

# CITY OF COLUMBUS

# 2025 CDBG APPLICATION RELEASE WORKSHOP



THE CITY OF  
**COLUMBUS**

ANDREW J. GINTHER, MAYOR

# **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) BACKGROUND**



**The City anticipates  
receiving approx.  
\$7,500,000 in CDBG  
for PY 2025**

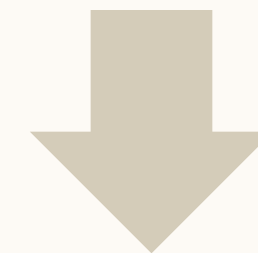
**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING &  
URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HUD)**



**CITY OF COLUMBUS, DEPARTMENT  
OF FINANCE & MANAGEMENT**



**SUBRECIPIENTS (INTERNAL CITY  
DEPARTMENTS AND EXTERNAL  
AGENCIES)**



**USE FUNDING FOR ACTIVITIES  
THAT SERVE BENEFICIARIES**

# CDBG BACKGROUND

- CDBG funding is available for PY 2025 (Jan 1 - Dec 31)
  - In most cases, agreements will match this term and all costs must be incurred within the year
- Funding is never guaranteed for future years
- CDBG grants are reimbursement grants
- Primary purpose of CDBG funds is to make physical improvements in communities to benefit low- to moderate-income persons
  - Programs and services are eligible, but limited

# CDBG PROCESS

We are currently undergoing the planning process for our **2025-2029 Consolidated Plan (Con Plan)**

The Con Plan is carried out through **Annual Action Plans (AAPs)**

The City reports to HUD on annual outcomes in the **Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER)**

# 2025-2029 CON PLAN

## Consultation/ Citizen Participation

The Con Plan requires the City to engage with the community in developing the plan. These efforts encourage alignment and coordination between those involved in community development, and establish priorities for investment of the City's HUD funding.

## Needs Assessment

The Con Plan uses standardized data sets to evaluate housing needs in the City, including identifying populations with housing problems, those with disproportionately greater needs, and homeless needs, as well as non-housing needs including for public facilities and public services.

The City can add supplemental data sets and discussion to expand on local needs.

## Market Analysis

The Market Analysis supplements the Needs Assessment to help ensure that goals and strategies that are proposed to address the needs identified are designed to fit the local market. It will refine the understanding of what must be prioritized in the Strategic Plan.

## Strategic Plan

The Strategic Plan sets the goals and priorities for the City's investment of HUD funds for the 5-year plan term, based on the findings of the previous three sections.

It does not establish specific projects to be funded, but all funded projects must align with one of the goals established in the plan, and the City reports annual progress towards addressing these goals.

# CDBG ELIGIBILITY OVERVIEW

## National Objective

Establishes a basic level of eligibility by establishing the basis on which a project will benefit the public

## Eligible Activities

Classifies activities into authorized categories of eligibility and establishes the required documentation for the proposed activity

## Allowable Costs

Costs must be reasonable, allowable, and allocable to be reimbursed with CDBG.

Requires that all costs are necessary and directly related to the grant. Also requires that costs can be directly tracked to the grant program.

# CDBG NATIONAL OBJECTIVES

*NATIONAL  
OBJECTIVES*

**LOW/MOD**

Area  
Benefit

Limited  
Clientele

Housing

Jobs

**SLUM/BLIGHT**

Area  
Basis

Spot  
Basis

Urban  
Renewal

**URGENT  
NEED**

**Must expend 70%  
of CDBG funds to  
benefit low- to  
moderate-income  
(LMI) persons**

# LOW/MOD AREA BENEFIT

Benefits all residents in a particular service area where at least 51% of residents are LMI persons

Service area must be *primarily residential* and the activity must meet the identified needs of LMI persons

Examples:

- Acquisition of land to be used as a neighborhood park
- Construction of a health clinic
- Improvements to public infrastructure like the installation of gutters and sidewalks;
- Development of a community center



# LOW/MOD LIMITED CLIENTELE

51% of beneficiaries of an activity must be LMI

Activity qualifies based on actual number of LMI persons that benefit from the activity

Provide benefits to a *specific group of persons*, rather than everyone in an area

Options for qualifying:

- 1) Presumed clientele
- 2) Eligibility requirements limit participation to LMI
- 3) Documentation that 51% of participants are LMI
- 4) Nature & location indicate LMI

# LOW/MOD HOUSING

Activities undertaken for the purpose of providing or improving permanent residential structures which upon completion will be occupied by LMI households

*Household = All people living together*

Rental housing occupancy by LMI households must be at affordable rents

- Structures with 1 unit must be occupied by an LMI household
- Structures with 2 units must have an LMI household occupying at least 1 unit
- Structures with 3 or more units must have LMI households occupying more than half of the units

