

Part 1 – General Information

Introduction

In 1974, Congress passed the Housing and Community Development Act, Title I, and created the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. The CDBG program, funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), consists of an *entitlement program* that provides funds to urban areas and a *non-entitlement program* that provides funds to the states to award to smaller, mostly rural communities.

The Florida's Small Cities CDBG Program is administered by the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (Department). Funding is awarded on a competitive basis. The scoring criteria are contained in this application form.

Cities with a population under 50,000, and counties with an unincorporated population under 200,000, are eligible to participate in the Florida Small Cities CDBG Program, unless they have accepted *special entitlement status* or have opted to join an *urban entitlement program*. A list of eligible communities is posted to the Department's website annually. Categories of funding include:

- Commercial Revitalization (CR)
- Economic Development (ED)
- Housing Rehabilitation (HR)
- Neighborhood Revitalization (NR)

Overall, at least 70% of the state's funding must benefit low- and moderate-income persons. Activities undertaken with CDBG funds must meet one of the following national objectives and each annual action plan developed by the Department will identify which national objective(s) will be funded from the annual federal allocation:

- Benefit low- and moderate-income persons
- Aid in the prevention or elimination of slum or blight
- Meet urgent community development needs

Pre-Application Activities

Local governments should review the Small Cities CDBG Program's administrative rule, Chapter 73C-23, Florida Administrative Code, and this application form to understand what activities must take place prior to the submission of an application and the scoring criteria for the application. For example, local governments must conduct two public hearings prior to submitting applications and may need to conduct surveys to document that at least 51% of the proposed beneficiaries are low- and moderate-income persons.

Notice of Application Cycle and Deadline for Submission

The Department publishes a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) in the Florida Administrative Register. The notice is published at least 30 days prior to the opening of the application cycle and is posted to the Department's website at <http://www.floridajobs.org/community-planning-and-development/assistance-for-governments-and-organizations/florida-small-cities-community-development-block-grant-program>. The notice states the start and end dates of the application cycle.

Two copies of each application (at least one of which must have original signatures) must be received by the Department by 5:00 p.m., Eastern Time on the deadline date stated in the NOFA. The second copy of the application can be submitted as an electronic file. Applications shall be submitted to:

Florida Small Cities CDBG Program
Department of Economic Opportunity
107 East Madison Street – MSC 400
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-6508

Applications can be hand-delivered to the CDBG Office – Caldwell Building, 107 East Madison Street, Tallahassee, Florida. The applications must be received and date stamped by 5:00 p.m. Eastern time on the deadline date stated in the NOFA.

By the application deadline, one copy of the materials listed below must be sent to the Regional Planning Council that serves the applicant.

1. Part 2 - Application Profile and General Scoring Criteria
2. Part 9 - Forms and Supporting Documentation – Appendix A: Maps

Application Format and Application Submission

The application is divided into nine parts. A local government must complete the parts of the application that relate to the activities for which it is requesting funds. Do not submit the entire application. Submit only those parts required for all applications and the part specifically related to the category (Commercial Revitalization, Economic Development, Housing Rehabilitation, or Neighborhood Revitalization) for which funds are being requested.

- All applicants must complete the cover section and Parts 2, 8, and 9. Only the relevant appendices from Part 9 should be submitted with the application.
- Part 3 must be submitted by all applicants that are requesting points for non-CDBG funds that will be used on the project.
- Parts 4, 5, 6, and 7 pertain to individual funding categories. Submit the appropriate part for the category of funds being requested.