



FIVE COUNTY NEWS FROM 'R' VIEW

VOLUME XII NUMBER 5

NEWSLETTER OF THE FIVE COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2017

Director's Dialog



Bryan D. Thirirot, Executive Director

Leaders of both Nevada's and Utah's Governors offices of Economic Development presented to our Five County Regional Economic Development Advisory Board on September 29th. Mr. Wes Curtis presented information about the Rural Partnership Board's newest initiatives and shared information about recent regional significant activities.



Mr. Steve Hill was appointed to the position of Executive Director of the Nevada Governor's Office of Economic Development by Nevada Governor

Brian Sandoval in 2011. Mr. Hill discussed many of Nevada's recent technology business initiatives and recruiting successes, and stated that they have modelled their strategies and overall office after Utah's Governors Office of Economic Development. He highlighted TESLA and the technology breakthroughs they are having. He talked about the NFL's Raiders move from Oakland to Las Vegas, as well as the new NHL Golden Knights hockey team. He discussed what impact these professional sports franchises may have on the communities in Southern Utah and Nevada. We appreciated his willingness to present to us.

Val Hale has been the Executive Director of the Utah Governor's Office of Economic Development since his appointment by Governor Herbert in August 2014. Mr. Hale discussed Utah's place as an exemplary state economy, and also said he was encouraged by Utah's latest 25K Jobs initiative to benefit and strengthen rural Utah communities. He lauded efforts to recruit and sustain technology sector companies. He discussed the efforts that are taking place to challenge Wasatch Front Companies to explore placing satellite businesses in rural Utah locations to take advantage of our local rural workforce.

We hope this initial step of bringing southern Nevada and our region together will continue as we try to better understand our relationship and how each area can develop a synergy that benefits mutually from the strengths of each other.

~ Bryan Thirirot, Executive Director

Announcing the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program for FY 2018



The next application cycle of the Utah Small Cities Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program is here! The 2018 program year is the thirty-sixth year in which the Small Cities CDBG Program has been administered by the state of Utah. The stated purpose of CDBG is to assist in developing viable communities by providing decent housing, a suitable living environment, and expanding economic opportunities, principally for persons of low and moderate income (LMI).

The CDBG program funnels allocations of federal Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funds through Utah's Department of Workforce Services Division of Housing and Community Development, to eligible 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 placed more than \$19 million into our 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, etc. Additionally, \$5.6 million of CDBG funds has been used regionally to: 1) enhance the region's economy by providing supplemental financing to growing businesses through the revolving loan fund (RLF); 2) provide extensive planning and technical assistance to eligible local governments coping with community planning and zoning challenges; and 3) construct the Five County AOG office building located in St. George.

The Five County AOG Steering Committee reviews and approves the rating and ranking matrix for the upcoming funding cycle on an annual basis during their August meeting.

This year's CDBG application cycle begins with two duplicate "How-to-Apply" application workshops scheduled on November 2nd and 3rd in this region.

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IMPORTANT!

See the **back page** of this newsletter for the dates, times & locations of the **MANDATORY CDBG 'How-to-Apply' workshops**

The new CDBG program year starting now will cover an 18 month contract period from June 2018 through December 2019. CDBG applications will be due on January 30, 2018, and must be submitted through the state of Utah's WebGrants system.

Application policies and procedures will be explained and an applicant guidebook will be distributed at the workshops.

As you begin the process, please remember that projects must meet one of three national objectives:

- Benefit individuals with LMI incomes;
- Alleviate slums or blight
- Provide for urgent health and safety needs.

Capital Improvement projects must be included in your community's capital improvement list and submitted to the AOG. Communities should contact the AOG to determine if an income survey of residents is necessary. AOG staff is available to assist in the preparation of applications.

FY 2017 funding was awarded to the following pre-approved regional project:

Five County Association of Governments, \$90,000 - Program administration, Consolidated Plan update, Housing planning; and RLF Program technical assistance and program delivery.