# LOW/MOD JOB CREATION OR RETENTION

Activities designed to *create or retain permanent jobs, at least 51% of which will be made available to or held by LMI persons*

Jobs counted on a permanent full time equivalent (FTE) basis

Examples:

- Clearance activities on a site slated for a new business
- Rehab activity that will correct code violations and enable a business to survive and retain jobs
- Financial assistance to a manufacturer for the expansion of its facilities that is expected to create permanent jobs
- Assistance to expand a small house cleaning service with four employees that agrees to hire three additional LMI employees

# PUBLIC FACILITIES & INFRASTRUCTURE

- **Infrastructure:** Streets, sidewalks, water, sewer facilities/lines
- **Neighborhood facilities:** Parks, playgrounds, recreational/community centers, libraries (Must be open to the public during normal working hours)
- **Facilities for special needs populations:** Homeless shelters, domestic violence shelters, nursing homes, group homes for people with disabilities (Must be owned by public agency or non-profit)
- **Eligible activities:** Acquisition, improvements, demolition, disposition
- **Ineligible activities:** General maintenance and repair
- Typically qualifies under Low/Mod Area Benefit & Low/Mod Limited Clientele

# PUBLIC FACILITIES & INFRASTRUCTURE

## Reeb Center Improvements

- Entryway improvements increased security and accessibility
- Boiler replacement improved heating system
- Kitchenette renovation to improve capacity and code issues, improve distribution of free meals
- Community center that is open to all residents in a service area determined to be predominately LMI, which qualifies under Area Benefit National Objective



# PUBLIC SERVICES

- **Programming that benefits LMI persons**
- **15% cap** on public service activities (approx. \$1m per year)
- New service or quantifiable increase in services is highly encouraged
- Includes costs for labor, supplies, and materials
- **Eligible activities:** Services for seniors, services for homeless persons, recreation programs, education programs, childcare, healthcare
- **Ineligible activities:** General maintenance and operations, a program that does not benefit at least 51% LMI persons, political activities, income payments

# PUBLIC SERVICES

## Franklinton Development Association Financial Life-Skills Program

- Educational program that helps residents better navigate the complex worlds of finance and housing
- CDBG assisted with staff salaries, classroom supplies (including textbooks), and marketing materials
- Qualified under Limited Clientele National Objective due to documentation that at least 51% of program participants are LMI



A FLSP cohort with instructor and Community Engagement Director, Ashley Montana  
<https://franklintondevelopment.org/flsp>

# HOUSING

## Eligible activities:

- Emergency repair
- Spot or substantial rehab
- Homeownership assistance
- Demolition
- Disposition
- Site clearance & assemblage
- Site improvements

## Ineligible activities:

- New construction
- Direct mortgage guarantees
- Purchase of construction equipment
- Mortgage or utility payments



# HOUSING

## Habitat for Humanity MidOhio Roof Repair Program

- Enables families to continue living in and maintaining a safe, decent, and affordable home
- Housing rehab activity
- LMI Housing National Objective is due to the nature and income eligibility restrictions of the program
  - Household income must be at or below 80% AMI
  - Document size and combined income of each household receiving services

