



**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM
(CDBG)**

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

**City of Encinitas
Planning and Building Department
Community Development Block Grant Program: Policies and Procedures**

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INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program provides communities with funding to address a variety of community specific development needs. The CDBG program began in 1974, and is now one of the most successful, longest continuously run programs at the Department of Housing and Urban Planning (HUD).

The purpose of the CDBG program is to enhance and maintain viable urban communities through the provision of decent affordable housing, a suitable living environment, and the expansion of economic opportunities for lower to moderate income persons and households. The CDBG program is a very important tool for assisting local government agencies to address serious challenges within their communities.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

The mission of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is “to create strong, sustainable, inclusive communities and quality, affordable homes for all.” HUD has several divisions including the Office of Community Planning and Development (CPD). The CPD office seeks to develop viable communities by promoting integrated approaches to provide decent housing, suitable living environments, and expand economic opportunities for lower to moderate income individuals and households. CPD formula grant programs include the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, HOME Investment Partnership (HOME), Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA), and the Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) Program.

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program supports public services and improvements that benefit low to moderate-income individuals, households, and neighborhoods. Federal regulations governing the CDBG program are in Title 24 of the Code of Federal Regulations Part 570 (24 CFR 570).

HOME Investment Partnership (HOME) program supports affordable access to homeownership and development of affordable rental housing for low to moderate-income individuals and households. Federal regulations governing the HOME program are in Title 24 of the Code of Federal Regulations Part 92 (24 CFR 92).

THE CITY OF ENCINITAS

The City of Encinitas has been an entitlement community since 1990 and receives CDBG funding directly from HUD each year. Encinitas does not receive ESG or HOPWA funding. As a participating jurisdiction in the San Diego County HOME Consortium, the City of Encinitas previously received HOME funds on an annual basis from the lead agency. However, due to federal HOME program changes, beginning in FY2014, the City of Encinitas no longer receives funding, but continues to participate in the San Diego County HOME Consortium. Encinitas residents may benefit from the programs and opportunities offered through the regional HOME Consortium. The County of San Diego is the lead agency of the HOME Consortium.

CDBG POLICY GUIDANCE

Each CDBG funded activity must meet one of three program National Objectives (§570.208):

- Benefit low-and moderate-income individuals, households or neighborhoods;
- Prevention or elimination of slums or blight; or
- Address community development needs having particular urgency because existing conditions pose a series and immediate threat to the health and welfare of the community of which funding is not available.

In addition to meeting one of the program's national objectives, the project must also be an eligible use of funds. Below are some examples of eligible and ineligible activities. A complete list of the eligible and ineligible activities can be found in the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 24, Part 570:

http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?tpl=/ecfrbrowse/Title24/24cfr570_main_02.tpl

Example of Eligible Activities (§570.201)

- Acquisition/Disposition
- Public Facilities/Improvements
- Clearance/Remediation
- Public Services
- Relocation
- Rehabilitation/Preservation
- Lead Based Paint Evaluation and Reduction
- Planning/Administration

Examples of Ineligible Activities (§570.207)

- Buildings (or portions thereof) for the General Conduct of Government
- General Government Expenses
- Political Activities

The following activities are not eligible **only** under special circumstances:

- Purchase of equipment
- Operating/Maintenance Expenses
- New Housing Construction
- Income Payments

Note: The above lists are not comprehensive. To see a complete list of eligible and ineligible activities please refer to CDBG regulations in 24 CFR 570.201 and 570.207.

Environmental Review (§570.200)

All CDBG funded activities are subject to the federal National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review. In some cases, the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) regulations and/or Local Coastal Plan (LCP) requirements may apply.

Program Income

The City may reuse any revenue generated from projects undertaken with CDBG funding towards other eligible activities within the entitlement community. Furthermore, any program income earned by a subrecipient may be retained by the subrecipient provided that the income is treated as additional CDBG funds and thus subject to all applicable federal and local requirements.

Location of Activities

CDBG funds may be awarded to an activity outside of the jurisdiction of the entitlement community only if it can be determined that the activity directly benefits the entitlement community resident's, or is a part of a regional effort to assist low-income persons and households.

CDBG PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

The City of Encinitas Planning and Building Department is the lead agency for administration of the CDBG program. Program management includes development of the Consolidated Plan, preparation of the Action Plan, CAPER, and other required reporting as summarized below. The City will at times, utilize the services of a specialized consultant to assist the City in carrying out the activities during each program year.