FY 2017 CDBG funding was approved for the following community-based projects that were rated and ranked:

- 1) **Brian Head, \$200,000** - Purchase a 4x4 Fire Pumper Truck for Brian Head's fire station to service Brian Head Town.
- 2) **Escalante, \$55,278** - Purchase and install water mixers in the City's two culinary water storage tanks. Work includes excavating a trench for electrical lines to the tanks, a power line and installation of electrical service to both tanks.
- 3) **Cedar City on behalf of Cedar City Housing Authority, \$200,000** - Purchase and rehabilitate 2-4 units of multi-family housing. All units will be occupied by low and moderate income families in accordance with HUD income limits. This is a multi-year; \$206,062 will be awarded during the 2017 program year and \$93,938 will be awarded during the 2018 program year.
- 4) **Beaver City on behalf of Beaver Housing Authority, \$84,500** - Remove and replace 950 feet of damaged road on 500 East between 600 N. and 750 N. Remove and replace 60 feet of damaged curb, gutter and sidewalk. This project will complete Beaver City requirements to approve the LMI subdivision.
- 5) **Springdale, \$88,705** - The Zion Shadows water line project will replace two existing 6 inch and 2 new lateral lines that need to be

installed from an 8 inch main line to the meter boxes. The project consists of installing 890 linear feet of 8 inch waterline, connecting 18 water meters to the new 8 inch waterline and installing a second fire hydrant at the end of the new line to provide both increased fire protection and the ability to flush and maintain the water line. The project will require replacement of the damaged asphalt pavement that will result from the pipeline installation.

- 6) **Virgin, \$83,018** - Rehab the town's east water tank. Water tank retrofitting will include a new tank liner, a new ladder and tank hatch, repainting of the tank, and replacing 20' of waterline that is presently 6" with a new 10" pipe.

This new program year is the first in its history where the Five County AOG region, along with Utah's other six AOG regions, will all receive an equal allocation of funding rather than differing funding levels based on a region's total population. Last year's our AOG's regional CDBG allocation was \$807,563. It is anticipated that this year's allocation may be \$150,000 or so less than the 2017 year.

New program year projects must be:

- ready for timely implementation within the contract timeframe with secured funding commitments from other sources.
- prioritized by local elected officials and the Rating and Ranking system.

The **CDBG How-to-Apply workshops** are for any town, city, county, special service district or non-profit agency in the Five County region considering applying for CDBG funding. Attendance at the workshop is **required** to be eligible to apply. Please note that 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 participate in the Small Cities CDBG program. **Please see the back page of this newsletter for workshop info, including the locations, addresses, dates and times.**

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, the designation by the jurisdiction must be in writing. The letter of designation must be provided to the Five County AOG staff no later than at the beginning of the How-to-Apply Workshop.

The following are some examples of the types of eligible CDBG projects (there are others; consult with the AOG staff):

Affordable Housing Projects

Property acquisition for multi-family and rental housing units, construction of homeless shelters, rehabilitation of rental housing units, clearance and demolition, relocation expenses, site improvements, development hard costs.

Community Development Projects

Culinary water/sewer improvements, solid waste disposal improvements, flood drainage improvements, fire stations/equipment, street improvements, historic preservation, ADA accessibility for public buildings, acquisition of real property, community and senior centers, rehabilitation of slums and blighted areas, parks and recreational facilities, public services.

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Economic Development Projects

The Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) provides regional RLF and Micro-Enterprise assistance, and funding for industrial park infrastructure and commercial centers.

Here are two recent CDBG assisted projects in this region:



4x4 Fire Pumper Truck for Gunlock area -2016



Geothermal Heating and Cooling at the town of Hatch Community Center - 2015

~ Nate Wiberg, Associate Planner

The Weatherization Assistance Program- Weatherization Saves Families Energy and Money



