

Community Development Block Grant Program - CDBG

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program is a flexible program that provides communities with resources to address a wide range of unique community development needs. Beginning in 1974, the CDBG program is one of the longest continuously run programs at HUD. The CDBG program provides annual grants on a formula basis to 1,180 general units of local government and States. Passaic County became an entitlement recipient of CDBG funds in FY 2008.

About the Program

The CDBG program works to ensure decent affordable housing, to provide services to the most vulnerable in our communities, and to create jobs through the expansion and retention of businesses. CDBG is an important tool for helping local governments tackle serious challenges facing their communities. The CDBG program has made a difference in the lives of millions of people and their communities across the Nation.

HUD determines the amount of each grant by using a formula comprised of several measures of community need, including the extent of poverty, population, housing overcrowding, age of housing, and population growth lag in relationship to other metropolitan areas. FY 2008, Passaic County received \$864,476.

Citizen Participation

Passaic County has developed a detailed plan that provides for and encourages citizen participation. This process emphasizes participation in areas in which the County proposes to use CDBG funds and outreach to non-English speaking communities. The plan provides citizens with the following: reasonable and timely access to local meetings; an opportunity to review proposed activities and program performance; provides for timely written answers to written complaints and grievances; and identifies how the needs of non-English speaking residents will be met.

Eligible Activities

Infrastructure, Housing, economic development and public services are eligible types of activities. However, each activity must meet one of the following national objectives for the program: benefit low- and moderate-income persons, prevention or elimination of slums or blight, or address community development needs having a particular urgency because existing conditions pose a serious and immediate threat to the health or welfare of the community for which other funding is not available. Not less than 70 percent of CDBG funds must be used for activities that benefit low- and moderate-income persons. A complete list of eligible activities is available at the Planning Department.

Five Year Plan

In FY 2008, Passaic County adopted a Five Year Consolidated Plan for the use of the federal funds that the County expects to receive. The Executive Summary of the plan is available on the County's web site. An annual Action Plan will be prepared for each year and the county will select projects that are consistent with the goals outlined in the plan. Community organizations, municipalities and citizens interested in learning more about the program or applying for funds should contact the Planning Department.