



# FIVE COUNTY NEWS FROM 'R' VIEW

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## **Community Development Block Grant Program FY 2008**

Once again it is time to start planning for the next application cycle of the Utah Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program. The program year 2008 will be the twenty-seventh year in which the small cities CDBG program has been administered in the state of Utah. The purpose of Community Development Block Grants is *"To assist in developing viable urban communities by providing decent housing, a suitable living environment and expanding economic opportunities, principally for persons of low and moderate income (LMI)"*.

This program funnels allocations of federal Housing and Urban Development funds through the Utah State Division of Housing and Community Development to communities of less than 50,000 and counties of less than 200,000 in population. Since the program's inception in 1982, the CDBG program has injected over \$14 million into the region's local infrastructure, community facilities, and urgent health and safety needs.

Local projects have included water system improvements, fire stations, sewer systems, senior citizen centers, housing projects, ambulance garages, and rehabilitation of community facilities to meet the Americans with Disabilities Act. CDBG funds have also been used to foster the region's economic growth by capitalizing the regional Revolving Loan Fund, which provides supplemental financing to growing businesses. Finally, the CDBG program allows the AOG to provide extensive planning and technical assistance to eligible local governments trying to cope with community planning and zoning enforcement challenges.

The Steering Committee will review and approve the rating and ranking matrix for the upcoming funding cycle at their August 15, 2007 meeting. The application cycle, which begins with two "How to Apply Workshops" in September, will be for the 18-month contract period of June, 2008 through December, 2009. Applications will be due December 3, 2007. Applications and workbooks will be distributed at the workshops. The back page contains "How to Apply Workshop" details.

As you begin the process, please remember some important points:

- \* Projects must meet one of three "national objectives" - 1) Benefit to individuals with low or moderate incomes; 2) The alleviation of slums or blight; or 3) Urgent health and safety needs.
- \* Capital Improvement projects must be included in your community's capital improvement list, as submitted to the AOG.
- \* Applications other than local governments must be sponsored by a local government entity.
- \* AOG staff is available to assist in the preparation of applications.
- \* Communities that are not included on the HUD pre-approved LMI list should contact the AOG as soon as possible to determine if an income survey of residents is necessary.

Each year the Five County region receives an allocation based upon a statewide formula utilizing a base amount and a per capita population distribution. Last year's total regional CDBG allocation of \$762,455 was awarded to the following projects: 1) FCAOG-- Planning, Administration and Technical Assistance; 2) Beaver City on behalf of Beaver Housing Authority-- Property acquisition for LMI housing; 3) Iron County on behalf of Iron County Council on Aging-- New Senior Citizens Center in Parowan (year 1 of multi-year project); 4) Cedar City on behalf of Cedar Housing Authority-- Purchase of 19-unit apartment complex; 5) Washington County-- Hurricane Senior Citizens Center parking lot improvements and procurement of two meals-on-wheels trucks.

Projects must be mature - ready for timely implementation within the contract program year with secured funding commitments from other sources. In addition to the above, projects must be prioritized by the local elected officials and the region Rating and Ranking System.

*(Continued on next page)*

*Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program (Continued from Page 1)*

*Previous CDBG Projects*

Examples of some of the types of eligible CDBG project activities:

**Affordable Housing Projects:**

- Acquisition of Property
- New Construction
- Rehabilitation
- Relocation Expenses
- Demolition
- Site Improvements
- Development Hard Costs
- Multi-family, single family, transitional, special needs housing and homeless shelters

**Community Development Projects:**

- Culinary Water Improvements
- Waste Water Improvements
- Natural Gas Line Accessibility/Expansions
- Road, Street & Emergency Equipment
- ADA Accessibility for Public Buildings
- Flood Control Systems
- Rehabilitation of Slums & Blighted Areas
- Historic Preservation
- Acquisition of Property/Land
- Community & Senior Centers
- Parks, Recreation & Beautification Projects
- Public Services

**Economic Development Projects:**

- Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) Program
- Interim/Short-term Financing Program
- Industrial Parks & Commercial Centers
- Stimulate Private Investments

The CDBG “How-to-Apply Workshops” are open to any town, city, county, special service district or non-profit agency in the Five County region that is considering applying for CDBG funding for a community development project. (Note: all special service districts and non-profit agencies must arrange to have a city or county sponsor their project in order to be eligible to receive CDBG funding).

Jurisdictions may formally designate a third party representative (i.e., other city/county staff, consultant, engineer, or architect) to attend the workshop on their behalf. However, said designation by the jurisdiction shall be in writing. The letter of designation shall be provided to the Five County Association no later than at the beginning of the “How-to-Apply Workshop”.

**IMPORTANT!!**

**See Back Page for How-to-Apply Workshop Information.**



Meals on Wheels Delivery Trucks



Cedar Senior Citizen Center Expansion



Antimony Community Center



Milford Senior Citizens Center



Enterprise Medical Clinic



Hurricane City Fire Station Brentwood Area



Kanab City Library

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## America's #1 VISTA Volunteer



Winny VanGils

In the presence of former U.S. President George Bush, and in the midst of the largest national gathering of volunteer and service leaders in the United States, **Winny VanGils** of St. George was named America's #1 VISTA Volunteer for 2007. She was singled out from more than 50,000 national service volunteers across the United States. After two years as a fulltime VISTA member,

VanGils, age 88, is now a member of the Five County Foster Grandparent Program serving underachieving children in Washington County schools. She also serves a shift or two each week as an RSVP volunteer at Dixie Regional Medical Center.

