

CDBG Times NEWSLETTER

Oregon Economic and Community Development Department (OECDD) executes 2007 CDBG grant agreement with U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

On May 8, 2007, OECDD Director Bob Repine executed the 2007 CDBG grant agreement with HUD. The state's 2007 allocation is \$14,314,575. The funds will be divided as follows:

2007 Allocation		OECDD	OHCS
HUD Allocation (100%)		\$14,314,757	\$10,913,570
State Administration	2%	\$286,925	\$217,584
State Administration—No Match	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$76,000
Technical Assistance	1%	\$143,147	\$143,147
Funding available for projects (96.3%)		\$13,785,315	\$10,476,839.41
Economic Development	10%	\$1,378,531.50	\$1,378,531.50
Microenterprise Assistance	3%	\$413,559.45	\$413,559.45
Public Works	31.5%	\$4,342,374.23	\$4,342,374.23*
Public/Community Facilities	31.5%	\$4,342,374.23	\$4,342,374.23
Regional Housing Rehabilitation	20.5%	\$2,825,989.58	\$2,825,989.58
Regional Housing Centers	3.5%	\$482,486.03	\$482,486.03

*Note—The targeted amount for public works must be adjusted to reflect the float fund over obligation of \$717,033.41, resulting in \$3,625,340.82 for public works.

The grant agreement was received approximately 2 months earlier than anticipated by OECDD. However because of continuing resolutions in Congress, the 2007 funds may not be released and available for draw down in the federal system for another month or two. Fortunately, this will not impact the state's issuance of project awards funded by OHCS or OECDD for 2007.

2008 FFY budget resolution nearing completion

House and Senate negotiators are expected to meet in conference to discuss the final version of the FY2008 Budget Resolution. The Budget Resolution sets the overall discretionary spending cap, better known as the 302(a). After this cap is set, the two Appropriations Committee chairmen, Sen. Robert Byrd (D-WV) and Rep. David Obey (D-WI), decide how to divide the total discretionary amount among each Appropriations Subcommittee, referred to as the 302(b) figures. The Transportation-HUD Appropriations Subcommittee is waiting to get its 302(b) to determine the amount to be allocated to HUD and its programs.

During the conference, the House and Senate will resolve differences in their versions of the budget resolution. The House budget would provide \$7 billion more in discretionary spending than the Senate measure.

The Appropriations chairmen want to finish all of the Appropriations bills by October 1, 2007, when the 2008 fiscal year begins. To meet this deadline, the House

needs to pass its spending bills by the end of June. The Senate isn't expected to begin writing its bills until early June.

The last time that all appropriations bills were passed before the October 1 beginning of the fiscal year was 1994, with Byrd and Obey as chairmen of the appropriations committees. The chairmen want to reach their goal, and to avoid a repeat of last year's late passage of 11 appropriations bills.

OECD first quarter competitive application round

OECD received 17 applications in the first quarter competitive application round that ended March 31, 2007. The applications are currently being rated and ranked with funding decisions to be announced no later than May 31, 2007. The following table summarizes the applications received by the department:

**CDBG applications received during first calendar quarter application round
March 31, 2007**

Funding Category	Public/Community Facilities	Public Works	Economic Development	Microenterprise Assistance	Totals
FY 07 Funds	\$4,342,374.23	\$3,625,240.82	\$1,378,532.50	\$413,559.45	\$9,759,806
Total Requested	\$3,636,000	\$241,400	\$750,000	\$510,000	\$5,137,400 (52.6% of the available funds)
Number and Type of Applications Received	6—applications for Drug and Alcohol Treatment Center, Food Bank Warehouse, Domestic Violence Shelter, Senior Center	3—applications for Wastewater Facilities Plans and an increase to prior CDBG award for a water system improvement project.	1—application for Economic Development Revolving Loan fund	7 applications	17

OHCS announces 2007 Regional Housing Rehabilitation awards

On May 15, 2007, OHCS announced the 2007 Regional Housing Rehabilitation awards. Awards will be made to the following counties: Benton (\$200,000), Coos (\$200,000), Jackson (\$300,000), Jefferson (\$300,000), Marion (\$310,219), Sherman (\$400,000) and Union (\$400,000). Awards will also be made to the cities of Hermiston (\$400,000) and Monmouth (\$300,000).

Upcoming application deadlines

- **OHCS Regional Housing Centers**—All applicants for Regional Housing Centers must submit their applications to OHCS by no later than 5:00 pm on June 4, 2007.
- **OECD Second Quarter Competitive Applications**—All applications to be submitted to OECD for funding consideration during the second quarter competitive application round must be submitted to OECD no later than 5:00 pm on June 29, 2007. Note: Applications must have been invited by OECD.

