

2016-2017 Application Handbook

Community Development Block Grant Program



**ALL APPLICATION SUBMISSIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY
FEBRUARY 12, 2016 AT 4:00 PM**

This information has been prepared to assist you in ensuring you meet the various submission and program requirements to apply for 2016/2017 Community Development Block Grant funding. Note that this is a general overview of the application process and applicable requirements and is for informational purposes only. It is not intended to be a full disclosure of all applicable federal, state and/or local rules, regulations, procedures and/or reporting requirements.

2016-2017 Funding

As of the publication of this document, the City of Huntington Beach has not yet been advised of its estimated funding allocation for 2016-2017. We anticipate that funding will be at or below the 2015-2016 allocation of \$970,561. The City will not consider any grant requests below \$5,000. Note that HUD regulations limit the City to utilizing only up to 15% of its total annual allocation for projects in the public service category.

Applicant Eligibility

Eligible agencies are limited to nonprofit organizations and City departments. Each proposed CDBG project must:

- (1) Target one or more of the Priority Needs and goals of the City of Huntington Beach 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan:
http://www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/files/users/economic_development/RevisedConPlanHUD93015.pdf
- (2) Be an eligible activity consistent with the provisions of HUD Title 24 CFR 570, Subpart C;
- (3) Demonstrate compliance with HUD's National Objective of providing benefit to Low and Moderate Income persons;
- (4) Provide assistance and services to City of Huntington Beach residents only; and
- (5) Have the financial capacity to immediately carry out the project beginning October 1, 2016 and complete it by September 30, 2017. Public facilities projects may continue their projects beyond the one-year period.

Eligible Activities

The following activities may be eligible for CDBG funding:

Child Care	Health Care Services
Youth Services	Public Safety Services
Services for Senior Citizens	Fair Housing Activities
Crime Prevention	Job Training/Creation/Retention
Educational Programs	Public Facility Acquisition/Upgrades
Food Pantries	Recreational Activities
Drug Abuse Counseling and Treatment	New Housing Construction

Ineligible Activities

The following are ineligible for funding:

- Those activities not meeting a CDBG National Objective;
- Acquisition, construction or reconstruction of buildings for the general conduct of government;
- Political or religious activities;
- Construction of new housing.

National Objectives

Eligible projects must meet one of the following required CDBG National Objectives:

- (1) Benefit Low to Moderate Income (LMI) Persons – those persons whose household income is equal to or less than 80% of the area median family gross income, adjusted to family size in Orange County as defined by HUD. Most public services and facilities projects funded by Huntington Beach are in the LMI category. A link to current income limits is located here:
<http://www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/government/departments/ed/cdbg/>.
- (2) Prevent/Eliminate Slum/Blight – Addresses slum or blight conditions. Housing rehabilitation and Code Enforcement typically fall into this category.
- (3) Meet an Urgent Need – This objective is for communities having a particular urgent need as a result of disaster or other community threat to health and welfare and other financial resources are not available to address the need. *Note that the City of Huntington Beach has no identified “urgent needs.” Therefore, applications submitted with this National Objective are ineligible.*

Service Beneficiaries

Public Service Projects

Public service projects provide social services or other direct services to households or individuals or households living in the City of Huntington Beach. Public service projects must demonstrate that the project benefits LMI persons through one of the following methods:

- (1) Low to Moderate Income Individuals: Agencies must collect a beneficiary application, proof of residence, identification, household income verifications, and demographic information for each applicant.
- (2) Limited Clientele Activities: These activities will benefit a limited clientele who is presumed to be low to moderate income. HUD presumed clientele categories include: elderly persons aged 62 and older; homeless persons; migrant farm workers; persons living

with HIV/AIDS; battered spouses; abused children; severely disabled adults; illiterate persons (includes non-English speakers).

- (3) Area Benefit Activities: The activity will benefit all residents in the CDBG-eligible Census Tracts, where at least 47.83% of the residents are LMI persons and which is primarily residential in nature. CDBG regulations require documentation of area boundaries served. Maps and a list of eligible census tracts may be found at <http://www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/government/departments/ed/cdbg/>.

