

July 21, 2008

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Dianna Kish, Vice Chairperson



SUBJECT: **Recommended CDBG & HOME Allocations for FY 2008-09**

On behalf of the Citizens Advisory Committee for Community Development (CACCD), I am pleased to present our FY 2008-09 CDBG & HOME funding recommendations. The Committee based its recommendations on a thorough review of applications, site visits made by its members, applicants' presentations, information provided by staff, and comments from the public. Each project was considered on its own merits, and the Committee did its utmost to maintain the integrity of its process.

Our recommendations reflect the Committee's concern with making the best use of limited funds. As in previous years, the demands for CDBG and HOME funding far exceeded our ability to recommend funding for many worthy projects that are seeking financial assistance. We regret not being able to recommend more funding for these projects this year.

In addition to considering the impact of each project proposal, the Committee ensured that all recommended projects supported one or more of the following funding priorities established by the City Commission:

- Housing
- Homeless assistance
- Job training/employment opportunities
- Nutritional support
- Programs that assist disadvantaged or at-risk children or elderly persons

Please note that the CACCD's recommendations are limited to the "competitive" funding under CDBG and HOME. The process begun in previous years, to take Block Grant Administration, the City Housing Division and a 15% set-aside for Public Infrastructure out of the funding competition allowed the CACCD and applicants to focus on amounts that were realistically available for allocation to community nonprofit organizations.

The attached report shows all requests for CDBG and/or HOME funds, along with our recommendations under each activity category by agency, and comments as appropriate. Please note that the CACCD's recommendations are based on the following funding levels for FY 2008-09:

CDBG Competitive Amount Available = \$ 171,272
HOME Competitive Amount Available = \$ 158,929

Note that the FY 2008-09 CDBG funding represents a \$77,649 (31%) reduction compared to FY 2007-08. The FY 2008-09 HOME funding represents a \$130,425 (45%) reduction compared to FY 2007-08. We understand that these reductions are due in part to the reduction in CDBG and HOME funding from HUD. This year, because the City Manager had recommended reserving a portion of the CDBG "public services" funds for City-administered programs, like cold weather shelter, we had less CDBG funding to recommend. In addition, less HOME funding was available to recommend this year because there was not a sizable carryover of HOME program income as in FY 2007-08.

Should \$43,310, which is part of the CDBG funds that were originally reserved by the City Manager for City-administered public services programs, become available, the CACCD recommends that those funds be distributed first to youth programs and then to homeless assistance programs. Those programs are identified in the attachment as having alternative funding recommendations.

We look forward to presenting these recommendations to the City Commission on July 21. Members of the CACCD will be available to answer any questions that you may have of us during the Commission's budget workshop.

Cc: Russ Blackburn, City Manager

Attachment

CITY OF GAINESVILLE
CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
CDBG/HOME FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS
FY 2008-09

Organization Name And Project/Program	FY 2007-08 Approved Funding	FY 2008-09 Requested Funding	FY 2008-09 Recommended Funding	FY 2008-09 Alternative Funding Recommendations	Funding Justification
CDBG Housing					
Center for Independent Living of NC Florida - Architectural barrier removal (ramps for disabled persons)	\$9,000	\$12,600	\$10,000	\$10,000	The Committee recognizes the important services provided to disabled citizens within the community through this agency.
Neighborhood Housing & Development Corp. - New housing construction and housing rehab	\$4,000	\$15,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	The Committee supports funding for this agency's continued efforts to provide affordable housing.
Rebuilding Together North Central Florida - Weatherization program	N/A	\$20,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	The Committee recognizes the importance of this agency's program to assist low-income homeowners with weatherization and reduced energy consumption.
CDBG Public Services					
Arbor House, Inc. - Case worker for transitional residence for unwed, homeless mothers	\$7,000	\$17,000	\$5,000	\$7,000	The Committee supports funding at the slightly lower level than the previous funding cycle.
Boys & Girls Club of Alachua County, Inc. - Youth programs at the Southeast Unit	\$14,000	\$20,000	\$7,000	\$12,000	The Committee continues to support this successful, proactive program at a lower level due to overall budgetary constraints and the agency's successful ability with fundraising.

