

March 13, 2012

Dear Mayors, Judges and Community Leaders:

This letter contains important information regarding the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, Home Partnership Investment (HOME) Program, Emergency Solution Grants (ESG) Program and the Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) Program. All of these programs are funded by grants from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Each year we conduct public hearings to obtain citizen comments to determine the priorities for use of grant funds during the upcoming program year. This year five sites at various locations around the state have been selected to conduct these hearings. Attached is the list of public hearing locations, dates and times.

During these hearings state agencies will obtain public comments regarding the allocation of approximately \$26,772,626 in CDBG, HOME, ESG and HOPWA funds for the next fiscal year beginning in July 2012.

If you are not able to attend a public hearing, written comments can be mailed or delivered to the Arkansas Economic Development Commission, Grants Management Division, 900 W. Capitol, Suite 400, Little Rock, AR 72201. The deadline to receive comments is 4:30 p.m. on April 18, 2012.

Copies of the Annual Update are available and may be reviewed at the County Judge's office in the county courthouse and at the library of each two-year and four-year college. You may also access the Consolidated Plan at the Arkansas Economic Development Commission web site: <http://www.arkansasedc.com>.

CDBG grants are targeted to Arkansas' smaller rural communities and have traditionally been used for senior citizen centers, public health facilities, childcare centers, fire protection, community facilities, economic development projects and water/wastewater projects.

HOME grants are used for tenant-based rental assistance (TBRA), rehabilitation and new housing construction.

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ESG awards are used to provide funding for homeless shelters. Funds can be used for rehabilitation, homelessness prevention, essential services, maintenance, and operating costs.

HOPWA funds are used for tenant-based rental assistance, emergency rental assistance, utility assistance and supportive services for low-income HIV positive individuals and their families.

Please encourage citizens of your community interested in obtaining more information concerning these grant programs, to attend a public hearing convenient to their location. You may contact me at 501-682-1211 or by e-mail at bjulian@arkansasedc.com for more information on any of these programs.

We look forward to your participation in the public hearing process and working with you and your community. Thanks to each of you for your cooperation and support as we work to address the needs of our citizens throughout our state.

Sincerely,

Basil Julian
Grants Division Director

BJ:dh

Enclosures

cc: Mac Dodson, ADFA
Dr. Paul Halverson, ADH
John Selig, DHS
Grant Tennille, AEDC

Consolidated Plan Annual Update Public Hearings

The Arkansas Consolidated Plan Committee will have public hearings on the Consolidated Plan Annual Update for 2012 at the following locations:

Date	Location	Time
April 3, 2012	Jonesboro East AR Planning & Development District 2905 King St.	10:30 a.m.
April 5, 2012	Hope City Hall 206 W. Avenue A	10:30 a.m.
April 6, 2012	Lake Village Fire State #2 Hwy 65 & 82 South	10:30 a.m.
April 10, 2012	Little Rock Association of Arkansas Counties 1415 W. 3 rd St.	10:30 a.m.
April 11, 2012	Eureka Springs Eureka Inn 101 E. Van Buren Street	10:30 a.m.

All meeting locations are wheelchair accessible. Persons needing interpreters or other accommodations are requested to telephone the Economic Development Commission at 501-682-7392 and speak to Basil Julian so that arrangements can be made in advance.