development projects request just to introduce myself, I'm Maria Collins and I am the Community Development administrator and the planning and Development Department for Hamilton County and the program managers in this division are also on this.

A virtual meeting is well, so we will go through what the process is for I for identifying and submitting or basically for submitting your three-year Community projects form and then we will open it up to any questions that you may have.

This session is being recorded.

Alright, so to get started and I don't know if this is showing up, is it black on everyone's screen or is it just mine the PowerPoint is you're the background?

OK, I think it's just on my end and that's OK.

I just wanted to make sure.

The wording is white, yeah.

The background is black, but the PowerPoint now the writings are black, the PowerPoint blue and my background on the other sides is black.

Just say no.

Yeah, I got the opposite, and I don't know if it's something, maybe it's the setting, the way that I have my setting for the teams, I don't know.

But if everyone can follow along, that's what's important.

So just to give you a summary about our HUD grant of our 2023 HUD grant, funding was as follows.

We received a total of just over 5.4 million, which uh included 3.4 million for community development block grants.

We received 1.7 million for home funds and then our Emergency Solutions grant was 295,000.

The way that our 2023 block grants were budgeted is as follows.

1.3 it just over 1.3 million was allocated to county wide programs such as CDAP, which is the Community Economic Development Assistance Program, and nonprofit Services 1.2 million UH was budgeted for the Community request, community requested projects and programs.

600 million went to was for the many planning grants and for administration of the program.

And then 275,000 was budgeted for business development, fair Housing services, neighborhood services and home improvement.

Our home improvement program.

So now we're going to get into discussing the first part of identifying your community.

Next three-year community projects.

The first thing that needs to happen is you must each community must post a notice, a public notice and allow for a 30-day comment period.

You must provide proof of the notice and comments that were received and the deadline for submission of your public comments is April 30th.

We will publish two sets of legal notices.

So, what we're asking is for each jurisdiction to send us the date or uh dates for their public hearings and we will post that we will publish in two separate legal ads.

The next slide talks about the application process and timeline.

So, as you can see from the timeline release of Community projects, three-year cycle application uh, that happens today.

When you receive the invite, there is the form attached to your email invite.

You must complete an A form or application for each project, so you will be submitting a maximum of three applications.

If you have three projects, uh, that you'll be submitting for now.

Just so everyone understands, you're not required to submit a project.

Uh for the three-year cycle?

But if you do this is the process that you would have to follow.

OK, those applications or I'm sorry, those applications have already been released to you and today of course, we're holding the Q&A.

On Wednesday, March the 13th, we are asking that the communities provide us with the dates for the pub.

They're public hearings, which we will publish in legal in, in our legal ads.

On Tuesday, April 30th the applications or forms will be due, and notices or copies of your public notices will also be due at that time.

In May, we will notify communities of their three-year allocation.

And then we completed our 2024 annual action plan that this action plan for 2024 in our community projects portion of our budget for 24.

It will include the 24 projects that you all are proposing for 2024 in your three-year project Community projects application.

Now regarding eligible uses of the block grant funds, the funds can be used for projects.

That are in low to moderate income areas.

The funds can be used for public infrastructure projects in low mod areas.

The funds can be used for acquisition and or demolition of blighted buildings, and you can also use the block grant funds for public facilities such as low Mod area parks, community wide parks and senior centers.

These are just a couple of images of some recent projects.

You can also use the funding for streetscape improvement projects or park projects.

This is also another project that these funds were used for.

It was for Community bridge.

I believe this project was in Woodlawn.

Now the ineligible uses of these block grant funds are as follows.

You can't use the funds for expenses for general government buildings.

You cannot use these funds for political activities.

You cannot use these funds to purchase vehicles, equipment, furnishings, or personal property.

Me, you cannot use the funds for maintenance or repair of public streets, parks, etcetera and you could not use block grant funds for construction of new housing.

To increase the block grant visibility or the utilization of block grant funding, we asked that each community acknowledge the funding by holding groundbreaking and ribbon cuttings for your HUD funded projects.