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Organization Name And Project/Program	FY 2007-08 Approved Funding	FY 2008-09 Requested Funding	FY 2008-09 Recommended Funding	FY 2008-09 Alternative Funding Recommendations	Funding Justification
Bread of the Mighty Food Bank, Inc. - Food bank program	\$10,000	\$15,000	\$9,000	\$10,000	The Committee recognizes the demand for food in the community but is limited by funding constraints.
Bread of the Mighty Food Bank, Inc. - Kids Café program	N/A	\$5,000	\$0	\$3,000	The Committee does not feel it can support funding for this new program at this time, unless additional funds are made available.
Central Florida Community Action Agency, Inc. - Vehicle procurement/transportation assistance program	N/A	\$30,000	\$0	\$0	The Committee does not feel it can support funding for a new, untried program of this nature.
Child Advocacy Center, Inc. - Abused child intervention program	\$12,000	\$25,920	\$6,000	\$10,000	The Committee supports this unique program at a lower level due to budgetary constraints.
Children's Home Society - Support for the Family Visitation Center to assist children experiencing trauma in their families.	\$5,000	\$15,000	\$4,000	\$5,000	The Committee supports funding at the slightly lower level than the current year.
Cultural Arts Coalition, Inc. - Environmental ambassador program for low-income, at-risk youths	\$4,000	\$20,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	The Committee supports funding at the current level.
Dignity Project - Auto repair internship program for at-risk high school youth	N/A	\$10,229	\$0	\$5,000	The Committee does not feel it can support funding for this program at this time, unless additional funds are made available.

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Early Learning Coalition - Child care for working poor families	\$20,000	\$30,000	\$15,000	\$20,000	The Committee supports this program, which is highly leveraged and encourages gainful employment, at a lower level than this current year's funding cycle.
Easter Seals Florida, Inc. - Adult health day care program at Altrusa House.	\$9,000	\$30,000	\$5,000	\$8,000	The Committee supports continued funding at a lower level than this current year.
ElderCare of Alachua County, Inc. - Congregate and home-delivered meals for the elderly	\$57,000	\$57,000	\$36,272	\$45,000	The Committee continues to support this one-of-a-kind, highly-leveraged program at a lower funding level due to budgetary constraints.
Florida Certified Organic Growers & Consumers, Inc. - GIFT garden project	N/A	\$20,000	\$0	\$5,000	The Committee does not feel it can support funding for this new program at this time, unless additional funds are made available.
Girl Scouts of Gateway Council, Inc. - Programs for girls living in target areas	\$9,000	\$19,815	\$6,000	\$8,000	The Committee continues to support this highly successful program, but at a lower level than the current year.
Helping Hands Clinic, Inc. - Helping Hands Clinic for homeless and other medically underserved persons	\$7,000	\$12,500	\$4,000	\$6,000	The Committee supports funding for this worthwhile all volunteer-supported project at a lower level than the current year.

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Interfaith Hospitality Network - Emergency shelter for homeless families	\$12,000	\$15,000	\$9,000	\$11,000	The Committee supports this very successful program at a lower level of funding due to budgetary constraints.
Meridian Behavioral Healthcare - Transitional job program for the mentally disabled	\$5,000	\$5,150	\$4,000	\$5,150	The Committee wishes to maintain funding for this innovative project at a slightly lower level.
Peaceful Paths (Emergency Shelter) - Operation of the Gallenkamp emergency shelter	\$5,058	\$21,000	\$4,000	\$5,000	The Committee wishes to provide partial funding for this worthwhile project.
Pleasant Place, Inc. - Transitional housing for pregnant and parenting teens	\$10,000	\$25,000	\$6,000	\$10,000	The Committee wishes to provide partial funding for this project at a lower level due to funding constraints.
St. Francis House, Inc. - Emergency shelter for homeless persons	\$18,443	\$30,000	\$12,000	\$18,000	The Committee wishes to continue to support this worthwhile project at a lower level due to funding constraints.
Three Rivers Legal Services, Inc. - Assistance for homeless persons to secure SSI and other benefits	N/A	\$17,829	\$0	\$7,432	The Committee does not feel it can support this new project at this time, unless additional funds are made available.
Total CDBG Funding		\$489,043	\$171,272	\$239,582	

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HOME CHDO Operating Expenses					
Neighborhood Housing & Development Corp. - Program operating support	\$6,402	\$10,000	\$9,487	-----	The Committee wishes to partially fund the agency's request in this category.
HOME Purchase Rehab					
Neighborhood Housing & Development Corp. - Acquisition and rehab assistance for low-income homebuyers	N/A	\$100,000	\$100,000	-----	The Committee supports this organization's work in expanding housing opportunities for low-income homebuyers.
HOME Moderate and Substantial Rehabilitation					
Rebuilding Together North Central Florida - Volunteer driven homeowner rehab program	N/A	\$30,000	\$30,000	-----	The Committee support this organization's innovative project and recommends full funding.
HOME Rental Deposit Assistance					
Gainesville Community Ministry - Rental deposit assistance program	\$19,442	\$19,442	\$19,442	-----	The Committee supports funding for this successful program at its current level.
Total HOME Funding		\$159,442	\$158,929	-----	