

Mayor
Willard Rodarmel
Mayor Pro Tem
John Plourde
Council Members
John Gordon
John Murray
William Siegel



**Office of the
City Manager**

119 Fox Street
Lemoore ♦ CA 93245
Phone ♦ (559) 924-6702
FAX ♦ (559) 924-9003

Staff Report

ITEM NO. 7

To: Lemoore City Council
From: Brooke Austin, Housing Specialist
Date: March 9, 2012
Subject: Public Hearing – Design Phase Hearing –
Community Development Block Grant

Discussion:

The State Department of Housing and Community Development released a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for all activities. The maximum award limits under each activity as listed in the NOFA are as follows: up to \$300,000 is available under the Enterprise Fund Allocation for either business assistance or micro-enterprise assistance or up to \$500,000 for a combination of both; up to \$1,000,000 for housing activities; up to \$1,500,000 for public improvement activities; up to \$500,000 for public service activities; up to \$1,500,000 for public facilities activities; up to \$100,000 for planning and technical assistance activities; and up to \$100,000 for set-aside activities. However, jurisdictions are only eligible to apply for a maximum of three activities up to a total of \$2,000,000. Lemoore has received nearly \$4,000,000 in CDBG funds over the past 10 years, which have been used for the following projects – Antlers Hotel, Generations Daycare, Westside Water Tank, Lemoore Teen and Senior Centers, Curb-Cuts, a Microenterprise Façade Program and Public Improvements in Support of New Housing for Cinnamon Villas, as well as Planning and Technical Assistance Grants for a Senior Housing Needs and Reuse/Feasibility Study of the Antler Hotel, a Citywide Housing Study, a Medical Needs Assessment Study, a Commercial Reuse Study.

Eligible activities for the General Allocation component include Public Works, Housing New Construction, Housing Acquisition, Housing Rehabilitation, Community Facilities, Public Services and Planning and Technical Assistance. Eligible activities for the Economic Development component include 1) loans to employers for an identified CDBG-eligible activity, which will result in the creation or retention of permanent jobs and 2) constructing infrastructure improvements, which are necessary to accommodate the creation, expansion or retention of a business that will create jobs.

Proposed projects funded with CDBG allocations must carry out at least one of the three National Objectives, as follows: 1) benefit low income households or persons, 2) aid in the prevention or elimination of slums or blight, or 3) meet urgent community development needs.

The City has received a request to consider applying for funds during this NOFA funding cycle. The proposed project meets the Council's prior recommendation, which is to rehabilitate our existing multi-family housing complexes. Attached is a proposal from Central Valley Christian (CVC) Housing regarding rehabilitation of the Brookfair Manor Apartments located at 515 Beech Lane, Lemoore. CVC Housing would like to make the following improvements: installation of 72 sewer laterals, replacement of 52 evaporative coolers with HVAC units, installation of new roofs for 22 buildings, and exterior painting of 24 buildings. A representative from CVC Housing will be present at Tuesday night's meeting to discuss their project.

If Council is in favor of pursuing a grant for this project, CVC Housing has agreed to prepare the grant application on behalf of the City. In addition to grant funds available for the project, the City will be eligible to apply for \$234,600 for grant administration and activity delivery. There is no match requirement and no additional points will be awarded this year for leverage, so the City does not have to directly contribute any funds to the project.

Applications for the current NOFA round are due April 6. However, prior to applying for funding under the State's CDBG program, the City must first obtain input from local citizens and agencies that provide services to low income persons and families about possible projects and activities desired in Lemoore. Council can take into consideration all suggestions submitted and direct staff to pursue funding opportunities for the proposed projects and activities they select. Those identified by Council will be added to a list of potential projects for future NOFA rounds.

Budget Impact:

None.

Recommendation:

That the City Council open the public hearing and accept testimony and ideas for Community Development Block Grant applications. Following the public hearing provide staff direction towards which grants the City should pursue.