



Atascadero City Council

Staff Report – Public Works Department

2010 Community Development Block Grants Draft Recommendations

RECOMMENDATION:

Council review, modify if desired, and approve draft funding recommendations for the 2010 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds as follows:

Public Facilities	Requested	Staff Recommendation
City of Atascadero – Handicapped Accessibility - Barrier Removal Projects	\$150,000	\$118,194
North County Women’s Shelter – Water Line Replacement	6,600	6,600
Transitional Food and Shelter	100,000	0
Public Services – Limited to 15% of 2010 Allocation (\$28,000)		
Atas. Community Services Foundation – Youth Activity Scholarships	8,000	3,000
Atascadero Loaves and Fishes – Operation of Food Pantry	15,000	7,500
Big Brothers Big Sisters – Operating Expenses, Mentor Program	5,000	1,500
El Camino Homeless Organization – Operations	15,000	15,000
Food Bank Coalition of SLO County	4,000	0
Literacy Council – Atascadero Program	4,000	1,000
Transitional Food and Shelter – Shelter for Medically Fragile	5,000	0
Economic Development – Charged against 20% Administrative Cap		
Mission Community Services – Women’s Business Program	5,000	
UC Merced SBDC Regional Network – Small Business Assist.	15,000	
Administration – Limited to 20% of 2010 Allocation (\$37,350)		
City Program Administration Costs	37,350	37,350
Estimated 2010 CDBG Grant Funds Available	186,744	
Prior Year Reallocations	3,400	
Estimated Total Funding Available	\$190,144	\$190,144

REALLOCATION OF PRIOR YEAR FUNDS			
YEAR	FROM	TO	AMOUNT
2009	211 Hotline*	BARRIER REMOVAL	\$3,400

*Hotline has merged with another agency and has withdrawn their request for funding.

DISCUSSION:

Background: Preparation of the 2010 CDBG Consolidated Plan began in the Fall of 2009. The first of two Workshops were held throughout the County to solicit public comment on community needs. The County published a request for CDBG proposals. The City received 13 applications for CDBG funds by the deadline. The City has available an estimated \$186,744 in 2010 CDBG funds and \$3,400 in prior year funding recommended for reallocation for a total of \$190,144.

CDBG funds are available for community development activities, which meet at least one of the three national objectives:

1. A benefit to low and moderate-income persons;
2. Aid in the prevention or elimination of blight;
3. Address urgent needs that pose a serious and immediate threat to the health or welfare of the community.

In order for a program to qualify under the low and moderate income objective, at least 51% of the persons benefiting from the project or program must earn no more than 80% of the area median. Additionally, at least 70% of the CDBG funds must be spent toward this objective.

The following criteria should also be used to guide selection of CDBG programs:

1. The proposal is consistent with the national objectives and eligibility criteria of the HUD CDBG program;
2. The proposal is consistent with the Urban County Consolidated Plan;
3. The proposal is consistent with the General Plan and other City codes/ordinances.
4. The proposal will achieve multiple community development objectives;
5. The proposal can be implemented in a timely manner, without significant environmental, policy, procedural, legal, or fiscal obstacles to overcome; and
6. The project is not financially feasible without CDBG funding.

Upon approval, the draft funding recommendations will be forwarded to the County for publishing along with recommendations from all participating agencies. A minimum of 30 days after publication the second workshop will be held to allow questions from applicants regarding the draft recommendations after which the draft allocations will be forwarded to City Council, with comments from the workshop, for final approval and forwarding to the County Board of Supervisors.

PUBLIC FACILITIES

City of Atascadero – City Facilities and Infrastructure – Barrier Removal

Funds Requested: \$150,000

Recommended Funding: \$114,794 in 2010 funds

Prior Year Reallocations: \$3,400 Total Recommended Funding: \$118,194

This project provides for the removal of accessibility barriers at all city facilities. Project includes, in part, sidewalk modifications, infill of sidewalk gaps, audible ramping issues, bathroom compliance upgrades, door hardware replacements, audible and visual warning systems, ramping issues and access to facilities.

North County Women’s Resource Center – Water Like Replacement

Funds Requested: \$6,600

Recommended Funding: \$6,600

North County Women’s Resource Center provides assistance to women and children who are victims of domestic violence. Approximately 95% of their clients meet the low to very low-income criteria. The proposed project would provide for the replacement of the existing galvanized water main serving the domestic violence shelter.

Transitional Food and Shelter – Residential Care Home for Disabled in Atascadero

Funds Requested: \$100,000

Not Recommended for Funding in this cycle

Funds are requested for the purchase of a property at 7560 Sombrilla Avenue for a residential care facility. The total purchase price of the property is estimated at \$500,000 with an additional \$50,000 of remodeling costs for a total project cost of \$550,000.

Funding has also been requested from the City of Paso Robles (\$100,000) and the County of San Luis Obispo (\$100,000) and HOME Funds (\$200,000).

