

**CITY OF ALBANY
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA
STAFF REPORT**

Agenda date: 2/1/10
Reviewed by: BP

SUBJECT: 2010-2011 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) City-County Agreement

FROM: Ann Chaney, Community Development Director

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the City Council approve the use of FY 2010-11 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, projected to be in the amount of \$91,845 (\$85,245 jurisdictional improvements + \$6,600 general administration), for the following projects:

- Meals on Wheels program - \$15,000
- Alameda County HMIS (Homeless Management Information System) - \$1,473
- 2-1-1 Program - \$5,000
- Senior Center Expansion - \$63,772

DISCUSSION

The Alameda County Housing and Community Development Department is the lead agency in administering federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds. The City of Albany is eligible to use these funds within census tracts that meet specified income levels and for specific projects that will benefit low and moderate-income households.

According to County officials, the exact amount of CDBG funding to be allocated through this federal program to Alameda County for 2010-11 not yet known. For planning purposes, the County recommends that Albany, and the other Urban County areas, base our applications on last year's funding. Funding has been leveling off over the past several years. For Albany's jurisdictional improvements, funding was: \$89,154 in 2006-07; \$87,717 in 2007-08; \$85,302 in 2008-09; \$85,245 in 2009-10, and projected to be similar in 2010-11.

In the past, examples of CDBG funded projects in Albany include:

- continuing support to the Meals on Wheels program for seniors
- continuing support to 2-1-1 Program
- continuing support to Alameda County HMIS (Homeless Management Information System)
- Ocean View Park restrooms
- Accessible curb ramps – citywide
- Teen Center upgrade

As noted on the attached 2009-10 CDBG Program Allocation, Albany's total CDBG allocation is projected was \$121,845. Of this amount:

\$86,434 (71%) was assigned to "Jurisdictional Improvements" (i.e., eligible locally-designated projects);

\$28,811 (24%) was assigned to the Housing Rehabilitation program, managed by Alameda County (Minor Home Repair and Rehabilitation); and

\$6,600 (5%) was designated for general administration.

For the past several years, Albany used its general administration funds toward the City's share of the Countywide HMIS program and the Dial 2-1-1 program. It is recommended that these administrative funds, totaling \$6,600, again be used for such programs.

For Minor Home Repair and Rehabilitation, it is recommended that the amount be slightly increased to \$30,000, thereby resulting in \$91,845 available for projects and programs directly or indirectly benefiting Albany's eligible residents.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

A requirement for using CDBG funds, with very few exceptions, is that at least 51% of the recipients must have an income that meets the definition of very low or low (50% to 80% of the countywide median income). In Albany, as the median income for the community continues to rise, meeting this requirement has become increasingly difficult. Programs that benefit disabled persons or seniors usually have no difficulty meeting these income limits.

Staff is proposing that the funding available for FY 2009-10 be allocated to four programs:

1. **Meals on Wheels - \$15,000**

Ongoing program that helps pay staff costs for Meals on Wheels program coordination; program provides hot meals to eligible homebound seniors.

2. **Alameda County HMIS (Homeless Management Information System) - \$1,473**

Program provides services and collects information on Alameda County's homeless in order to better serve this population.

3. **2-1-1 Program - \$5,000**

Program provides a free, accessible, three digit telephone number enabling anyone to access the vital community services that they need. Targets the most at-risk populations including older adults, people with disabilities, caregivers, and non-English speakers.

4. **Senior Center Expansion - \$70,372**

Property immediately adjacent to the Albany Senior Center at 842 Masonic Avenue was purchased in 2009. An objective identified in the Park, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan, identifies a need for additional indoor recreation space. Therefore, when the opportunity arose, the City acquired the property for expansion of the Senior Center to be used by seniors and non-seniors for indoor recreation purposes. Given the proximity of the

property to the Senior Center and use by seniors, income levels as required by HUD would be easily met. CDBG monies will be used for planning and construction.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT

Albany's use of CDBG funds assist low and very low income persons in a variety of ways. They are used to provide hot meals to homebound persons, provide access ramps for the disabled, support systems that provide information (2-1-1) to lower income persons and collect data on the homeless to better serve this at-risk population (HMIS). This program is compatible with values of sustainability.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The proposed use of CDBG funds will result in a direct savings to the General Fund of \$15,000 in FY 2010-11, by offsetting the City's cost of the Meals on Wheels program. Funds for the HMIS and 2-1-1 programs further Albany's goals to assist homeless and at-risk populations. Lastly, the use of CDBG for expansion of the Senior Center would provide additional services and opportunities for Albany's senior population.

Attachments

- 2009-10 Community Development Block Grant Program Allocation approved by Alameda County on 7/1/09