



Board Agenda Item 13

DATE: June 5, 2018

TO: Board of Supervisors

SUBMITTED BY: Steven E. White, Director
Department of Public Works and Planning

Delfino E. Neira, Director
Department of Social Services

SUBJECT: 2018-19 Annual Action Plan for Community Development Block Grant, HOME Investment Partnerships Grant, and Emergency Solutions Grant Programs

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

- 1. Conduct public hearing to receive testimony on proposed County community development, housing, and homeless grant programs; and**
- 2. Approve 2018-19 Annual Action Plan, including use of Community Development Block Grant, HOME Investment Partnerships Grant, and Emergency Solutions Grant funds; and**
- 3. Authorize Director of the Department of Public Works and Planning to execute Standard Form 424, Certifications, and Entitlement Grant Agreements for Community Development Block Grant and HOME Investment Partnerships Grant; and**
- 4. Authorize Director of Department of Social Services to execute Standard Form 424, Certification, and Entitlement Agreement for Emergency Solutions Grant.**

The recommended actions are necessary for the County's participation in the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships Grant (HOME), and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) entitlement programs and permit staff to submit the required planning document and applications for entitlement funds to HUD. There is no Net County Cost associated with the recommended actions. Each program has an administrative allowance. This item is countywide.

ALTERNATIVE ACTION(S):

Your Board may approve the Annual Action Plan as proposed, or make any changes as appropriate consistent with the Federal regulations governing each of these grant programs.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no increase in Net County Cost associated with the recommended actions. The Annual Action Plan for Program Year (PY) 2018-19 serves as the application for Fresno County's annual allocation of CDBG, HOME, and ESG funds.

The County's urban county area for the PY 2018-19 will consist of the unincorporated areas and five participating cities (Fowler, Kerman, Kingsburg, Reedley, and Selma). Participating cities receive allocations of CDBG funds based on the same HUD formula by which the urban county program receives its funding.

Below is the program funding for the unincorporated area portion of the CDBG funds, which is allocated each year by the Board to the County's ongoing programs.

Program	Grant Funding 2017-18	Grant Funding 2018-19
Sheriff's Area Based Policing	\$344,834	\$314,203
Community-Based Social Service Programs	\$119,756	\$109,119
Housing/Commercial Rehabilitation (HARP/FACE)	\$154,582	\$242,550
Public Facility/Infrastructure Improvement Projects	\$444,091	\$490,814
Total	\$1,063,263	\$1,156,686

The two public service programs (Sheriff's Area Based Policing and Community-Based Social Service Programs) are limited to a combined maximum amount of 15% of the total CDBG allocation, and the other programs (Housing/Commercial Rehabilitation and Public Facility/Infrastructure Improvement Projects) may be funded at any amount of the total unincorporated area portion of the CDBG funds. A brief description of these programs is included as Attachment A.

The CDBG and HOME programs each have an administrative cost allowance that pays for the administrative costs associated with these grant programs. Additionally, up to 7.5% of the ESG funds may be used for administration. The Action Plan includes a breakdown of how the programmatic portion of these grants will be utilized.

DISCUSSION:

The Action Plan is submitted annually and serves as the County's application for its allocation of entitlement funds from HUD. The 2018-19 Action Plan is the fourth annual plan prepared to implement and achieve the goals and objectives outlined in the five-year Consolidated Plan approved by the Board on May 5, 2015. The plans are required by Federal regulations in order for the County to receive CDBG, HOME, and ESG funds.

The Department of Public Works and Planning collaborates with the Department of Social Services to prepare the Consolidated Plan and each Annual Action Plan, and administers the CDBG and HOME Programs as directed by the Board. Also as directed by the Board, the Department of Social Services recommends for Board approval, negotiates, and administers agreements with selected community-based social service programs utilizing CDBG, and administers the ESG program.