Consolidated Plan

A Consolidated Plan is a five-year plan required to receive federal CDBG funding and serves as an agency's application for funds. CDBG Program funding is provided to local jurisdictions for various affordable housing and community development needs. These needs are identified during the Consolidated Plan process. The Consolidated Plan identifies the community development and housing needs of the City, especially for its low-moderate income residents, and the strategies and resources to meet the identified needs. Several stakeholder and public meetings are held during the Consolidated Planning process to garner public participation regarding the needs of the community and prioritization of funds. The Consolidated Plan is published for a 30-day public review and comment period. Following the public review period, the Consolidated is presented to the City Council for consideration and approval. The City Council approved the FY2015-20 Consolidated Plan on April 22, 2015. The approved Consolidated Plan is submitted to HUD for approval at least 45 days before the start of the fiscal year.

Annual Action Plan

Following approval of the annual CDBG budget and funding allocations by the City Council, Planning and Building Department Staff prepares the Annual Action Plan. The Action Plan includes goals, objectives and performance measures for all CDBG-funded projects and activities. The Action Plan is published for a 30-day public review and comment period. Following the public review period, the Action Plan is presented to the City Council for consideration and approval. Following City Council approval, the Action Plan is submitted to HUD at least 45 days prior to the beginning of the program year.

Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER)

Planning and Building Department staff prepare a CAPER using the provide HUD template annually. The CAPER provides clear and correct financial and beneficiary information showing how the City is carrying out its housing and community development strategies, activities, and projects. The draft CAPER is made available for a 30-day public review and comment period at the end of each program year, followed by a City Council Public Meeting. The City submits the final CAPER to HUD, no later than ninety days following the close of the program year.

Monitoring of Subrecipients

All CDBG subrecipients are monitored for compliance with applicable local, state, and federal requirements. Compliance monitoring includes, but not limited to quarterly reporting and an annual onsite visit. The primary objective of monitoring subrecipients is to ensure compliance with regulations governing administrative, financial, and programmatic operations. Planning and Building Department staff works closely with all subrecipients to ensure that all requirements are well understood and compliance achieved throughout the program year.

Financial Management and Reporting

Planning and Building Department staff ensures that expenditures of CDBG funds shall be drawn down from the U.S. Treasury on a timely basis. Staff also prepares and submits required HUD reporting, such as the Quarterly Federal Financial Report, Section 3 Report, Semi-Annual Labor Report, Integrated Disbursement and Information System Reports by their respective due dates.

Citizen Participation Plan

As an entitlement community, the City of Encinitas must comply with 24 CFR Part 91.105 regarding public participation. The City Council approved the Citizen Participation Plan for the CDBG program on October 19, 1994. The purpose of the Plan is to describe how the City engages the public to become involved in the Consolidated Planning process and use of federal funds.

Fair Housing (Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice)

HUD requires that cities and states receiving block grant funding take actions to affirmatively further fair housing choice. Cities report on such activities by completing an Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice (AI) every three to five years. In general, the AI is a review of impediments to fair housing choice in the public and private sector. The San Diego Regional Alliance For Fair Housing (SDRAFFH) is a dedicated group of professionals working together to ensure that all residents in San Diego County have equal access to housing. It is comprised of members of the fair housing community, government entities, including the City of Encinitas, enforcement agencies and housing providers. The SDRAFFH has collaborated to produce the last three AI's as a region, including the most recent AI for FY2015-20.

CDBG Program contact information

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CDBG FUNDING REQUIREMENTS AND PROCESS

The City of Encinitas conducts an annual funding cycle for the CDBG program. Funding is based on the annual grant allocation from HUD and any reallocation from previous years. The City Council is decision making body regarding CDBG funds.

Funding Categories

For the CDBG program, funding is typically disbursed over three broad categories; public services; administration; and capital improvement projects. Below is a summary of each category.

Public Services (§570.201(e))

The CDBG program limits the amount of funding available for public services to a maximum of 15 percent of the annual grant. Public service activities must meet one of the three national objectives, be an eligible use of funds, and also address one of the priorities identified in the Five-Year Consolidated Plan. Public services must also assist a minimum of 51% low-moderate income clientele or serve presumed benefit clientele (including homeless, seniors, victims of domestic violence) (CFR §570.208 (a)(1)(2)(A)).

