

**Memorandum
Community Economic Development Department**



To: Thomas Thomas, City Manager
Subject: **Public Hearing** – Citizen’s Advisory Committee
Recommendations for 2016-2017 CDBG Funds
Date: October 21, 2015

The Citizen’s Advisory Committee (CAC) completed its task of allocating 2016-2017 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) monies and Gaming Grant Funds on October 15, 2015. A public hearing for CDBG is scheduled for November 2, 2015 as required by the Citizen Participation Plan and federal regulations. City Council has the authority to make final funding decisions. The CDBG/Gaming process schedule suggest that Council approve allocations on November 9, 2015.

The attached spreadsheet indicates the CAC’s recommendations for fiscal year 2016-2017 CDBG and Gaming Grant funds. The CAC reviewed and abided by City Council’s policies when considering allocations. Chairman Corey Ellis will be in attendance at the Council meeting to explain the recommendations.

The 2016-2017 allocation level is anticipated to be \$904,777. This represents a 3% reduction in funding from the current year’s allocation. In the event that the 2016-2017 allocation is reduced below the \$904,777, the CAC determined that all programs and activities should be cut proportionally. If the allocation amount for the 2016-2017 is more than the anticipated \$904,777 then the additional funds will be allocated to Demolition with the additional funds being capped at \$477,894 to cover the remainder of the program request.

It is expected that a number of applicants will attend with public hearing. The following format for conducting the public hearing is suggested:

1. Presentation by Chairman Cory Ellis and questions from Council regarding CAC recommendations.
2. Comments and testimony from CDBG and Gaming Grant applicants and other interested parties (5-minute limit, excluding questions from City Council) and Council questions of speakers.
3. Close public hearing.
4. Questions from City Council to City staff.
5. City Council is scheduled to make final decisions on CDBG/Gaming allocations on November 9, 2015.

In order to assist the Council in its decision-making process, staff has attached a statement from Chairman Corey Ellis and the spreadsheet summarizing the CDBG and Gaming Grant applications that were considered by the CAC. Individual applications and minutes of the Review and Allocation Meetings are available upon request.

Submitted by: Jeff Eder, Assistant City Manager / CED Director

Approved by: Thomas Thomas, City Manager



October 21, 2015

Mayor Dennis Pauley & City Council Members
City of Rock Island
1528 Third Avenue
Rock Island, IL 61201

Dear Mayor Pauley and City Council Members:

The Citizen's Advisory Committee has completed their review of the CDBG and Gaming Grant funding requests for the 2016 calendar year. We enjoyed learning more about the programs and services that help our residents thrive and support their health and well-being. Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this important process. I plan to present our recommendation for funding allocations to you on Monday, November 2, 2015. The Committee agrees that the CDBG budget presented will disburse monies in a way that improves housing, economic and social condition of the City, adheres to the guidelines mandated by HUD, aligns with Rock Island's Consolidated Plan, and most importantly benefits our low and moderate income citizens. Furthermore, the Committee agrees that the Gaming Grant budget presented will disburse monies in a way that benefits Rock Island citizens and Rock Island businesses with priority given to businesses within our city limits that provide services to the youth in our community.

The committee budgeted \$904,777 for this round of CDBG allocations, which represents an anticipated 3% decrease in funds from the 2015-2016 grant year. The Committee received funding requests totaling \$1,443,289. Unfortunately we are facing a shortfall of \$538,512 and cannot accommodate every applicant's full request for administrative and program costs. After thoughtful discussion, the Committee agreed to stretch the CDBG funds to enable the City and social service providers to offer assistance to those in our City with the greatest needs.

The committee budgeted \$50,000 for the 2016 Gaming Grant allocations, the same amount that has been allocated since the inception of the program. Each committee member reviewed 16 grant applications, heard presentations and had questions answered by all applicants. We utilized an individual scoring mechanism with eight categories that corresponded to the most critical components of the grant application. Scores were tallied for each applicant and committee discussions on funding levels for the top grants were conducted. This process

ensured a fair and open discussion about the merit of the requests totaling \$84,390. With a shortfall of \$34,390, we recommend awarding funds to 14 organizations.

CDBG and Gaming Grant funds enable the City and social service providers to offer assistance to those in our City with the greatest needs. The task of allocating these monies in a manner that affects the greatest good is certainly difficult, but fulfilling. As a Rock Island citizen, I am thankful we have the funds, staffing and the will to deliver these programs to our community. I am happy to answer any questions you may have concerning our allocations at the hearing on November 2, 2015. Please do not hesitate to contact me in advance, if necessary.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Corey Ellis', with a large, stylized initial 'C'.

Corey Ellis, Chairman
Citizens Advisory Committee

2016 – 2017 CDBG Requests:

CDBG Application Project Title	Amount Requested	CAC Recommendation
Property Maintenance & Rental Inspections	\$260,011	\$260,011
CDBG Program Administration	\$187,615	\$187,615
Housing Rehabilitation Programs	\$199,730	\$150,000
Housing Rehab Program Staff & Support	\$120,270	\$120,270
Economic Development Technical Assistance	\$ 36,000	\$ 36,000
Demolition	\$503,775	\$ 25,881
MLK – Summer Day Camp Program	\$105,117	\$100,000
MLK – Summer Day Camp Program	\$ 30,771	\$ 25,000
Totals	\$1,443,289	\$904,777

2016-2017 Gaming Grant Requests:

Gaming Grant Application Title	Amount Requested	CAC Recommendation
Spring Forward Learning Center	\$10,000	\$7,500
Bethany for Children & Families	\$10,000	\$6,000
River Bend Foodbank	\$ 5,000	\$5,000
Christian Care	\$ 5,000	\$4,000
Community Housing Solutions	\$ 5,000	\$4,000
River Music Experience	\$ 5,000	\$4,000
Norma Leah Ovarian Cancer Foundation	\$10,000	\$3,000
SBC Outreach Music & Arts	\$ 5,000	\$3,000
ARC of the Quad Cities	\$ 4,000	\$3,000
Big Brothers Big Sisters	\$ 4,000	\$3,000
QC Community Broadcasting Group, Inc	\$ 3,000	\$2,500
Family Resources	\$10,000	\$2,000
Genesius Guild Theatre Foundation	\$ 2,000	\$2,000
Marriage & Family Counseling	\$ 1,890	\$1,000
King's Harvest	\$ 2,500	\$0
Church of Peace	\$ 2,000	\$0
Totals	\$84,390	\$50,000