

Cook County CDBG Capital Improvement /Demolition / Economic Development Application Webinar
January 30, 2020
Questions and Answers – Updated 2/7/2020

The following questions were asked during the webinar on January 30.

Question: Can I apply for a CDBG grant? I need a new roof on my home?

Answer: An individual homeowner cannot apply for a CDBG grant. Currently, Cook County does not have a program for single family home rehabilitation. If you have this need, you can contact us to discuss other possible resources.

Question: My agency providing services to developmentally disabled adults, is headquartered in a community excluded from accessing the Cook County CDBG grant, I wondered if we would be eligible to apply for our residential sites that are within the communities included for consideration.

Answer: An agency may be located/headquartered in one of the CDBG entitlement communities (see the list on page 4 of CDBG Application Guide) and still be eligible for Cook County CDBG funding if the proposed project is located in a municipality that is eligible under Cook County CDBG.

Question: Would an example of an acceptable project for a social service/non-profit agency be construction of office space in an existing building if they serve a presumed benefit population?

Answer: Yes, this is a great example of an eligible CDBG project.

Question: Is the requirement for non-profits serving low-income clientele still the same? (As opposed to using the Area Benefit Threshold.)

Answer: A non-profit agency can qualify their project by demonstrating that their clientele is one of the presumed benefit groups (see page 4 of the CDBG Capital Application or page 17 of the CDBG Application Guide) or that at least 51% of the clients served by the agency are low-moderate income. A non-profit can also use the area benefit national objective if their program is open to all residents in a geographic area that contains at least 51% low-moderate income residents.

Question: Can you give some examples of projects that would fit under "Social Services and Capacity Building Assistance"?

Answer: This is a unique category under CDBG. If you are interested in a project in this area, please contact Dominic Tocci at dominic.tocci@cookcountyil.gov

Question: Will these slides be available?

Answer: The slides from the in-person workshop on January 24 are now available on our website, along with a link to the recording of the January 30 webinar. <https://www.cookcountyil.gov/content/grant-applicants-cdbg-esg>

Question: Are non-south suburban project applications penalized, or limited on points scored certain categories?

Answer: Applications for projects not in the south suburbs are not penalized or limited in scoring. The County does have an emphasis on south suburban projects in this year's application cycle, but that does not mean that projects in other geographies will not be funded.

Question: My board will not meet until the week following the deadline. May I submit document that require Board action late?

Answer: Documents requiring Board action may be submitted after the March 13, 2020 deadline if an applicant's Board meeting timing does not allow for action before the deadline. Please upload an attachment in place of the missing Board document that indicates when the Board will be taking action and when the required documents will be submitted. When the Board documents are available, submit them via email to Dominic Tocci at dominic.tocci@cookcountyil.gov

Question: My project is located in a census tract/block group with a low - mod percentage of 42.17%. Does this mean my project is not eligible for capital improvements?

Answer: An applicant using the area benefit national objective must identify the area that is benefiting from the proposed project. If that benefiting area is less than 51% low-moderate income, then the project is not eligible. That being said, a project can also be qualified based on the clientele that the applicant serves (see the information on the limited clientele national objective on page 4 of the CDBG Capital Application or pages 16-17 of the CDBG Application Guide). Under the limited clientele national objective, a project may be located in a census block group that is below 51% low-moderate income.

Question: Where is the housing survey?

Answer: The fair housing survey that municipal applicants must complete by the March 13 application deadline can be found at the link below. More information can also be found on page 27 of the CDBG Capital Application. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/municipalfairhousingsurvey>

If you have further questions about applying for a CDBG grant, please contact:

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