Community and Economic Development Projects

These primarily include general business/organization support and direct homeownership assistance programs. Direct cash payments to individual clients are not an eligible project activity.

- (1) Job Creation or Retention Activities: An activity designed to create or retain permanent jobs, where at least 51% of the jobs, computed on a full-time equivalent basis, involve the employment of low-to-moderate income persons. CDBG regulations require the Subrecipient to document one of the following:
- a. For an activity that creates jobs, the Subrecipient must document that at least 51% of the jobs will be held by, or will be available to, low to moderate income persons, and
 - b. For an activity that retains jobs, the Subrecipient must document that the jobs would have been lost without CDBG assistance and that either both:
 - i. The job is known to be held by a low to moderate income person or the job can reasonably be expected to turn over within the following two years; and
 - ii. Steps will be taken to ensure it will be filled by, or made available to a low or moderate income person upon turnover.
- (2) Housing Activities: An activity carried out for the purpose of providing or improving permanent residential structures which, upon completion, shall be occupied by 51% low to moderate income households. CDBG regulations require the Subrecipient to document the number of households served, number of units completed, and demographics and income level of the household occupying the unit.
- (3) Capital Improvement Projects (May only be requested by City Departments): These generally refer to projects that would result in improvements to public facilities, infrastructure and other eligible improvements. Funding for improvements to City-owned facilities, water/sewer improvements, street improvements and other public right-of-way improvements may only be requested by City Departments.

Application Preparation and Submission

Applications must be received in the Office of Business Development by 4:00 PM on Friday, February 12, 2016. Submittals may be hand-delivered to the address listed on the application or sent via US Mail. Please take the deadline into account. No extensions will be granted and postmarks will not be accepted.

The submittal must include:

- (1) One (1) original CDBG application with wet signature and 11 copies
 - a. For applicable organizations, a copy of the Federal & State Tax Exemption Determination Letter/Nonprofit Certification is required.
 - b. Copies of maps and/or additional intake documentation as required by the application.

- (2) **Optional:** you may include up to three, one-page 8 ½" x 11" additional exhibits that support the application materials.

When preparing your application, please be sure to read and answer all questions fully and keep answers informative, yet concise. Please do not modify the structure of the application. You should be able to respond to most, if not all, questions in the space provided; however, should you require additional space to complete your response to a question, you may submit an additional page.

The submission must be unbound. Do not include tabs, use binders, folders or similar products to submit the application and supporting documentation. Do not staple any application sections and/or supporting documentation. Instead, use paper clips and/or binder clips to separate application and other documents from one another.

Review and Evaluation

City staff will review all applications to evaluate completeness and eligibility. Packages submitted after the deadline will be deemed ineligible and will not be reviewed. Those eligible for review will be deemed as qualified or not qualified, or, if undetermined, the applicant may be contacted to provide additional information within a specific timeframe or the project may be deemed ineligible.

All applicants eligible for funding will be scheduled to make a short (approximately 10 minutes) oral presentation before the Citizens Participation Advisory Board and will be notified in writing at least 30 days in advance of their scheduled date and time. Following conclusion of the oral presentations, CPAB will prepare their funding recommendations, which will be presented at a Joint Study Session with City Council in June. Staff will notify all applicants as to CPAB's recommendations prior to the Study Session. Recommendations, which may include modifications approved by the City Council, will be taken to the full Council at a public hearing in July in the City's Draft Action Plan. Once approved, the Draft Action Plan will be submitted to HUD for final approval. Projects approved will begin on October 1, 2016. Note that any premature commitment or expenditure of funds prior to that date is prohibited and will not be reimbursed.

Questions

Staff will answer questions and provide technical assistance on preparation of the application. Please contact Simone Slifman in the Office of Business Development at (714) 375-5186 or simone.slifman@surfcity-hb.org.