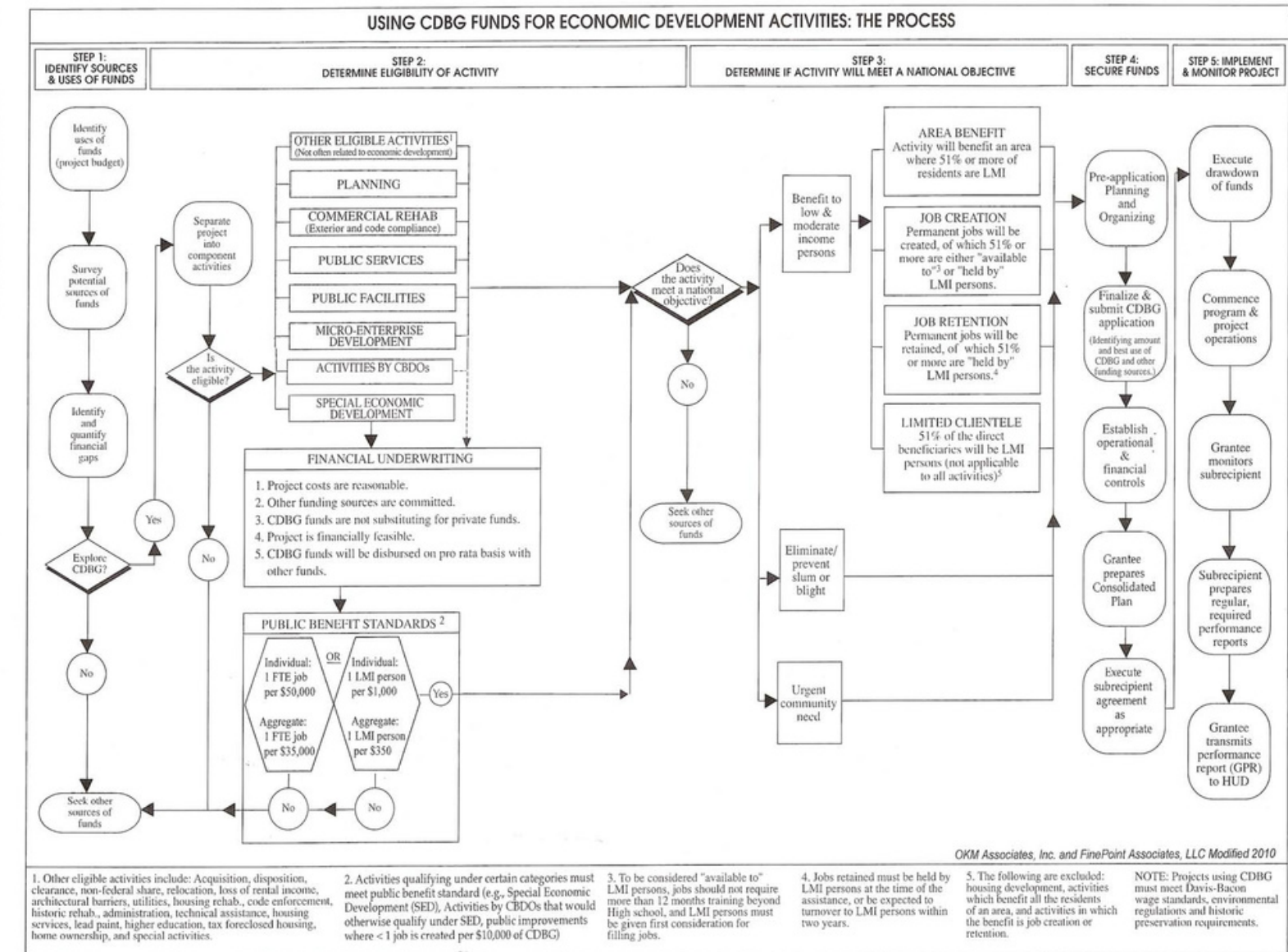


<https://www.habitatmidohio.org/what-we-do/home-repair.html>

# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Special Economic Development - non-profit
- Special Economic Development - for profit
- Microenterprise Development (5 or fewer employees)
- Public Facilities
- Commercial Rehabilitation

In most cases, meeting a national objective for these activities requires job creation or retention outcome with written commitment, or provide at least a minimum level of public benefit in the aggregate



# CDBG INELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

Activities that are *always* ineligible:

- Improvements on buildings used for the general conduct of government
- General government expenses
- Political activities
- Explicitly religious activities

Activities that are *generally* ineligible:

- Purchase of equipment & vehicles
- Operating & maintenance expenses
- New housing construction
- Income payments

# ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

- Environmental Review
- Federal Labor Standards & Section 3
- Lead-Based Paint Poisoning Prevention
- Handicapped Accessibility
- Fair Housing & Equal Opportunity
- Grants Management Control Policies
- Financial Management & Recordkeeping & Audit Requirements
- Vendor Services & UEI Registration

An aerial photograph of a city skyline, likely Atlanta, Georgia, featuring a river (the Chattahoochee River) winding through the city, surrounded by green spaces and modern buildings. The sky is blue with scattered white clouds.

# **2025 CDBC APPLICATION WALKTHROUGH**

**Applications are due June 14th, 2024**

# 2025 CDBG GRANT TIMELINE

June 14th, 2024, 11:59PM	2025 CDBG Application Due
June 14 - August 2024	CDBG project review & scoring
August - October 2024	Public participation process and selection of 2025 CDBG awards
October 2024	Columbus City Council to pass legislation adopting draft 2025 AAP
January 1, 2025	Program year begins!

# OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONTINUED ENGAGEMENT

## 2025 CDBG Application Technical Assistance Workshop

Thursday, May 2 at 3:00 PM

Columbus Public Health, Auditorium  
240 Parsons Avenue

1:1 technical assistance is available by request:

<https://us.openforms.com/Form/01076a20-addf-484d-b1b4-0a4508650aa5>



An aerial photograph of Columbus, Ohio, showing the city skyline with several prominent skyscrapers in the background. In the foreground, there is a large green park area with a winding path and a body of water. The image is slightly blurred and has a warm, golden-hour light.

**THANK YOU FOR COMING!**  
**ANY QUESTIONS?**

*Stay in touch:*

**grantsmgmt@columbus.gov**

<https://www.columbus.gov/finance/financial-management-group/Grants-Management/>