

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-Office Communication

Date: May 21, 2026

To: Marcelia Nicholson-Bovell, Chairwoman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

From: Shakita LaGrant McClain, Executive Director, DHHS

Subject: Report from the Executive Director, Department of Health and Human Services, requesting authorization to sign Cooperation Agreements for years 2027, 2028 and 2029 designating Milwaukee County as an Urban County to receive Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds

File Type: Action Report

BACKGROUND

Milwaukee County was designated as an urban county in December of 1977. In order to be designated as an urban county, Milwaukee County was required to enter into cooperation agreements with enough jurisdictions to achieve a combined population of 200,000. Fourteen suburban municipalities signed cooperation agreements and participated in the program in 1978. In 1979, a 15th municipality was added, and in 1982, a 16th was added. The cooperation agreements must be signed every three years. The current participating municipalities are: Bayside, Hales Corners, Brown Deer, Oak Creek, Cudahy, St. Francis, Fox Point, Shorewood, Franklin, South Milwaukee, Glendale, West Milwaukee, Greendale, Whitefish Bay, and Greenfield. The cities of Milwaukee, Wauwatosa and West Allis each contain populations greater than 50,000 and are entitled to receive their own Block Grants.

Milwaukee County receives approximately \$1.6 million each year to conduct community development and housing activities. It is the County's responsibility to administer, coordinate, and oversee the community development program to ensure that the program is carried out in accordance with national policies and objectives. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is the federal agency responsible for allocating funds and monitoring compliance with national policies and objectives. Administrative costs, as required by HUD, can only reflect less than 20 percent of the grant. The remainder of the grant is divided equally between the County and the participating municipalities. The County's half of the grant is used to fund activities designed to meet needs which are generally Countywide in nature serving the participating jurisdictions. The other half of the grant is reserved for the participating municipalities to conduct activities designed to meet specific local needs. All projects must meet the National Objectives of the Act.

Issue

Federal Housing and Urban Development (HUD) regulations require the local governing body (Milwaukee County) to enter into cooperation agreements with enough jurisdictions for years 2027, 2028, and 2029, to achieve a combined population of 200,000. Section V.B. of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Notice CPD-23-02, governing cooperation agreements for urban counties under above referenced programs, requires a statement from a participating county's legal counsel that the terms of the agreement are fully authorized under state and local law. Similar to past years, Corporation Counsel prepared the agreement and will be providing the required legal opinion. The last cooperation agreement for years 2024, 2025 and 2025 was signed in 2024. The current cooperation agreement for years 2027, 2028, and 2029 is similar to the previous cooperation agreements the municipalities signed (see attachment A). The County has changed the term of the cooperation agreement to renew automatically every three years with confirmation from participating municipalities.

Recommendation

The Executive Director, Department of Health and Human Services, recommends the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors grant authorization to sign Cooperation Agreements for years 2027, 2028 and 2029 designating Milwaukee County as an Urban County in order to receive Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds.

VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES

James Mathy, Housing Administrator
Diane Tsounis, Program Manager HOME & CDBG

PREPARED BY:

James Mathy, Housing Administrator, Department of Health and Human Services

APPROVED BY:

Shakita LaGrant-McClain

Shakita LaGrant-McClain, Executive Director, Department of Health and Human Services

ATTACHMENTS:

2027-2028-2029 Cooperation Agreement – Draft

Cc: County Executive David Crowley
Sup. Sky Z. Capriolo, Chair, Committee on Community, Environment and Economic
Development

Liz Sumner, Comptroller, Office of the Comptroller
Mary Jo Meyers, Chief of Staff, County Executive's Office
Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
Nicholas Sinram, Director, Office of Strategy, Budget, and Performance
Steve Cady, Research and Policy Director, Office of the Comptroller
Madeline Fruehe, Budget and Management Analyst, SBP