

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-Office Communication

DATE: November 13, 2019

TO: Theodore Lipscomb, Chairman - Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Mary Jo Meyers, Director, Department of Health and Human Services
Prepared by James Mathy, Housing Administrator, Housing Division

SUBJECT: **Report from the Director, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), requesting approval to allocate anticipated 2020 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME funding**

Background

As part of the annual Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) process, all applicants were invited to attend a public hearing and present their proposals to the Economic and Community Development Committee on October 28, 2019. For 2020 funds, staff implemented a review process to objectively rank projects. A panel was arranged to score each project based on this system. The panel members were chosen due to their experience with CDBG regulations as well as to avoid conflicts of interest. The panel consisted of a representative from the Milwaukee County Housing Division, a representative from the City of Milwaukee Community Development Grants Administration and a representative from the City of West Allis.

Pending approval by the County Board, the 2020 Annual Plan will be published for comment for 30 days, as required. Any public comments will be incorporated into the final 2020 Annual Plan and it will then be submitted to the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for approval.

Issue

The 2020 Milwaukee County CDBG allocation totals \$1,603,413. Of the total funds, 20 percent can be used for administration and 15 percent can be set aside for public service projects. For 2020, the allocation continues to be split between at-large competitive projects and municipal projects. Although the municipal projects were not scored and ranked for the purpose of this report, they are included to show the complete allocation. As in years past, County CDBG staff will continue to review municipal projects to ensure that applicants meet national objectives and are following the Consolidated Plan. If the funds awarded by HUD differ from the amount in this report, projects will be adjusted equally on a percentage basis.

For the competitive applications, the recommendations in this report are based on the total points received for each project. Projects were ranked based on the following criteria:

- Project approach
- Need and justification
- Benefit to low-and-moderate income persons
- Target population and jurisdiction
- Capacity and experience
- Financial controls and budget
- Past CDBG performance

It should be noted that the Housing Division modified the prioritization criteria for assessing potential CDBG projects based on a change in policy adopted in Resolution File No. 19-153 by the County Board in March of this year. The newly adopted policy requires non-profits and municipalities to demonstrate how the grant improves housing, the general welfare, or economic opportunities of County citizens of low and moderate incomes. This change in policy has led to a 19 percent increase in funding for housing and economically-focused projects and a reduction in allocations to public facilities projects such as sidewalk and playground improvements.

Previously, Milwaukee County had placed limitations on applicants that non-profit organizations could only receive three consecutive years of funding if they were applying for public service dollars. It is the recommendation of the Department that this rule be eliminated to give the County Board more flexibility in its final decision making.

The anticipated HOME program budget for 2020 is \$1,705,904. This includes all program income from completed projects.

Recommendation

The Director, Department of Health and Human Services, recommends that the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors authorize the Housing Division to modify the allocation policy to allow non-profit organizations to receive more than three consecutive years of funding for public service projects. DHHS further recommends that the County Board allocate the anticipated 2020 Community Development Block Grant and HOME funds to the following projects:

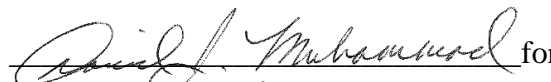
Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

At Large	Public Service	Non-Public Service
Impact Coordinated Entry – Housing Navigation	\$40,000	
Legal Action-Eviction Defense	\$35,000	
Milwaukee County Suburban Homeless Outreach	\$28,000	
Jewish Family Services-Bradley Crossing Case Management	\$17,255	
Milwaukee County Home Repair		\$335,794
WWBIC – Job Creation		\$100,000
Grand Avenue Club Employment		\$72,575
Hunger Task Force – Facilities		\$12,741
At large total	\$120,255	\$521,110

Suburban Set-Aside Projects	Public Service	Non-Public Service
Bayside – Senior Center LX Operations	\$5,998	
Brown Deer – Senior Club	\$15,000	
Fox Point – LX Club Lease	\$6,000	
Franklin – Senior Health Education	\$5,000	
Greendale – Adult Program Services	\$10,000	
Greenfield – Senior Services Staff	\$25,000	
Eras Senior Network- (various municipalities)	\$28,257	
MMFHC	\$25,000	
Brown Deer – Sidewalk connections		\$45,000
Cudahy Code Compliance		\$10,000
Cudahy – Home Repair		\$50,000
Franklin – Home Repair		\$42,000
Greendale – Accessible curb ramps		\$35,000
Greenfield – Playground improvement		\$39,905
Milwaukee County Home Repair		\$64,206
South Milwaukee – Will-o-Way		\$45,000
South Milwaukee – Emergency Home Repair		\$30,000
South Milwaukee – Code Enforcement		\$30,000
St. Francis – Code Compliance		\$40,000
St. Francis- Home Repair		\$50,000
West Milwaukee – Fire House Improvements		\$40,000
Suburban Total	\$120,255	\$521,111
TOTAL – Public and Non-Public Service (not including admin)		\$1,282,731
Administration cap per regulation, 20%		\$320,682
Total Allocation from HUD including reallocation		\$1,603,413

HOME

Project	Amount
Administration	\$170,590
Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO) Set Aside	\$175,636
Home Repair Loans	\$150,000
Milwaukee County TBRA/Rapid Rehousing	\$225,000
Rental Development	\$654,678
Homeownership Rehab/Acquisition	\$330,000
HOME Total	\$1,705,904

 for
Mary Jo Meyers, Director
Department of Health and Human Services

cc: County Executive Chris Abele
Raisa Koltun, County Executive's Office
County Supervisor James "Luigi" Schmitt
County Supervisor Marcelia Nicholson
Teig Whaley-Smith, Director, DAS
Kelly Bablitch, County Board
Steve Cady, Research Director, Comptroller's Office
Pam Matthews, Budget Analyst - DAS