Project is not recommended for funding at this time due to timeliness issues. Funds allocated must be expended within 12 months to meet HUD requirements. Because a large portion of the remaining funding for this project is unsecured, it is unlikely this deadline can be met. The Applicant has the option of reapplying at a future cycle when additional funding has been secured and the timeliness issue is addressed.

PUBLIC SERVICES - *15% cap on percentage of award from this category estimated at \$28,000 this cycle.*

Atascadero Community Services Foundation – Youth Activity Scholarship Fund

Funds Requested: \$8,000

Recommended Funding: \$3,000

The Community Services Foundation has established a scholarship fund to assist families of low-income youth to participate in recreational and social activities. Because this program is limited to low-income youth, the benefit criteria will be met.

Atascadero Loaves and Fishes – Groceries for Needy Families

Funds Requested: \$15,000

Recommended Funding: \$7,500

Loaves and Fishes operate an emergency food pantry for very low and low-income residents in Atascadero, Templeton, Santa Margarita, Creston and California Valley. They are requesting funds to purchase groceries.

Big Brothers/Big Sisters – Mentoring Program

Funds Requested: \$5,000

Recommended Funding: \$1,500

This organization is requesting funding to be used for Empowerment Training for at-risk children and their guardians and for volunteer training for Big Brothers and Big Sisters

El Camino Homeless Organization – Shelter Maintenance/Operation and Motel Vouchers

Funds Requested: \$15,000

Recommended Funding: \$15,000

ECHO provides shelter services to the homeless in Northern San Luis Obispo County, including Santa Margarita, Atascadero, Paso Robles, San Miguel, Creston and Shandon. Between 25 and 30 people eat and sleep at the ECHO shelter each night. In the last fiscal year over 9,000 guests spent the night in the shelter and over 12,000 meals were served. The ECHO shelter, intake process and all ancillary services are located at the First Baptist Church, 6370 Atascadero Avenue in Atascadero.

These funds would be used to pay for Shelter maintenance and operation.

Literacy Council – Atascadero Program

Funds Requested: \$4,000

Recommended Funding: \$1,000

This organization is requesting funds to recruit and prepare volunteers as tutors. The Literacy Council operates 14 centers throughout San Luis Obispo County. This past fiscal year 505 tutors served 824 learners with 21,568 hours of tutoring.

Transitional Food and Shelter – Residential Care Home for Disabled in Atascadero

Funds Requested: \$5,000

Not Recommended for Funding in this cycle

Temporary, 24 hour/day shelter to homeless persons who have a letter from a doctor which states that they are too ill, injured or disabled to be adequately housed in an overnight shelter at night and outdoors all day. Applicants will be referred by a hospital or social service agency and housed in apartments rented by Transitional Food and Shelter, Inc. in Paso Robles and Atascadero and motels when the apartments are full.

Due to the extremely limited funding available in this category, funding is not recommended this cycle.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/ADMINISTRATION *20% cap on percentage of award from this category estimated at \$37,350 this cycle.*

Mission Community Services Corporation – Women’s Business Center Program

Funds Requested: \$5,000

Not Recommended for Funding in this cycle

Program to provide training and consulting services in the field of self-employment/entrepreneurship to underserved women and other population groups. The goal is to help the individual become or maintain self-sufficiency with an eye to business growth that creates new jobs for a community.

Due to the limited funding available in this category and the potential impact to the general fund to supplement administration costs, funding is not recommended this cycle.

UC Merced SBDC Regional Network – Small Business Development Center Assistance Program

Funds Requested: \$15,000

Not Recommended for Funding in this cycle

Promote the development and growth of small businesses by providing high quality business assistance thereby enhancing regional prosperity. This is accomplished through entrepreneurial training, one-on-one business consulting, research and business plan assistance, financial and loan preparation assistance to include assistance with budgets and financial and loan preparation assistance.

Due to the limited funding available in this category and the potential impact to the general fund to supplement administration costs, funding is not recommended this cycle.

City of Atascadero – CDBG Program Administration

Funds Requested: \$37,350

Recommended Funding: \$37,350

Costs associated with the administration of the Community Development Block Grant program. Significant staff time from Administration, Public Works and Administrative Services is required for grant administration, payment processing and coordination with County Planning staff.

If administration costs exceed the funding allocation, remaining cost of administering the program will need to be paid from the general fund.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Available funds are estimated at \$186,744 for the 2010 cycle and \$3,400 in reallocated prior year funds for total funding available estimated to be \$190,144.

ALTERNATIVES:

Council may modify the draft grant recommendations indicated. However, awards must meet program requirements, providing a minimum of 70% of funding for benefit to low and moderate-income persons, and no more than 15% can be allocated to the public service category.

ATTACHMENT:

A complete packet of submitted applications is available for public review at the City of Atascadero, 6907 El Camino Real.