Uh to uh, whereas also the county staff.

We are more than happy to assist each community with press releases and events.

We asked that you invite congressional staff, state reps and or board of County Commissioners to any groundbreaking or ribbon cutting and that you also send letters and emails to Congress to support the continuing allocation of funding from the federal government for block grants.

Now for each project we'll have to adhere to the CDBG procurement process, uh, that procurement process involves the bidding of projects.

The regulatory requirements for CDBG funded projects is that it undergoes competitive bidding.

Legal ads must be published for projects that are \$50,000 or more.

Davis bacon prevailing wage is a requirement in be SBE requirements apply, and Section 3 and projects must start as soon as possible.

Bid packages are available on our website.

The link is below.

And you must request federal prevailing wage decisions before bidding is getting quotes.

So, any project that is below 50,000, you're only required to get quotes for projects exceeding 50,000.

You are required to obtain 3 bids, three bids or three quotes, and if you're unable to obtain 3 bids or three quotes, then you must provide an explanation.

A written explanation as to why you were not able to obtain the required or the required three bids or three quotes.

And just so you know that this does not stop you from doing your project if you can't get three bids or three quotes, you just must be able to show that you did try to secure those bids and why you were not able to do so.

Just an update on the fiscal year 2020 Congressional Budget announcement.

The House Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development.

Their fiscal year 2024 funding Bill will provide \$65.2 billion for HUD in fiscal year 24.

Which of the House Committee on Appropriations says that 25 is 25% below the fiscal year 2023 funding the bill would cut funding for many HUD programs and eliminate funding for others, so that's why we ask that you also email as from the previous.

Slide that you email sent emails to Congress to support the CDBG program because it is very important.

And that is the end of our overview.

So now we open it up to questions.

Can you hear me?

Yes.

I just have one about the timing of the public comment and then, so I know you said it was up till the 30th for the public comment, but that's also when the applications are due correct?

The applications are due on the 30th and I'm just scrolling back here to this to the schedule here.

So, we need to have the dates of your public hearings by March 13th.

No.

Your applications and copies of the public notices that you posted or have published.

We need to have copies of those with your application by the 30th by April 30th.

Yes.

OK, so we can start the public notice sooner than that like, you know like mid-March or whatever their mid-April.

Exactly, yes.

OK.

I just wanted to be clear on that part.

~~Yes, just keep in mind that yeah, you have a 30-day comment period that you have to.~~

Correction

What we're saying is that each jurisdiction should follow its citizens' participation policies or guidelines for notices and public hearings.

Thank you.

You're welcome.

Any other questions?

These slides are available will be available to us.

Good.

Yes, we'll upload the slide to the Community development web page.

Then this recording will also be available, and we'll also have a transcript of the Q&A.

Well, yeah, I'll tell you what.

Are we only submitting projects for 2024?

No, you are submitting requests for all three years.

Thank you.

Yes.

I have a specific question on eligibility that is on a government building, and I know you can't use it for general maintenance and that sort of thing.

But if you were to put in a new parking lot, is that eligible?

So, on a government regarding a government facility, if you're making ADA improvements, that is allowable.

OK.

Yes, only for ADA improvements.

So, like if you need to put in elevator or a ramp or something to that to that effect.

OK.

Thank you.

You're welcome.

It looks like we have some questions in chat.

Let me just get over there.

Collins, Maria

OK.

Oh, I've one more.

Yes, go ahead.

Can I ask it or not?

Sure, go ahead.

Should we assume roughly that we're going to be getting the same allocation as last year?

Because I know Council members are going to be like, well, how much do we have?

Yes.

Roughly the same amount of our three-year allocation in the past or what should we do as far as assuming the dollar amount?

Yes.

So, it will be generally what you've received previously.

We have not received our actual entitlement amount from HUD.

Well with HUD, as explained to me as we basically make the decision on what the allocation is to each of the communities.

OK.

Yeah.

So, because not every community will be seeking funding or I shouldn't say seeking funds, but we'll probably have a community that does not have any projects, so that may free up more funding, you know, for other projects and other communities.