Typical eligible public service activities include (but not limited to): senior services, homeless services and prevention, gang prevention, drug counseling, and youth outreach.

Planning and Administration (§570.206)

The CDBG program limits the amount of funding available for program administration and planning activities to a maximum of 20 percent of the annual grant.

Typical eligible planning and administration activities include: general management, oversight and coordination, fair housing activities, indirect costs, submission of applications for federal programs, administrative expenses to facilitate housing.

Capital Improvements (§570.201(e))

The CDBG program does not limit the amount of funding for Capital Improvement projects. Capital improvement projects and activities must meet one of the three national objectives, be an eligible use of funds, and address one of the priorities identified in the Five-Year Consolidated Plan. Examples of projects in this category are facility improvements, public infrastructure improvements, acquisition/rehabilitation, and minor home rehabilitation.

National and Local Objectives

CDBG funded projects and programs must meet a national objective (as described in this document) and a local priority need. The local needs and priorities are established in the five-year Consolidated Plan.

Prioritization of needs is given to help allocate funds to the needs identified during the Consolidated Plan period. High priorities will be funded under CDBG; medium priority funds may be funded CDBG, if funds are not exhausted on high priority needs; and, low priority needs are identified as a need in the community, but will not be funded under CDBG due to limited resources.

High Priority

- Homeless services, prevention and shelter
- Low-income renters and homeowners assistance
- Seniors housing and services
- Fair housing
- Affordable Housing
- Planning and Administration

Medium Priority

- Youth Services
- Public Facilities
- Public Improvements

Low Priority

- Economic Development

The goals to address the above cited priority needs for the five-year Consolidated Plan period are:

- Support and strengthen the delivery and coordination of service providers that offer assistance to Encinitas low to moderate income residents with an emphasis on at-risk youth and seniors
- Support the provision of homeless services, prevention, and shelter
- Provide housing assistance to low-income renters and homeowners
- Ensure that housing within the City is available without discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, ancestry, marital status, age, household composition, income, size, disability or any other arbitrary factor
- Facilitate the development of new affordable rental and homeownership housing.
- Ensure that 20 percent of annual CDBG funds be used to support the general administration of the programs by the City's Advanced Planning Division
- Enhance the livability and quality of life of low- and moderate-income neighborhoods
- Support facility improvements to qualified agencies that serve low to moderate Encinitas residents
- Explore then needs of small local business

The City of Encinitas FY2015-20 Consolidated Plan can be viewed in full at: <http://encinitasca.gov/index.aspx?page=394> or at Encinitas Hall during normal business hours, Monday – Thursday, and every other Friday, 7am – 6pm.

APPLICATION AND ANNUAL TIMELINE

CDBG Funding Application

An application for funding is available each year. The application is made available in a paper and fillable PDF format. The application must be completed per the instructions and submitted prior to the specified deadline in order to be considered complete.

Solicitation of Applicants for CDBG Funding

Previous subrecipients, the general public, and any parties that expressed interest of available funding are notified of application availability through a public notice. Application information is posted to the City's website, and published in a local publication of general circulation. The anticipated annual grant amount and re-allocated funds are included in the application. The CDBG program year operates on a Fiscal Year (July 1 - June 30). Applicants must submit a complete application by the specific due date to be considered for funding. The application and award process typically follows the timeline below:

- December – Applicants are noticed that CDBG applications are available
- January – Applications are due
- March – Recommendations for activity/project funding are considered by City Council
- March – Approved activities/projects are incorporated into the draft Action Plan. The draft Action Plan is noticed for a 30-day review and comment period
- April – City Council consideration of the Action Plan
- May – Action Plan submitted to HUD
- July – HUD/City execute funding agreement
- July/August – City/Subrecipients execute funding agreements

Application Review

Submitted applications are reviewed by Planning and Building Department staff. The following criteria are considered for recommendation for funding:

- Extent to which the project addresses a national objective
- Extent to which the project addresses local objective
- Application completeness
- Experience with CDBG (past performance for prior subrecipients)
- Collaboration and Partnerships
- Requested funding and available funding

Public Participation and City Council Action

Public participation in the annual funding process is achieved through a series of notices and public hearings. Opportunity is given for public comment on the annual Action Plan prior to its submission to HUD.

