



**Multnomah County Policy Advisory Board (PAB)
Public Hearing
2017-18 CDBG Application Process
1:00 – 3:00 pm, Thursday, March 23, 2107
Wood Village, Oregon**

Meeting Attendance

Policy Advisory Board:

Allan Berry – City of Fairview

Nathan Clark – Multnomah County – Commission District 4

Steve Gaschler – City of Troutdale

Scott Sloan – City of Wood Village

Excused Absence

Bonnie Davey – City of Maywood Park

Multnomah County Youth & Family Services Division (YFSD) Staff:

Isaura Ascensio – Supervisor – YFSD Housing & Anti-Poverty Team

Janet Hawkins – Program Specialist Senior – YFSD Housing & Anti-Poverty Team

Community Members:

Miriam Hinojosa – Human Solutions, Inc.

Dung Ho – Community Alliance of Tenants

Brenda Jose – Unlimited Choices, Inc.

Zaldy Macalanda – City of Fairview

Tammy Montgomery – Human Solutions, Inc.

Molly Mosenthal – Community Energy Project

Jennifer Parks – City of Wood Village

Patricia Rojas – El Programa Hispano Católico

Melissa Stocking – El Programa Hispano Católico

1. Welcome & Introductions

The Multnomah County CDBG Policy Advisory Board (PAB) Public Hearing convened at 1:00 pm at Wood Village City Hall. Isaura Ascensio introduced herself as the new supervisor of the Housing & Anti-Poverty Team for the Youth & Family Services Division (YFSD) of Multnomah County. Ms. Ascensio explained that Multnomah County's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program is now a part of the YFSD Housing & Anti-Poverty Team. PAB members and community members introduced themselves.

2. 2017-18 Annual Action Plan Project Allocations

Copies of the 2017-18 Annual Action Plan Worksheet were distributed to community members. Janet Hawkins said that the Policy Advisory Board had approved this first draft of the Annual Action Plan at their earlier meeting.

Ms. Hawkins explained that December 2016 Congressional Continuing Resolution has delayed the US Department of HUD in notifying state, counties, and cities about their project FY 2017-18 CDBG grant funds. The resolution is due to expire on April 28, 2017. As soon as Congress decides on the US Department of HUD's budget, the agency will then be able to provide local jurisdictions with their projected CDBG grant allocation. Ms. Hawkins concluded by saying the late notification will likely delay presenting the 2017-18 Annual Action Plan to the Board of Commissioners. If this is the case, there will also be a holdup in the county's contracting process, so completed project contracts may not be ready until after the start of the new fiscal year on July 1st.

Ms. Hawkins also described the planned 10% reduction in CDBG FY 2017-18 grant funds that is reflected in the Annual Action Plan project allocations.

3. Project Proposal Testimony:

The Multnomah County CDBG Annual Action Plan includes projects in the following categories: Housing Rehabilitation, Public Infrastructure and Facilities, and Public Services. Eight proposals were received. Multnomah County's CDBG program does not fund the Economic Development category.

A. Housing Rehabilitation

1. Brenda Jose, Director - Unlimited Choices, Inc.

UCI submitted two proposals for Housing Rehabilitation services. Mend-A-Home provides critical home repairs for homeowners, including mobile homes. The Adapt-A-Home project provides accessibility measures in homes of the elderly and persons with disabilities. Ms. Jose described this accessibility improvement project, which provides home modifications, including wheelchair ramps, handrails and grab bars, tub cut-outs, etc. She noted that this is the 24th year in business and Multnomah County was the first to fund them. Ms. Jose also provided information on the critical home repair projects conducted by the Mend-A-Home Program.

B. Public Infrastructure & Facilities

1. Zaldy Macalanda – City of Fairview – NE 7th Street Sidewalk Improvement Project

The City of Fairview has submitted the NE 7th Street Sidewalk Improvement Project proposal as an ongoing effort to install sidewalks in the City's Old Town Neighborhood, in the area adjacent to Fairview Elementary School. This is one of their largest projects they have done with CDBG funding and they have been successful in securing additional funding in addition to the CDBG funds. In this specific target area, the streets are very busy with fast-moving cars and bicycles. New sidewalks will greatly enhance the safety of pedestrians.

2. Jennifer Parks – City of Wood Village - Donald L. Robertson City Park Sports Field Plan Design

The City of Fairview has submitted a proposal to fund a Sports Field Plan Design project for Donald Robertson Park, which is the largest park in the city. They are applying for Public Facilities and Improvements funds to conduct an analysis of the current status of the irrigation system and determine the best approach to replace the current field irrigation system. Lack of field watering during the past decade has had a negative impact on the soccer and soft ball field surfaces. The city's plan is to restore the fields so they are more usable for sports activities.

C. Public Services

1. Tammy Montgomery and Miriam Hinojosa – Human Solutions, Inc. (HSI) – Willow Tree Inn Housing Services

HSI has submitted a proposal for Public Services. The Willow Tree Inn Housing Program is a two-part program: Transitional housing services for families and classes that address overcoming homelessness and poverty. This program allows families who are experiencing homelessness to access stable housing. It also enables them to build personal skills to gain economic stability. Eighty-four percent (84%) of the Willow Tree Inn participants exit the program to permanent housing.

2. Molly Mosenthal - Community Energy Project (CEP)

The DIY Small Measures WX and Energy Ed Workshop project is a Public Service project that focuses on weatherization. The workshops provide energy education and training in low-cost, small measure weatherization techniques. They provide free materials to qualified low-income participants, and target those who need it most – in the 0 – 30% MFI (median family income) income range. They've been doing workshops for thirty years. Community members attend a workshop to learn about how to install weatherization materials and are then are provided with free materials kits to weatherize their home.

3. Patricia Rojas and Melissa Stocking - El Programa Hispano Católico

The Information & Referral & Emergency Services Project is a Public Service project that is available in the East County area primarily serving the Latino population. Ms. Rojas explained that although the agency focuses on providing culturally specific services, all people are welcomed to receive service through their agency. This program helps people become more self-sufficient by providing assistance with ESL, computer job search, writing resumes, tax prep clinics, as well as after school programs and homework help. El Programa Hispano Católico is viewed as a trusted provider of service. This is especially important when there are community fears about deportation.

4. PAB Discussion & Decision.

Policy Advisory Board members discussed the proposals. PAB members thanked all the providers present for their service to the East County area. Scott Sloan and Alan Berry both offered their city hall buildings for use by the CDBG providers for community training events or meetings. **Scott Sloan moved approval of the 2017-18 Annual Action Plan. Allan Berry seconded. All were in favor.**

The Public Meeting before the Board of County Commissioners will be scheduled for the May or June 2017. It will take place at the Multnomah Building, 501 SE Hawthorne, 1st Floor.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 2:50 p.m.