



# El Paso County CDBG Program

2022 CDBG Program



# The Basics of the El Paso County CDBG Program

- The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program is a federally funded, 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 running U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) programs.
- El Paso County was designated as a CDBG community in 2009.



# The Basics of the El Paso County CDBG Program

## **Purpose:**

- To assist low to moderate income El Paso County residents through the programming of these federally funded dollars to address community, housing and economic development.

## **Accomplishments:**

- Since the program's inception in 2009, 200+ community programs/projects have been assisted.

## **Why can't this money be used inside Colorado Springs city limits?**

- Colorado Springs receives its own funding from HUD, which means that for El Paso County to receive funding, we cannot allow Colorado Springs residents to 'double dip' into both sources of assistance.



# Geographic Areas Covered

- Calhan
- Fountain
- Green Mountain Falls
- Unincorporated El Paso County
- Palmer Lake
- Ramah
- Manitou Springs
- Monument



# National Objectives & Goals

## **National Objectives:**

- Serve persons of low to moderate income
- Urgent Need
- Slum & Blight

## **National Goals:**

- Provide Decent Affordable Housing
- Establish and Maintain Suitable Living Environments
- Expand Economic Opportunities

# El Paso County Goals

In addition to the national goals, the El Paso County CDBG Program has 13 local goals to address community needs

- These needs and goals are identified in our Consolidated Plan, a 5-year strategic planning document required by HUD
- Our next Consolidated Plan is for 2022-2026

Each project funded by our program must meet at least 1 of the 13 goals and be able to demonstrate measurable success at the conclusion of the project.

- The initial projects are identified in our Annual Action Plans, and then reported on in the corresponding Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER)

# Types of Projects

- Public Service (15% allocation cap)
  - Services such as meals on wheels, housing counseling
  - Eligibility: Must live in the eligible area, income qualify, and provide appropriate backup documents/demographic data
- Public Facilities
  - Improving or building neighborhood community centers, parks, or ADA accessibility to said facilities
  - Eligibility: must be in a low to moderate income area (based on HUD data) or address ADA issues

# Types of Projects

- Infrastructure
  - Sidewalks, drainage improvements, sewer lines
  - Eligibility: must be in a low to moderate income area (based on HUD data) or specifically address ADA issues
- Housing
  - Owner-occupied housing rehab, public housing accessibility
  - Eligibility: households must income qualify and be located in eligible area
- Economic Development
  - Activities that create jobs or encourage business development
  - Eligibility: must provide jobs for income eligible persons



# CDBG Funding Ineligible Expenses

- Supplies that can be used past the life of the grant program are ineligible (computers, fridges)
  - Note that supplies used up during the program are eligible (food for food pantries, facemasks for employees while working with clients, etc.)
- Staff time spent with ineligible clients or working on a different project
- General government operations and functions
- Political and religious activities



# Who Can Apply?

- Participating Municipalities
- Non-Profits
- Faith Based Organizations
- Institutions of Higher Education

**All** applicants must be equal opportunity employers and registered in [sam.gov](http://sam.gov)

Note that first-time applicants **must** schedule a meeting with CDBG staff prior to submitting their application.



# 2022 CDBG Funding

- Received approximately \$1.2 million last year
- Minimum request amount is \$20,000
- For construction projects, be sure to build in the additional costs anticipated by the requirement of Davis-Bacon wages
  - Special Section 3 requirements apply to all projects with over \$200,000 in federal funding
- Visit our website to view previous years of funding if you'd like to see historical funding data



# Application Process

- The application cycle opened on January 3, 2022 and will close on February 4, 2022 at 5:00 pm
- The Community Development Advisory Board set application recommendations and the Board of County Commissioners made the final approval
- Applicants will be notified of their award/denial status in July 2022
- Projects are expected to begin in the fall

# CDBG Application Tips & Tricks


- You will have 12 months to spend your funding, plan your request around that
- Be sure to include clear, measurable outcomes for your project
- Don't forget to attach backup materials and letters of support as applicable
- Always feel free to reach out when you have a question on a particular section
- Be sure to clearly demonstrate the checks and balances your agency has in place to prevent fraud
- Visit our website and review the 'Subrecipient Resources' tab to get an in-depth idea of expectations and regulations associated with the program

# Upcoming Meetings

Want another chance to ask questions? Do you have feedback for our program about how we can better serve the community?

Join us for one of the two upcoming public meetings and make your opinion heard!

- January 25, 10 am – 11 am
  - In person/virtual hybrid meeting
  - 9 E Vermijo Avenue/email for link
- January 26, 5 pm – 6 pm
  - In Person at Fountain Valley Senior Center
  - 5745 Southmoor Dr., Fountain, CO



# Questions? Contact us!

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Learn more on our website:

<https://admin.elpasoco.com/economic-development/cdbg/>