Planning and Building Department staff presents the annual funding recommendations to the City Council at a publicly noticed hearing. CDBG applicants and members of the public have the opportunity to address City Council according to the established procedures for public hearings.

The City's Citizen Participation Plan for the CDBG program, goes into greater detail regarding the City's efforts to maximize public participation in the Consolidated Plan and CDBG award process. The Citizen Participation can be found on the City's website or at the Planning and Building Department.

SUBRECIPIENT REQUIREMENTS

Subrecipients of CDBG funds must be an organization or group that provides services to Encinitas residents. The program operates on a reimbursement basis, so the organization must have the financial capacity to operate the program or project, with grant reimbursement occurring once proper documentation and reporting is submitted. The City and subrecipient

must enter into a contract with the City for use of CDBG funds (§570.503). At minimum, the contract contains the following:

- Statement of work
- Records and reports
- Program Income
- Uniform Administrative Requirements
- Other Program Requirements (subpart K)
- Suspension and Termination
- Reversion of Assets

CDBG subrecipients must comply with all applicable state and federal laws. Below is a summary of some of the laws and requirements:

Civil Rights, Fair Housing, and Equal Opportunity

Subrecipients must comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (prohibiting race, color, and national origin discrimination including language access for limited English proficient persons), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (prohibiting disability discrimination), Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (prohibiting sex discrimination in the education and training programs), and the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 (prohibiting age discrimination in the provision of services).

CDBG funded services may focus on a particular group or population without violating guidelines regarding equal access to services, as long as any member within the particular group is able to participate. The City will ensure that subrecipients abide by federal Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity (FHEO) and California Department of Fair Employment and Housing (CA DFEH) fair housing and equal opportunity requirements for non-discrimination with regard to housing or services provided.

Americans with Disabilities Act

CDBG funded activities must comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The ADA provides comprehensive civil rights to individuals with disabilities in the areas of employment, public accommodations, State and local government services, and telecommunications. ADA requires that buildings are designed and constructed to be accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities. The law also requires the removal of architectural and communication barriers to existing facilities, where such removal is easily accomplishable and able to be carried out without much difficulty or expense

Section 3

Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968 promotes employment, training, and contracting opportunities for lower-income residents who live in the neighborhoods where HUD funding is allocated. To the greatest extent feasible, businesses and contractors employed on HUD funded projects must make a Good Faith Effort to train and/or employ Section 3 residents (lower-income) within the area, and contract with businesses which employ Section 3 residents.

The three primary goals of Section 3 are:

1. To the greatest extent feasible, provide outreach and training to Section 3 residents.
2. To the greatest extent feasible, train and/or hire Section 3 residents.
3. To the greatest extent feasible, contract with Section 3 businesses.

Conflict of Interest

No persons affiliated with the entitlement community (including subrecipients) who exercise or have exercised any responsibilities with respect to CDBG programming, or who are in a position to participate in a decision making process, may obtain a financial interest or benefit from a CDBG-assisted activity (including subcontracts), either for themselves or those with whom they have business or immediate family ties, during their income tenure or for one year thereafter.

