

Application Cycle

The CDBG and HOME program year operates from July 1 to June 30.

WINTER

- In December the Mayor is notified of allocation amounts for both programs.
- The Community Development Agency application process begins in January of each year.
- CDBG/HOME Applications are due by the published deadline, usually 30 days after applications become available. No late applications will be considered.
- An application workshop is held and attendance by the applicant is required.
- All applications are reviewed for eligibility by the Community Development Staff.
- After a thorough review of the applications, Community Development Advisory Committee (CDAC) members hold 3 public hearings with applicants required to make a presentation of information regarding their proposal.
- CDAC members discuss and rate all applications before making formal funding recommendations, which are then forwarded to the City Board of Directors.

SPRING

- The Board of Directors reviews, discusses and votes on final CDBG / HOME allocations.
- An Annual Action Plan, which details the proposed funded activities for the year, is submitted to HUD.

SUMMER

- Upon HUD approval of the Annual Action Plan agreements between the City of Fort Smith and each funded agency are executed.
- CDBG funds become available to subrecipients after July 1.

Technical Assistance is Available

Recognizing that CDBG & HOME regulations can be complex at times, CD staff will gladly answer any regulatory questions prior to submission of applications and/or provide you copies of CDBG/HOME handbooks, HUD regulations or Federal requirements- OMB circulars, Labor (Davis Bacon wage) requirements etc.

For more information,

please call the

Community Development

Department at (479) 784-2209



City of Fort Smith

Community Development Department



Director, Matt Jennings

CD Coordinator, Jamie Fout

Housing Assistance Coordinator, David Smith

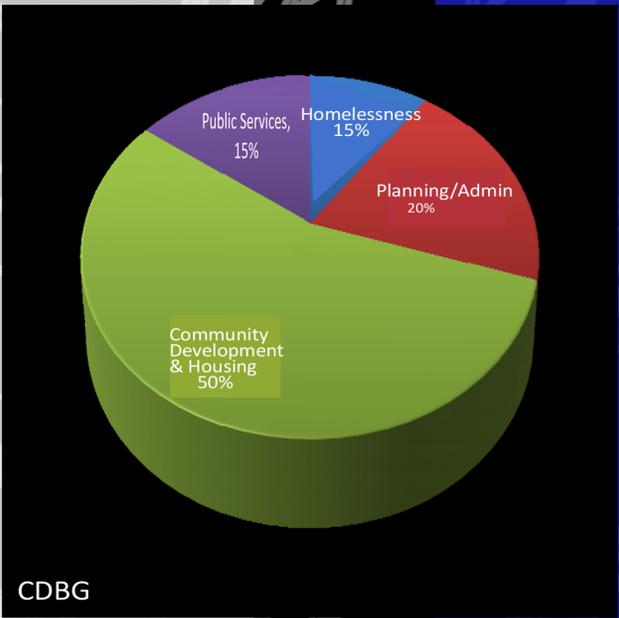
Accounting Technician, Candyce Waters

Each year the City receives varying amounts of funds for Community Development from the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and the HOME Investment Partnership (HOME) Programs.

What is CDBG?

The City of Fort Smith provides grant assistance through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds received from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Local applicants are awarded funding on an annual basis to implement activities which provide decent safe housing, a suitable living environment, and public services principally for low and moderate income persons.

As the nation's eighth largest Federal grant program, the CDBG program impacts neighborhoods, community's housing stock, and public facilities. Traditionally the rehabilitation of owner-occupied housing has been the largest single use of CDBG funds in Fort Smith.



CDBG

WHAT ARE ELIGIBLE USES OF FUNDS?

In order to qualify for CDBG funding, an activity must further one or more of the National Objectives:

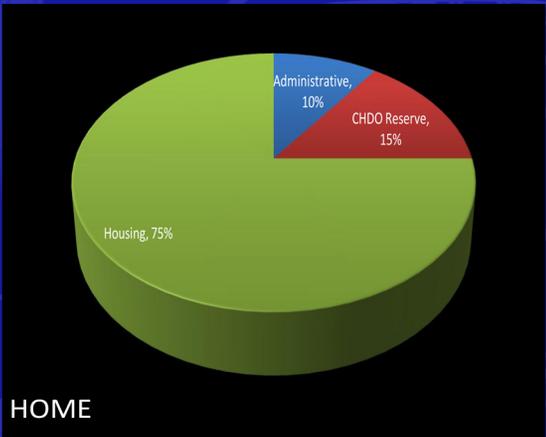
- Benefit low- and/or moderate-income
- Aid in the prevention or elimination of slums or blight
- Meet a community need having a particular urgency

CDBG funds may be used for activities which include, but are not limited to:

- acquisition of real property
- demolition
- rehabilitation of single family owner-occupied residential structures
- construction of public facilities and improvements, such as water and sewer facilities, streets, neighborhood centers, even limited public services and homeless housing/shelter rehabilitation.

What is HOME?

The (HOME) program is the largest Federal block grant to cities designed exclusively to create affordable housing for low- income households. The HOME program's flexibility empowers people and communities to design and implement strategies tailored to their own needs and priorities, with an emphasis on consolidated planning, to expand and strengthen partnerships among all levels of government and the private sector. The city is required to reserve at least 15% of HOME funds for Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDO) to undertake projects.



HOME

HOME Investment Partnership Act [HOME]:

Provides funding to retain and expand the amount of affordable housing for very-low, low and moderate income families. Program funds may be used for:

- housing acquisition
- rehabilitation
- new construction
- housing assistance
- first time homebuyer financing and administrative services

An eligible activity must also address a priority need, as identified in the City of Fort Smith's Five Year Consolidated Plan. Needs fall into the following categories:

1. Housing
2. Homeless
3. Special Needs
4. Non-housing Community Development

* Copies of the City of Fort Smith Five Year Consolidated Plan (2011-2015) can be viewed at the Fort Smith Public Library or online at www.fortsmithar.gov