OK.

So yes, so I would say just plan on your previous allocation amount.

We're keeping in mind what you received in the past.

For the past three years of projects, because your allocation will be similar or very close to that.

Thank you.

Could be a little bit more be a little bit less.

It just depends on what projects you present.

You may not even, you know, present projects for the total amount or you may present projects that exceed that amount slightly, but that's OK.

OK.

Any other questions?

Yeah.

OK.

So, Maria, broadly speaking, in terms of public infrastructure is it fair to say that new construction in low to moderate income areas is eligible but maintenance of existing infrastructure is not?

Well, public infrastructure would be new construction, yes, S ask that question again, I'm sorry.

I guess what I was trying to get at is the distinction between slide six that says that public infrastructure and low moderate-income areas is eligible.

Right.

However, on the slide.

No.

Slide 9.

Yes, slide 9.

It says that maintenance or repair of public streets, parks, etc. are ineligible.

Right.

So, for example.

~~For public infrastructure, if you are doing sidewalks, you can put in.~~

Correction to public infrastructure question.

*You cannot add new sidewalks however, you can make improvements to existing sidewalks. (For example, ADA improvements.) *

~~You can put in new sidewalks, but not repair the sidewalks.~~

If this makes any sense to you.

OK.

Because these are basically considered public, are the responsibility of the local government.

You can do those types of maintenance repairs.

But to put in new sidewalks.

~~Would be fine.~~

Correction

New sidewalks would not be an eligible activity.

OK.

That's helpful.

Thank you.

OK, yeah.

And too, when on ineligible uses, it also talks about because you can't use these funds for construction of new housing.

But you can use block grant funds for rehab of existing housing.

So, some communities have used the funds for things like home repair programs and things of that nature.

But for in 24.

Yes, for home repair programs.

Just so you know that that is an eligible activity, you can use the funds for that purpose.

Back to eligible uses any other questions?

Maria, there's a question in the chat from Josh Mccreery.

OK.

Yes.

Yes, Josh.

The question is, do you have to have both public hearings?

The first one needs to be held prior to the April 30th deadline.

Yes, they both must be held because you're submitting your projects April 30th.

So those projects will have to go on through your public hearing process, public knows and public hearing process before you can submit those to the county.

If anyone needs.

A sample public notice, we're more than happy to provide that to you.

So, there's a question in chat, can you?

Explained the LMA income area.

How it's determined is the low mod income area is the area where the population is being served, or that's benefiting 51% LMI.

Or greater, but at least 51% LMI.

Do you have the 14-day notice for each?

Do you have the 14-day notice for each meeting?

No, you just do one notice and then.

The.

You just do the one notice and then you do the public hearings.

So, Maria, one more follow up on the new construction versus repair question.

Sure. Yes.

Going back to your sidewalk example, if we were to make repairs to existing sidewalk to make it ADA compliant, is that ineligible use.

No, that is an eligible activity.

OK, great.

Thank you.

That's an eligible use, yes.

OK, well as I stated before, the PowerPoint will be uploaded to the Community development web page.

We will also have the FAQ.

The transcript will be uploaded within a few days to our web page as well.

Of course, if you have any questions, additional questions, please feel free to reach out to myself or to reach out to the program manager for your community.

You just pull that list up.

So, this is the Community development staff, April Gallelli, Catie Valley Leche' Roach.

Serita Robinson and Jake Berghaus or myself?

Feel free to reach out to your program manager assigned to your jurisdiction or to me and we will update the frequently asked questions.

If we have any additional questions after this meeting.

OK.

Well, if there are no further questions.

We will close out this Q&A session for the 2024-2026 Community Development projects request.

Thank you all for attending.

We look forward to getting your applications and seeing what projects we're going to be working with you on over the next three years.

We look forward to some exciting projects.

So, you all take care and enjoy the rest of your day.

Thank you, ma'am.

Thank you.

You're welcome.

Thank you very much.

Yeah, yeah.

You're welcome.

Bye bye.