

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDS

The Borough of Norristown, through its department of Planning, is announcing the availability of FY'2006 Community Development Block Grant.

The Borough of Norristown's Planning Department is responsible for administering the CDBG and HOME programs in accordance with requirements of the 1974 Housing and Community Development Act, as amended; (24 CFR Part 570.), the National Affordable Housing Act of 1990; the Federal Regulations published in the Federal Register on December 16, 1991 (24 CFR Part 92 HOME Investment Partnerships Program), and revisions thereto.

Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG)

The Community Development Block Grant program provides assistance for housing and Community development activities. In order for a project to qualify for CDBG funding, it must meet at least one of the three statutory objections of the 1974 Housing and Community Development Act, as amended. These National objections are as follows:

1. A project must primarily benefit low/moderate income neighborhood households or persons.
 - A. The proposed activity must serve an area in which at least 51% of the residents are low and moderate-income persons. Low and moderate (L/M) income persons are defined as members of a family having an income equal to or less than the Section 8 Housing Assistance Payments Program low-income limits established by HUD applicable to the size of the person's family.
 - B. The activity must involve facilities which service persons, a majority of whom (51% or greater) are low and moderate income. (e.g. Counseling Centers, Community Centers, Day Care Centers, etc.)
 - C. The activity must involve employment of persons, a majority of whom are persons of low and moderate income.
2. A project must eliminate slum and blight: Projects may be eligible if they entail and promote goals related to Economic Development, Historic Preservation, removal of architectural barriers which restrict the mobility and accessibility of elderly or handicapped persons, improvement of existing infrastructure, and improvement of public facilities.
3. A project must meet an Urgent Community Development Need: HUD defines an Urgent Community Development Need as one that poses a serious and immediate threat to the health or welfare of the community which is of recent origin or which recently became urgent. In addition, the applicant must be unable to finance the proposed project with its own revenues, and other sources of funding must be proven unavailable, or if available as a match, they should be documented.

In addition to the above, projects should meet at least one of the following local objectives:

- Reduce slums, blight and blighting influences.
- Offset the deterioration of property and public infrastructure.
- Eliminate conditions that are detrimental to health, safety and public welfare.
- Conserve and expand the Borough's housing stock in order to provide a decent home and suitable living environment for persons of low to moderate income.
- Rationally use land and other natural resources in residential, commercial, industrial,

recreational and other districts of the Borough, and facilitate the efficient movement of people, goods, services to and from employment centers and through Borough neighborhoods and the community as a whole.

- Reduce isolation of income groups within the Borough and promote an increase in the diversity and vitality of neighborhoods for people of all incomes.
- Encourage the restoration and preservation of properties of special historic, architectural or aesthetic value.
- Promote economic development, the creation of new jobs, and the retention of existing jobs.
- Stimulate private investments and community revitalization in order to lessen physical and economic distress.

Ranking and Rating Criteria

Applications will be reviewed by the Planning Department, and those selected will be included in the proposed 2002 Action Plan, and submitted to HUD for approval. A uniform set of factors will be used to guide the evaluation of each application. Points will be awarded based on the extent to which the proposal addresses the following set of general evaluation factors: the total number of points awarded in each category is indicated. Activity selection will be based solely on the evaluation factors.

Points Evaluation Factor:

- 20 Extent to which the proposed activity addresses the needs and goals identified in the Consolidated Plan.
- 20 Degree to which the activity includes coordination and collaboration with other community development activities in the same neighborhood or vicinity, or is linked to other activities, agencies or community efforts outside of the immediate vicinity.
- 20 Financial feasibility of the proposed activity in terms of effectively estimating project costs and identifying all cost elements.
- 10 Applicants capacity and prior experience in administering an activity in an efficient and timely manner.
- 10 Extent to which benefits exceed activity costs.
- 10 Degree to which activity meets needs on a long-term basis.
- 10 Degree to which funds are leveraged with other resources, either public or private.

100 Grand total + 20 Possible Bonus Points

- 15 (Bonus Points)** Bonus points available on a sliding scale based upon the array of elements illustrated in the activity, which is consistent with the Borough's Five-Year Consolidated Action Plan.
- 5 (Bonus Points)** Projects has a history of having been involved in Norristown, but has never been funded through the CDBG program.

Applications will be evaluated and ranked between the months of August to October. Recommendations will be presented to citizens and council during the public hearings that will precede this process. The borough reserves the right to request additional information on the proposed activity. Site visits and/or personal interviews may be scheduled as deemed necessary.

Application Format

The following guidelines should be used by all applicants seeking grant assistance under the Community Development Block Grant Fund. The Planning Department may request more specific project-related information from an applicant at anytime during the review process.

The applicant must provide a complete description of the proposed activity in the application. The application information is the basis for funding consideration. Applications must also contain all available documentation, which support the eligibility, feasibility, marketability, and affordability of the proposed activities. These could include a budget identifying breakdown and use of CDBG money, pictures of the project, the location of the project or organization and who it serves.

Applications are accepted all year round with a deadline for funding between August to October for each particular year, after which Public Hearings are held.

The applicant must provide a copy of their most recent financial audit. If the audit is not included, the application will be delayed.

APPLICATION COVER SHEET

Date: _____

Agency Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Fax Number: _____

Contact Person: _____

Title: _____

Project Title: _____

Of Persons to Benefit: _____

Amount Requested: _____
(Attach Budget)

Brief Project Description:

K/CDBG application for grant funding