Participating cities in Fresno County's Urban County CDBG Program for the PY 2018-19 will include Fowler, Kerman, Kingsburg, Reedley, and Selma. Participating cities in Fresno County's CDBG Program receive annual allocations from this grant based on the same HUD formula by which the urban county program receives its funding from HUD. Cities may also agree to exchange funds between each other on a year-to-year basis to expedite expenditures necessary to meet Federal expenditure requirements. The combined total of annual allocations for the participating cities for PY 2018-19 will be \$761,961. Attachment B contains the list of cities' proposed activities for PY 2018-19 as included in the recommended Action Plan. The recommended PY 2018-19 CDBG funding for the cities' proposed activities will be provided at the time the Agenda Item is presented.

The Housing and Community Development Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) has completed its review and ranking of ten proposed public facility and infrastructure improvement projects for the unincorporated areas. The recommended amount of CDBG funds for unincorporated area public facility and improvement projects, in accordance with established Board policy, enables the first two projects on the CAC's recommended list to be funded with the remaining projects placed on a back-up list in priority order, as shown in Attachment C. Projects are then funded from the back-up list in the proposed priority order as funds may become available during the course of the year.

For community-based social services, the Department of Social Services recommends continued funding for two of the ongoing eligible community-based social service programs approved by the Board on December 2, 2014. The recommended 2018-19 PY CDBG funding for the community-based social service agencies will be provided at the time the Agenda Item is presented. The community-based social service agencies to receive CDBG funding are included in Attachment D. Because the City of Mendota is not a participating city for PY 2018-19, Westside Youth, Inc. in Mendota is not eligible to receive CDBG funds in the PY 2018-19.

The HOME Grant funds are used for housing rehabilitation loans, homebuyer (down payment) assistance loans for first-time homebuyers, and affordable housing development loans, serving clients in the unincorporated areas and the five participating cities of Fowler, Kerman, Kingsburg, Reedley, and Selma. These program areas are listed in Attachment E. HOME funds are expended between the programs as applications are received from eligible clients on a first-come first-served basis for projects in the unincorporated areas and five participating cities in order to comply with Federal expenditure requirements. The County is mandated to use at least 15% of the HOME grant funds for affordable housing projects carried out by designated Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDOs). The Board approves the specific project agreements for all affordable housing development projects.

ESG funds may be used for the following five program components: street outreach/emergency shelter, homelessness prevention, rapid re-housing, Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), and administrative activities (up to 7.5% of the allocation). A Request for Proposal (RFP) was issued for ESG services in March 2018 for services to begin in August 2018. Agreements stemming from the RFP and two additional suspension of competition agreements will be brought to your Board for consideration at a later date, and if appropriate, the Action Plan will be amended to include new services and amounts to be funded.

The Annual Action Plan includes certifications that assure HUD that the County has complied with various guidelines, regulations, and citizen participation requirements. These include conducting two public hearings, affirmatively furthering fair housing, maintaining a drug-free workplace, limiting lobbying, and ensuring that the activities of the Action Plan will principally benefit persons of low- and moderate-income. The County has complied with all of these requirements.

OTHER REVIEWING AGENCIES:

The Consolidated Plan Committee (CPC) conducted a public hearing on housing and community development needs during its meeting on May 30, 2018. This public hearing was in lieu of the public hearing your Board typically conducts to set the funding levels for the unincorporated area programs. The CPC's public hearing was necessary in order to meet the Federal requirement for two public hearings, as HUD did not provide grant allocation amounts in time for your Board to conduct two hearings prior to the submission deadline.

The CPC includes Housing and Community Development Citizens Advisory Committee members from unincorporated area communities and neighborhoods (appointed by your Board), and representatives from the five participating cities.

The Annual Action Plan has also been available for public review and comment to the general public at the County Library and on the County's website at www.co.fresno.ca.us/grants.

REFERENCE MATERIAL:

BAI #67, June 6, 2017
BAI #33, January 12, 2016
BAI #23, May 5, 2015
BAI #52, February 24, 2015
BAI #45, February 10, 2015
BAI #45, December 2, 2014

ATTACHMENTS INCLUDED AND/OR ON FILE:

Attachments A - E
On file with Clerk - 2018-19 Annual Action Plan

CAO ANALYST:

Sonia M. De La Rosa