

## Community Development Block Grant Program

**Background:** The City of Kennewick is an entitlement city under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974. As such, Kennewick receives an annual allocation of funds through the Community Development Block Grant program (CDBG), administered by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). In 2009, the City received \$570,636. We expect our 2010 allocation to be approximately \$610,000. Each year the City receives significantly more requests for funds than are available.

**Basis of Funding:** The formula for receiving CDBG funds is based on a number of factors, including population, number of persons in poverty, number of housing units with more than one person per room, and the number of housing units built before 1940.

**National Objectives:** The City is able to utilize CDBG funds to carry out a number of activities that meet National Objectives. The three National Objectives require that activities must:

- Provide a benefit to low- and moderate-income persons;
- Prevent or eliminate slums or blight; OR
- Meet an urgent community need that threatens the health or welfare of residents.

**Block Grant Advisory Committee:** An eleven-member committee, six of whom are appointed to four-year terms by Council, and five of whom are representatives of various City boards or commissions, is responsible for making the annual funding recommendations to the City Council. The process for developing recommendations:

- Hold a public hearing in the spring of each year to gather public comment on community needs.
- Open an application period for submittal of funding requests
- Review applications in June/July
- Conduct oral presentation of applicants in August
- Form recommendations based upon National Objectives and Council Prioritization Standards
- Submit funding recommendations to Council in September

**Council Prioritization Standards:** Council has established the following priorities for review and rating of requests for CDBG funding:

- High Priority
  - Bricks and Mortar
    - Projects to reduce barriers for physically impaired persons

- Acquisition, construction or improvements to public facilities
    - Neighborhood preservation and revitalization
  - Economic Development projects resulting in creation of jobs
- Average Priority
  - Bricks and Mortar
    - Creation or preservation of housing for elderly or special needs population
  - Social Service projects to address community needs
    - Projects to assist seniors or special needs population
    - Projects to assist disadvantaged youth
- Low Priority
  - Social Service projects which assist in the prevention of homelessness
  - Bricks and Mortar projects
    - Preservation of affordable housing through rehab or acquisition/rehab
- No Priority
  - Projects with CDBG as the sole source of funding
  - Projects consisting primarily of salary and benefit expense

### **Historical Uses of CDBG Funds:**

- Downtown Kennewick Streetscape Improvements
- Downtown Kennewick Façade Improvements
- Downtown Kennewick Handicapped Accessible Public Restroom
- Meals on Wheels financial support
- Audible Pedestrian Signals
- Handicapped Accessible Pedestrian Sidewalk Ramps
- Downpayment Assistance Programs (along with the HOME program has provided assistance to over 200 first-time homebuyers)
- Handicapped Accessible Restrooms at Keewaydin, Eastgate, Layton, Vancouver, Fruitland and Underwood Park
- Playground Equipment at Keewaydin, Eastgate, Layton, Vancouver, Fruitland and Underwood Park
- Arc Partners `n Pals Program financial support
- Safe Harbor construction funding
- Senior Center Improvements
- Funding for Habitat for Humanity to purchase lots
- Emergency rehab of Kennewick homes
- Walking path, public plaza and public art on Clover Island
- Funding for the Port's Oak Street Development Building #4.
- Benton-Franklin Community Action Committee Healthy House Program
- Redundant Broadband Infrastructure (instrumental in bringing Amazon.com to Kennewick)
- Scholarships for low-mod income youth to participate in City Recreation programs

- Senior Life Resources Foot Care
- Material for handicap ramps built through volunteer efforts
- Boys and Girls Club Performing Arts Center Remodel
- ADA Lift for City Swimming Pool
- Senior Center Dishwasher
- Walking paths, sidewalks and gateway arch on Clover Island

**2010 CDBG Funding Allocations:** To view the 2010 Block Grant funding allocations please hold down the Control button and click on this link: [2010 CDBG Funding Recommendations](#) It will take you to the Council packet from September 15, 2009. (Workshop Agenda Item 2.) Included is the coversheet, a spreadsheet of the funding recommendations, a PowerPoint of proposed funding recommendations, and the 2010 Annual Action Plan. The funding recommendations and 2010 Annual Action Plan were approved by Council on October 6, 2009 without change. ([Item 6.c.](#))

**2010 Block Grant Committee Members:**

- Ron Hue, Chair
- Ed Mulhausen, Vice-Chair
- Bobbie Littrell (Planning Commission rep)
- Don Miksch (Kennewick Housing Authority rep)
- Mark Reed (Parks and Recreation Commission rep)
- Gary Earp (Historic Preservation Commission rep)
- Vel Wright (Police Advisory Committee rep)
- Marilyn Hyde
- John Grace
- Roger Nelson
- Patricia Johnstone-Jones

**Council Liaison:**

- Sharon Brown

**Staff Support:**

- Carol Hughs Evans—Block Grant Coordinator
- Darlene Mendoza—Housing Specialist
- Kevin Ferguson—Assistant City Manager

**Additional Information:** For additional information on the City’s Block Grant Program, please hold down the Control button and click on this link: [Community Development Block Grant Primer](#) (Item 1 on the Workshop)

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