

FAQ

What is the HUD definition of “homeless”?

The following definition of “homeless” is provided as information only. All proposed projects submitted for funding under the City of Coeur d’Alene’s 2009 Grant Opportunity must meet at least one National Objective and further the goals of the City of Coeur d’Alene’s 5-year Consolidated Plan.

1. an individual who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence; and
2. an individual who has a primary nighttime residence that is —
 - A. a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designed to provide temporary living accommodations (including welfare hotels, congregate shelters, and transitional housing for the mentally ill);
 - B. an institution that provides a temporary residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized; or
 - C. a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.

Does Coeur d’Alene have a slum and blight area?

There are no designated slum and blight area in Coeur d’Alene. While the City of Coeur d’Alene originally utilized the designation of a deteriorated area in the establishment of the Urban Renewal Lake District in 1997, it is clear that with the utilization of the urban renewal funding, those areas are well on their way to enhanced growth and development. Should an applicant’s grant proposal require such a designation, it would have to be approved through the City Council.

How many points are in each category? Including discretionary?

Need- 14 points possible

Goals and Outcomes- 28 points possible

Plan and Implementation- 28 points possible

Capacity- 20 points possible

Leverage- 10 points possible

Discretionary- 15 points possible

The complete list of criteria factors is available in the 2009 Grant

Application Guidelines document on the City's website at www.cdaid.org

Can you define public service?

HUD's definition of public service as stated in the HUD Basically CDBG Assistance Manual is provided below.

Some of the activities listed below may not be applicable to the City of Coeur d'Alene's 2009 Entitlement Grant Opportunity. All proposed projects must meet at least one National Objective and further the goals of the City of Coeur d'Alene's 5-year Consolidated Plan.

7.1.1 Eligible Public Service Activities

The CDBG regulations allow the use of grant funds for a wide range of public service activities, including, but not limited to:

- ▶ Employment services (e.g., job training);
- ▶ Crime prevention and public safety;
- ▶ Child care;
- ▶ Health services;
- ▶ Substance abuse services (e.g., counseling and treatment);
- ▶ Fair housing counseling;
- ▶ Education programs;
- ▶ Energy conservation;
- ▶ Services for senior citizens;
- ▶ Services for homeless persons;
- ▶ Welfare services (excluding income payments);
- ▶ Down payment assistance (also refer to Chapter 4); and
- ▶ Recreational services.

CDBG funds may be used to pay for labor, supplies, and material as well as to operate and/or maintain the portion of a facility in which the public service is located. This includes the lease of a facility, equipment, and other property needed for the public service.

To utilize CDBG funds for a public service, the service must be either:

- ▶ A new service; or
- ▶ A quantifiable increase in the level of an existing service which has been provided by the grantee or another entity on its behalf through State or local government funds in the 12 months preceding the submission of the grantee's Consolidated Plan Annual Action Plan to HUD.
- ▶ An exception to this requirement may be made if HUD determines that any decrease in the level of a service was the result of events not within the control of the local government.

This provision was put into place to ensure that localities did not use CDBG funds to replace local or state monies to fund essential services typically offered by the local government entity.

Specifically, the public services provision applies in the following manner:

- ▶ If a service is new, it may be funded.
- ▶ If a service is existing, determine whether it was provided by or on behalf of the unit of local government with local or state funding.
- ▶ If it was not provided by or on behalf of the local government with funding from the local government, it may be funded,
- ▶ If it was provided by or on behalf of the local government with funding from the local government, grantees must determine whether the proposed service will be a quantifiable increase in the level of service. If it can be documented that the service is a quantifiable increase in the level of service, it may be funded.
- ▶ The regulations do not prohibit a grantee from continuing to provide funding to a CDBG-funded public service at the same or decreased level in subsequent program years.

7.1.2 Ineligible Public Service Activities

The provision of "income payments" is an ineligible CDBG activity if these payments are provided as a grant.

Income payments are payments to an individual or family, which are used to provide basic services such as food, shelter (including payment for rent, mortgage, and/or utilities) or clothing.

However, such expenditures are eligible under the following conditions:

- ▶ The income payments do not exceed three consecutive months; and
- ▶ The payments are made directly to the provider of such services on behalf of an individual or family.
- ▶ Income payments that are provided as a loan are permissible within the public services cap.

Political activities are ineligible.

What if your project falls into more than one category?

Funding for Public Service projects is limited. Projects that qualify under more than one National Objective, such as assistance to LMI, should submit under that category. If you are unsure under which National Objective your project fits, please do not hesitate to call Panhandle Area Council (PAC) at 208-772-0584 Ext.3012.

What are the dates of the funding cycle?

The City's annual plan year and funding cycle is April 1 to March 31.

Who determines the allocation of funds under the City's Entitlement program?

The City follows the protocol as written in their five-year Consolidated Plan, which includes staff planning and public participation (including public meetings and public hearings.) Based on those inputs, recommendations are made to the City Council for final approval (through a public hearing process).

Why isn't the timeline longer than three weeks?

This is the first year the City is offering an open competition for grant-funded projects. Once the planning and design phase were completed, the three-week window was appropriate for a timely program start date. Technical assistance is available through Panhandle Area Council. Please do not hesitate to contact them for any questions, information, and/or comments.

How do the discretionary points work and do you always get 15 points?

Discretionary points are optional and may be assigned by individual grant Review Committee members when they feel a project displays an exceptional quality under one of the application criteria categories, and may use one or more points. Many CDBG Entitlement programs use a similar system, utilizing the term "Bonus" points. These points are tied directly to criteria listed in the Grant Application. (For more information, see the question below regarding scoring.)

Can you explain how the scoring happens for each category?

There are five rating factors: Need, Goals and Outcomes, Plan and Implementation, Capacity, and Leverage. Each has an assigned number of points, and the application guidelines contain a list of questions (criteria) to be answered under each category. A review committee will rate each application individually, and then the scores for each potential project are entered onto an individual summary sheet, and then averaged for a final score. Because there are limited funds, and additional limitations for Public Services proposals, recommendations to the City Council will be based on the highest ranked proposals for which there is adequate funding.

Is it conceivable that one applicant could get the entire \$ 90,000?

Yes, it is conceivable. Public Services projects are limited to 15% of the City's total annual allocation, approximately \$46,350. If a Public Service project is recommended, it will follow that at least one other project may receive funding.

Could the review committee give \$45,000 to an organization that asked for \$ 90,000, in order to fund more projects?

If the amount an organization is requesting is crucial to the successful completion of their project the committee would not reduce the award just to try and fund more projects.

Who has the final verdict for the CDBG grant?

City Council receives recommendations and makes final approval.

Does the organization applying for the grant have to be in Coeur d'Alene City limits?

The project must benefit at least 51% Coeur d'Alene residents.

When does Davis Bacon apply?

Davis Bacon will apply when a construction project is \$2,000 or more.

What happens to the rest of the approximately \$ 300,000 City allocation?

The complete list of allocations for the City's 2009 Annual Action Plan is available on the City's website at www.cdavid.org. In summary, the remaining funds are utilized for administration, a sidewalk project, land acquisition, and a minor home repair program.