October 30th is National Weatherization Day

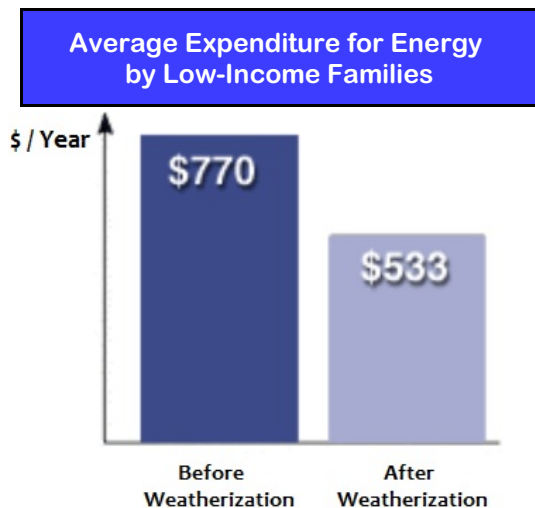
The Five County Association of Governments receives funding from the U. S. Department of Energy through the Utah Division of Housing and Community Development to administer the Weatherization Assistance Program. The

Weatherization Assistance Program, serving Beaver, Garfield, Iron, Kane and Washington counties helps low-income individuals and families reduce energy costs and increase comfort and safety in their homes.

Weatherization saves families with low-incomes \$283 per year on average in energy costs. The energy conservation resulting from these efforts helps our country reduce its dependence on foreign oil and decrease the cost of energy for families in need while improving the health and safety of their homes.

The Weatherization Assistance Program has developed professional standards and tools to define the roles of various weatherization professionals and establish standards for quality in performance of residential energy upgrades. Home energy auditors use advanced diagnostic equipment to determine the most cost-effective measures appropriate for each home. For instance, a technician uses a blower door to depressurize the house to determine how tight it is and check for air leaks; diagnostic tools such as infrared cameras help detect heat losses, leaky ducts and poor insulation. Additionally, testing is done to address furnace repair/replacement, programmable thermostats, LED lighting, health and safety issues related to weatherization-the list goes on as new technologies become available and cost effective. Weatherization crews receive specialized training to increase their knowledge, skills and abilities to install energy-efficiency measures based on the energy audit.

The Weatherization Assistance Program is open year-round to eligible applicants. To be eligible, an applicant must be an adult (18 years) and US Resident or a Qualified Alien. Gross annual household income must be at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty level, or applicant must be a current HEAT Program recipient. Priority eligibility is awarded to the elderly, persons with disabilities, families with children, and families with high energy burden or high energy use. There is no cost to qualifying households. As shown in the chart below, weatherization reduces home energy bills by an average of 32%.



To find out if you qualify for weatherization assistance, contact the Weatherization Assistance Program at 435-586-0585 or 1-800-824-9311. You can also visit our Weatherization website at: <http://www.wxworks.net>

~ Danna L. Alvey, Weatherization Operations Manager

CDBG HOW-TO-APPLY WORKSHOP DATES AND LOCATIONS:

Thursday, November 2, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.

Five County AOG Office Bldg., Conference Room
1070 West 1600 South, Building B, St. George, UT
- or -

Friday, November 3, 2017 at 10:00 a.m.

Panguitch City Fire Station, Training Room
40 North 100 East, Panguitch, UT

Additional Workshop Information:

A jurisdiction contemplating applying for CDBG funds must assign at least one elected official to attend one of these two scheduled (duplicate) **mandatory** workshops, whether you are applying for your jurisdiction, or plan to sponsor a sub-recipient applicant through your jurisdictions. A representative of the sub-recipient entity must also be in attendance with the elected official. A post card will be mailed in October reminding jurisdictions of the upcoming workshops.

Please contact Nate Wiberg, our CDBG Program Specialist at (435) 673-3548, ext. 105, to answer any questions or obtain further details. Additional information regarding the Community Development Block Grant Program can be found on the Five County Website at:

<http://www.fivecounty.utah.gov/programs/community/cdbg.php>

Please submit articles, or suggestions for them, to our Newsletter editor via e-mail to (newsletter@fivecounty.utah.gov) or in writing to: FCAOG Newsletter Editor P.O. Box 1550; St. George, Utah 84771-1550.

For information on AOG services, please call (435) 673-3548, or visit our website at: <http://www.fivecounty.utah.gov>

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