

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-Office Communication

DATE: February 21, 2014

TO: Marina Dimitrijevic, Chairwoman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Héctor Colón, Director, Department of Health and Human Services
Prepared by James Mathy, Housing Administrator

SUBJECT: Report from the Director, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), requesting authorization to reallocate Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to the Milwaukee County Parks Department in an amount of \$245,790 for the renovation of the Sheridan Park Pavilion

Issue

The Director of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is requesting approval to reallocate \$245,790 of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to the Milwaukee County Parks Department for the purpose of renovating the Sheridan Park Pavilion.

Background

Sheridan Park is a large park located on the Lake Michigan shoreline in southeastern Milwaukee County. It is an important local community feature that provides opportunities for a wide range of recreational and social gathering activities for nearby residents, a significant number of which are low-to-moderate income. Park amenities include a playground, lagoon with winter ice skating, picnic areas, baseball and softball diamonds, tennis and basketball courts, swimming pool and bathhouse, and the Oak Leaf Trail.

The centrally located Sheridan Park Pavilion was constructed in 1959 to support park activities, but the deterioration of both the interior and exterior of the structure, the outdated interior design, and the aging HVAC systems limit its usefulness. The Parks Department is proposing a number of improvements to the pavilion that will make it energy efficient and functional for a wider variety of public uses, as well as accessible for persons with disabilities. The pavilion has not been substantially improved in over 50 years.

The Milwaukee County Parks Department had previously been a successful applicant for 2014 CDBG funds for this project through the Housing Division's competitive scoring process. Previously, the Sheridan Park Pavilion Project was only granted an award of \$66,210. The Housing Division is proposing to increase this award by \$245,790 to \$312,000 which reflects the original amount requested by the Parks Department. Milwaukee County is able to reallocate 2013 CDBG Funds due to previously funded activities being cancelled.

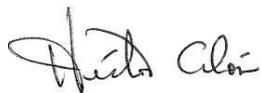
The use of CDBG funds for this project is eligible under HUD guidelines. Sheridan Park is located in Cudahy which is eligible as a low-to-moderate income area. Due to the nature of the project, it is categorized as a non-public service project under CDBG guidelines. A vast majority of Milwaukee County parks do not qualify for CDBG funds as most County parks are not located in qualified income areas or are located in the City of Milwaukee. Sheridan Park is a rare example of a qualified park.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors authorize the Director, DHHS, or his designee, to approve the reallocation of Community Development Block Grant funds in the amount of \$245,790 to the Milwaukee County Parks Department for the purpose of renovating the Sheridan Park Pavilion.

Fiscal Impact

Sufficient funds have been identified in CDBG funds for reallocation for non-public service projects. A fiscal note form is attached.



Héctor Colón, Director
Department of Health and Human Services

cc: County Executive Chris Abele
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