In 2004, Winny joined Americorps\*VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America, also known as the domestic Peace Corps). A former school teacher, she joined the Washington County Human Services VISTA Project and set to work changing conditions for the poor and disenfranchised in the community. Her first assignment was with the Erin Kimball Foundation which provides counseling, classes and transitional housing for women escaping domestic violence situations. She recruited dozens of volunteers for special events to help women and children develop self esteem. At the beginning of her first year of service, the native daughter of Indonesia decided to do something about the horrible tsunami which had devastated her homeland.

In addition to her VISTA service, Winny still found time in the evenings and on weekends to put together a fund raiser featuring Indonesian food and music. With the help of other VISTA members her event netted several thousand dollars for tsunami relief. Mid-year, she got land donated for a community garden along with free water and seeds. Every day she taught gardening to adults with developmental disabilities from The ARC. They harvested more than they could use so the surplus of their bounty was donated to the Erin Kimball Foundation to help feed the women and children living in transitional housing.

When her first year was over, Winny rejoined VISTA for a second year and was assigned to The Learning Center for Families, an Early Head Start and Early Intervention program serving over 300 of the area's most vulnerable pregnant women, infants and toddlers. She worked tirelessly and was instrumental in raising more than \$25,000 for a new building and recruited many volunteers.

When not working hard on her VISTA project, she also donated time to the local hospital and her church. Without a doubt, this octogenarian has more energy and passion than folks 1/4 her age! The Washington County Human Services VISTA project concluded at the end of November 2006. Winny has been busy looking for another VISTA project where she can donate one more year of service.

What are her future plans for life after VISTA? Winny says she wants to take all that she learned about community service, fund raising and sustainability and return to Indonesia to help lift people in her native country out of poverty. Winny is a problem solver, an incredibly hard worker and the embodiment of what VISTA can do in a community. She is somewhat uncomfortable about her recognition as National VISTA Volunteer of the Year, noting in her sweetly accented voice, "I just enjoy being busy and helping people!"

### Staff Spotlight:



Justin Fischer

Justin has lived in southern Utah most of his life. He was born in Panguitch, lived in Paragonah from ages four until ten, then moved back to Panguitch. He graduated two months before he turned seventeen and left Panguitch shortly thereafter supposing he would never return longer than a Christmas break.

He started college at Brigham Young University (BYU), joined the Marine Corps reserve, went on an LDS mission to England and Wales, then transferred to Southern Utah University (SUU) where he completed a Bachelor's in Mathematics and, later, a Master in Business Administration.

Justin met his wife while an undergraduate, and was quickly thereafter introduced to the concept of student loans. (Marriage is costly.) They have three children, all of whom will be in elementary school this year.

In the last ten years Justin has worked as a math tutor, astronomy lab technician, handyman, custodian, warehouse manager, purchaser, entrepreneur, adjunct math professor, network administrator, math teacher, drug smuggler (just checking to see if you are still reading), web programmer, and now as Garfield County Circuit Rider Planner. He recommends that young people find a trade, like plumbing or electrical, if they want to avoid the preceding. In the end Justin returned to Panguitch where he recognizes a few faces, most of which have aged terribly.

Justin says he enjoys the outdoors very much, which is great living in Garfield County. He recently started attending an action shooting event which he enjoyed very much. He also enjoys doing some creative work with graphics and writes for pleasure about once every seven years.

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## **CDBG HOW-TO-APPLY WORKSHOPS**

**Wednesday, September 12, 2007 - 6:30 p.m.**  
Five County AOG Office, Conference Room  
1070 West 1600 South, Building B, St. George, UT

**Thursday, September 13, 2007 - 10:00 a.m.**  
Garfield County Courthouse, Commission Chambers  
55 South Main Street, Panguitch, UT

Any jurisdiction that is contemplating applying for CDBG funding must assign at least one elected official from their governing body to attend one of the two scheduled workshops, whether you are applying directly, or if you are sponsoring another entity through your jurisdiction. A representative of the "other entity" must also be in attendance with the elected official. A post card will be mailed in the first part of September reminding jurisdictions of the upcoming workshops.

Please feel free to contact our office with any questions or to obtain further details. Additional information regarding the Community Development Block Grant Program can be found on the Five County web site at: <http://www.fcaog.state.ut.us>

Please submit articles to Diane Lamoreaux via e-mail ([diamoreaux@fcaog.state.ut.us](mailto:diamoreaux@fcaog.state.ut.us)) or in writing to: P.O. Box 1550; St. George, Utah 84771-1550. For other information or services, please call (435) 673-3548 or visit our web site at: <http://www.fcaog.state.ut.us>

### **Steering Committee Meeting Schedule:**

**Wednesday, August 15, 2007, 1:00 p.m.**  
Panguitch City Library, Council Chambers  
25 South 200 East; Panguitch, UT

**Wednesday, September 12, 2007, 1:00 p.m.**  
Beaver Co. Admin. Bldg., Conference Room  
105 East Center Street; Beaver, UT

**Five County Association of Governments**  
**1070 West 1600 South, Building B**  
**P.O. Box 1550**  
**St. George, Utah 84771-1550**