

Overview

The South Carolina Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program is designed to provide assistance to units of general local government in improving economic opportunities and meeting community revitalization needs, particularly for persons of low and moderate income. The CDBG program has been funded through the State since 1982 by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) under the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended (Title I).

The CDBG program is governed by Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, and its implementing regulations for the State Program at 24 CFR Part 570, Subpart I. All CDBG activities must be carried out in accordance with the requirements of Title I, Subpart I, the State Consolidated Plan and this Program Description.

Grants Administration, a division of the SC Department of Commerce, administers the annual allocation from HUD for the CDBG program. Throughout this Program Description, the term "State" generally refers to the entity administering the CDBG program, i.e., Grants Administration.

In the following sections, a description of the State of South Carolina's CDBG Program is presented along with the amount of funds available and the method of distribution of those funds. Also presented are the categories of grants to be made available, selection criteria, eligible activities, and the eligibility requirements for applicants.

The State will conduct workshops to assist local governments and other interested parties in the preparation of grant applications and the administration and management of funded projects in accordance with program requirements. In addition, the State is available to provide technical assistance to local governments and non-profit organizations regarding the CDBG program.

CDBG Program Goals and Outcomes

The Department of Commerce seeks to improve the well-being of all South Carolinians in a manner that supports and enhances a high quality of life. The State CDBG Program supports the agency's efforts to strengthen communities through revitalization and improvement of neighborhoods, public infrastructure, and the local economy.

In an effort to effectively target resources and ensure program accountability, the CDBG program has incorporated a focus on project outcomes. Shrinking resources on the national and state levels require that programs provide concrete evidence that their investments are resulting in the desired outcomes.

The three overarching goals of the CDBG program are to provide decent housing, economic opportunities and a suitable living environment. Within the context of these goals, each project must also meet one of three outcomes identified by HUD: affordability, accessibility, or sustainability.

Funding Distribution

The State of South Carolina's 2012 estimated CDBG allocation is \$18,071,588. The funds will be distributed as follows (the italicized amounts are breakdowns of the Community Development Program amounts). The State may issue contingent grant awards or commitments to local governments in the event the CDBG funding allocation from HUD is delayed.

Category	Amount
Community Development Programs	\$14,929,441
▪ <i>Community Infrastructure</i>	<i>\$7,229,441</i>
▪ <i>Community Enrichment</i>	<i>\$2,000,000</i>
▪ <i>Village Renaissance</i>	<i>\$5,000,000</i>
▪ <i>Ready to Go</i>	<i>\$700,000</i>
Business Development Program	\$ 2,000,000
Regional Planning Program	\$ 500,000
State Technical Assistance (1%)	\$ 180,716
State Administration (2% of allocation + \$100,000)	\$ 461,431
Total 2012 CDBG Allocation	\$18,071,558

Up to ten percent may be reallocated among any of the grant categories to address the State's program priorities and local needs as identified by the Secretary of the Department of Commerce. In the event of a federal or state declared disaster or emergency, up to ten percent of the State's unobligated allocation may be reallocated to address the needs of the disaster consistent with Title I. Any requirements, thresholds, or limits may be waived at the discretion of the State in the event of a disaster. Priority consideration will be given to projects that address the immediate needs of LMI persons as a result of the disaster. Requests for housing assistance as a result of the disaster should address only LMI households.

Administration and Technical Assistance

The State may not use more than twenty percent of the total annual allocation for planning and general administrative costs carried out by units of local government and the State. Section 811 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1992 includes a provision that allows the State to use one percent of its allocation to provide technical assistance to local governments and non-profit program recipients. The State intends to use such funds to provide technical assistance to units of local government, non-profits, and other interested parties on community and economic development issues. There will be an emphasis on the provision of technical assistance for local governments.

Assistance will include one-on-one advice and guidance, training workshops and manuals, and best practices exchanges. On-site assistance will be provided for identification of community needs, planning, project development, project implementation and meeting federal and state program compliance requirements. Funds will also be used to conduct workshops to assist interested parties in applying for and implementing CDBG funded projects.