



OKLAHOMA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

WEBINAR

CDBG Program Overview and Application Process





Scott Myers

Scott has been an Oklahoma Department of Commerce associate since 1995. Since 2002, Scott has managed the day-to-day operations of the CDBG program as the director of the Community Infrastructure Team.

He has overseen about 150 economic development projects and over 2,500 basic infrastructure projects totaling well over \$300 Million.

Prior to joining Commerce, he was a Planner for the Oklahoma Water Resources Board and an Environmental Specialist with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Scott is a native of Enid, Oklahoma and received his BA degree from Northwestern Oklahoma State University and his Masters in Political Science from Oklahoma State University. He has a Certified Community Developer credential from the University of Central Arkansas.



Purpose of Today's Presentation

- Oklahoma's rural communities face serious community and economic development challenges. Out dated water and sewer systems, streets, sidewalks, drainage, fire protection. This list is daunting.
- The Oklahoma Department of Commerce is committed to helping rural Oklahoma face these challenges ensuring that communities maintain their infrastructure at levels that meet current and future citizen needs.
- The Community Development Block Grant is highly flexible and one of the basic funding sources for comprehensive community and economic development
- Today's webinar will address the overall purpose of the program and how to access these funds. This includes statutory required national objectives, eligible applicants, eligible activities, application deadlines and important contacts. Today's webinar will not address the implementation of CDBG funded projects



CDBG Authorization

- President Gerald Ford signed the Housing and Community Development Act in 1974, giving state and local leaders around the country a flexible funding source to help stimulate community development and job growth. Over Forty years later CDBG remains an important source of funding for small rural communities to use in identifying solution to address physical, economic and social deterioration in lower income neighborhoods and communities.





CDBG Who Can Apply?

- In 1981 the Act was amended to allow each State the opportunity to administer funds for non-entitlement areas. Non-entitlement areas includes units of local government which do not receive CDBG funds directly from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. These are usually towns and counties with a population of 50,000 or less
- Oklahoma's entitlement cities are Edmond, Enid, Lawton, Midwest City, Moore, Norman, Oklahoma City, Shawnee, Tulsa and the Tulsa Urban County Designation which includes Bixby, Broken Arrow, Collinsville, Glenpool, Jenks, Owasso, Sand Springs, Sapulpa, Skaitook, and Sperry



Projects That Can Be Funded

- All projects must conform to eligible activities listed under Section 105(a) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974.
- The activities a community can undertake with CDBG funds is comprehensive and flexible. Some examples include but may not be limited to:
 - Water and Sewer
 - Storm drainage
 - Street improvements
 - Housing demolition
 - Publicly owned buildings. Except City Halls and County Courthouses are Ineligible.
 - Solid waste
 - Fire protection



CDBG National Objectives

- Federal Funds created under the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended
- State designs and administers program based on public input
- All Community Activities funded by CDBG must meet one of the broad federally mandated National Objectives. These are:
 1. Benefit to Low and Moderate income persons;
 2. Aid in prevention or elimination of slums or blight;
 3. Community Development needs having a particular urgency, posing serious and immediate threat to the health or welfare of a **community**





What Are We Trying To Accomplish (Goals)

- **New Job Creation**-Projects that create new jobs for low and moderate income people. Increase the per capita income. Reduce unemployment. Healthcare benefits.
- **Community Planning**-Projects that allow communities to determine and prioritize their capital improvement needs. Get systems mapped on GIS.
- **Public Facility Improvements**-Projects that address health and safety, create a better quality of life, ensures greater availability, accessibility and affordability for services.





CDBG 2016 Proposed Funding

- Economic Development **\$1,500,000**
- Capital Improvement Planning **\$400,000**
- Public Facilities and Improvements **\$10,399,651**
 1. W/S Engineering Phase I \$150,000
 2. W/S Construction Phase II \$2,701,671
 3. W/S Construction \$3,166,980
 4. Community Revitalization \$1,500,000
 5. CDBG/REAP \$1,500,000
 6. Small cities \$1,370,000



CDBG Application Deadlines

- Release or make Applications available January 15th in OKGrants
- W/S Engineering due May 2, 2016
- W/S Construction due May 2, 2016
- Community Revitalization due March 31, 2016
- CDBG/REAP due February 29, 2016
- Small Cities due July 17, 2016
- Economic Development Open Cycle.
- Capital Improvement Planning due July 3, 2016



CDBG Funding Levels

- CDBG has experienced a significant loss of funds over the last 15 years.
- In the Late 90's and the early 2000s the program was allocated a little over \$20 million a year with the highest allocation being in 2001 at \$21.73 Million.
- Over the last five years 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, and 2016 the CDBG program has been allocated under \$13 million a year.
- This loss in funding levels coupled with increasing construction costs has a significant negative impact on rural development.





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OKGrants Management System

All Funding opportunities require applicants to complete and submit their respective application and attachments online using the OKGrants Management System. No paper applications will be accepted.

<http://okcommerce.gov/community/okgrants/>

OKGrants is a grant management software system used to electronically capture all grant information from application to close out.

OKGrants launched in 2012 for the Department of Commerce, followed by many other agencies.

Questions regarding login and password issues may be directed to:

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CDBG Contacts

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