Environmental review for CDBG projects

Any project funded in whole or in part with a CDBG grant is subject to environmental review requirements that address compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act. For the CDBG program, the requirements are defined in HUD regulations (24 CFR Part 58) and described further in the CDBG *Grant Management Handbook* developed by OECDD. Here are ten key points to remember about the environmental review required for CDBG projects:

1. The environmental review must cover the entire project, even project components funded by non-CDBG sources.
2. The CDBG grant recipient must not commit or expend any funds—not even non-CDBG funds—on any aspect of the project before completion of the appropriate environmental review for that activity.
3. The grant recipient is assuming the environmental review responsibility under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) that would otherwise apply to HUD. The environmental review record must be developed, maintained and certified by the CDBG grant recipient, and the grant recipient is held legally responsible for defending environmental review decisions.
4. Once the grant recipient has compiled the environmental review record, the public must be given the opportunity to comment prior to certification by the grant recipient, i.e., before the record is deemed final.
5. After compiling the environmental review record, the grant recipient must formally request that OECDD release the CDBG funds for project use. This is called a Request for Release of Funds.
6. OECDD cannot approve a Request for Release of Funds prior to receiving a complete environmental review record and ensuring that the grant recipient has provided appropriate public notice.
7. The level of environmental review conducted (e.g., exemption, categorical exclusion, environmental assessment) must be justified and documented.
8. HUD regulations (24 CFR 58.34) define exempt activities. A few examples are: grant administration, engineering and design services, and preparation of the environmental review record.
9. HUD regulations (24 CFR 58.35) also define categorically excluded activities. A few examples are: acquisition/rehabilitation/reconstruction of a public facility when no change in use, size or capacity, and projects to remove architectural barriers to accessibility.
10. If a project changes after completion of the environmental review process, then the grant recipient must assess whether the changes alter the potential environmental impact of the project. Depending on the scope and nature of the project changes, additional environmental review may be required.

Need more information about the program?

The *2007 Method of Distribution (MOD)* is available on OECD's web site at econ.oregon.gov/ECDD/programs/07CDBGguidelines.pdf or by calling the department's Regional Coordinator

for your area. The MOD contains the CDBG program requirements, funding priorities, project and applicant eligibility information, application procedures and a description of the project categories.

Oregon Economic & Community Development Department Staff				
(All categories, except Regional Housing Rehabilitation and Regional Housing Centers, see OHCS table for contact information about these categories.)				
Region	Counties	Coordinator	E-mail	Phone
Northwest Region	Clackamas, Columbia, Multnomah and Washington (<i>non-entitlement areas only</i>)	Janet Hillock	janet.a.hillock@state.or.us	503-229-5222
	Clatsop and Tillamook	Vicki Goodman	vicki.goodman@state.or.us	503-842-4045
Valley/Mid Coast	Marion, Yamhill	Michelle Billberry	michelle.billberry@state.or.us	503-986-0142
	Benton, Lincoln, Linn	Louise Birk	louise.r.birk@state.or.us	503-986-0130
	Lane, Polk	Jacki Yoder	jacki.k.yoder@state.or.us	503-986-0067
Southwest Region	Coos, Curry, North Douglas	Becky Bryant	becky.a.bryant@state.or.us	503-986-0096
	South Douglas, Jackson, Josephine	Fumi Schaadt	fumi.schaadt@state.or.us	503-986-0027
Central Region	Gilliam, Sherman, Wasco, Wheeler (Hood River)– Microenterprise projects statewide	Beverly Kupperman	beverly.kupperman@state.or.us	503-986-0133
	Crook, Deschutes, Jefferson, Klamath, Lake	Mike Solt	mike.solt@state.or.us	541-388-6201
Eastern Region	Baker, Grant, Harney, Malheur	Gary Viehdorfer	gary.w.viehdorfer@state.or.us	503-986-0099
	Hood River, Morrow, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa	Del Little	del.l.little@state.or.us	503-986-0261
Program and Policy Coordinators	Statewide non-entitlement areas	Mary Baker	mary.a.baker@state.or.us	541-779-9685
		Christine Valentine	christine.valentine@state.or.us	503-986-0132
Community Development Division Interim Manager	Statewide non-entitlement areas	Ann Hanus	ann.hanus@state.or.us	503-986-0135

Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) Staff				
Program	Counties	Coordinator	E-mail	Phone
Regional Housing Rehabilitation	Statewide non-entitlement areas	Ernest Kirchner	ernest.kirchner@state.or.us	503-986-2136
Regional Housing Centers		Julie Marshall	Julie.marshall@state.or.us	503-986-2090
Single-Family Programs Manager	Statewide	Dona Lanterman	dona.lanterman@state.or.us	503-986-2120