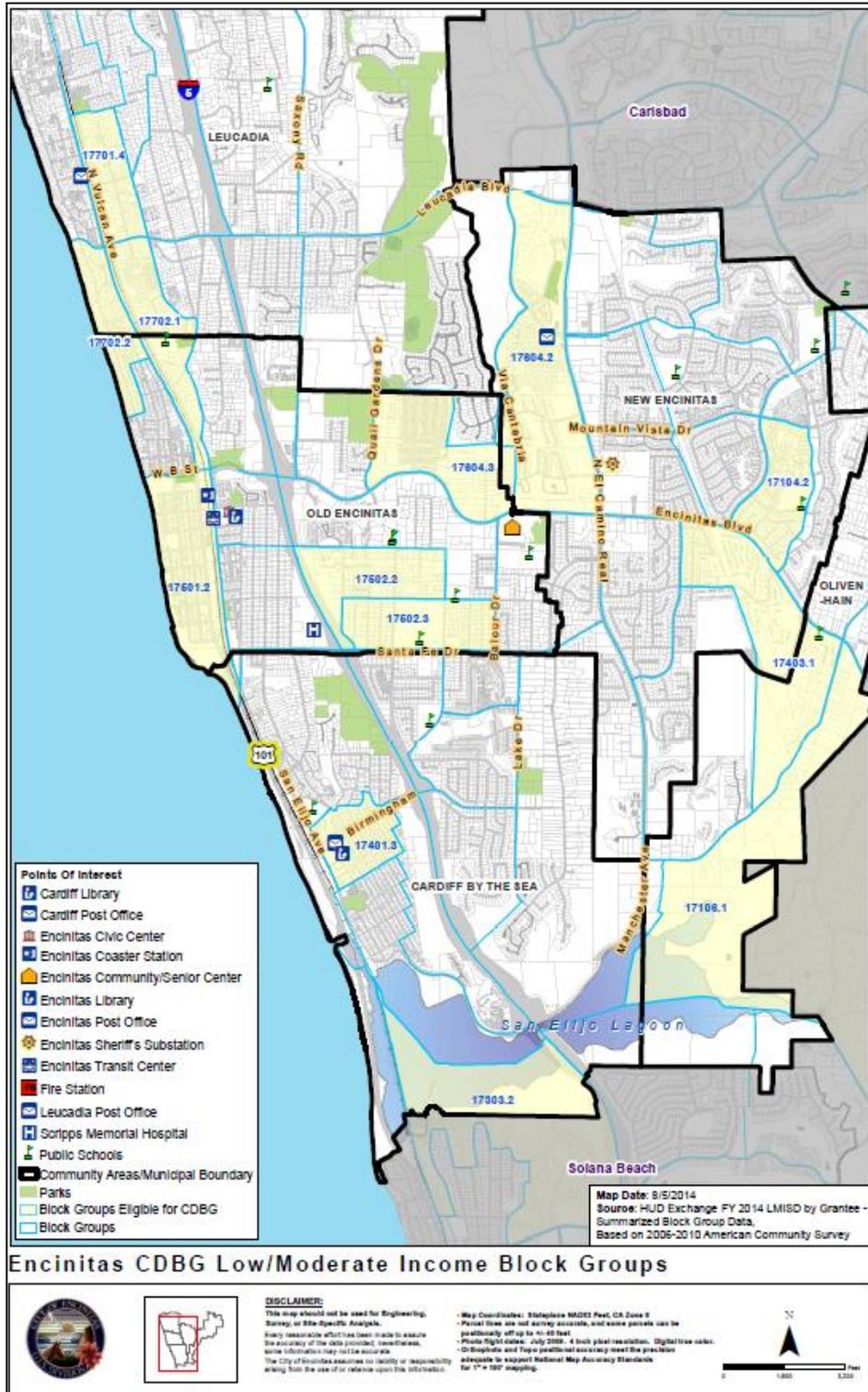
Labor Requirements

CDBG construction projects must comply with federal regulations on wage and labor standards. Davis-Bacon Act, federal wage rates apply to most (but not all) construction projects exceeding \$2,000.

- Davis-Bacon and Related Acts: Ensures that mechanics and laborers employed in construction work under federally assisted projects are paid federal prevailing wage for the locality.
- Contract Work Hours and Safety Act: Provides that mechanics and laborers employed on federally assisted construction projects are paid time and one-half hour for work in excess of 40 hours per week.
- Copeland (Anti-Kickback) Act: Governs the deductions from paychecks that are allowable.

More information about Davis-Bacon requirements can be viewed at: <http://hud.gov/offices/olr/>.

LOW TO MODERATE INCOME BLOCK GROUPS MAP



2015 INCOME LIMITS

	Household Size	Maximum Annual Income
30% AMI Extremely Low Income	1	\$17,050
	2	\$19,450
	3	\$21,900
	4	\$24,300
	5	\$28,410
	6	\$32,570
	7	\$36,730
	8	\$40,890
50% AMI Very Low Income	1	\$28,350
	2	\$32,400
	3	\$36,450
	4	\$40,500
	5	\$43,750
	6	\$47,000
	7	\$50,250
	8	\$53,500
80% AMI Low Income	1	\$45,400
	2	\$51,850
	3	\$58,350
	4	\$64,800
	5	\$70,000
	6	\$75,200
	7	\$80,400
	8	\$85,550