

Community Development Block Grant Scoring Worksheet

City of Columbus Department of Finance and Management

The following scoring sheet outlines the criteria and associated scoring that the Department of Finance and Management will use to evaluate CDBG project proposals for the 2025 program year.

1. National Objectives Pass/Fail

- a. All projects must meet one of the three CDBG National Objectives to be considered for funding. For more information visit <https://www.hudexchange.info/trainings/basically-cdbg-online/national-objectives-and-eligible-activities/> or contact grantsmgmt@columbus.gov

2. Project Scope and Community Need Maximum of 30 Points

- a. Scope and impact (20 points): Points will be awarded based on the application's clarity in defining the project scope and eligible CDBG activities, and the application's ability to link the impact of the activities and outputs of the project to the identified community need.
- b. Community need (10 points): Points will be awarded based on the documentation and justification of the need for the project. Applications that identify specific gaps in services or unmet demand that is addressed by the project will receive higher scores.

Score: of 30

3. Community Engagement and Alignment Maximum of 15 Points

- a. Community engagement and representation (10 points): Points will be awarded based on demonstrated engagement with the community served by the project and representation of the community in the planning or implementation process.
- b. Alignment (5 points): Points will be awarded based on the application's alignment with the City's Consolidated Plan goals, the Mayor's Opportunity Rising Aspirations, and the applicant organization's demonstrated commitment to equity and the development of viable urban communities.

Score: of 15

4. Project Budget Maximum of 25 Points

- a. Completeness (10 points): Points will be awarded based on completeness of the budget summary, including basis and justification for estimated costs. Budgets that include ineligible costs (refer to Uniform Guidance) will not receive full points.
- b. Reasonableness (10 points): Points will be awarded based on reasonableness of costs incurred per beneficiary and the justification for a particular level of funding. Points will be awarded based on 1) the project's impact on the identified need; and 2) its implementation costs and funding request relative to its financial and human resources.
- c. Sustainability (5 points): Points will be awarded based on identified future funding sources for multi-year projects or operating budgets. For construction/public improvement projects, the useful life of the improvement will be considered.

Score: of 25



5. Project Management and Organizational Capacity

Maximum of 20 Points

- a. Management (10 points): Points will be awarded based on documentation and information provided, showing that the resources needed to manage the proposed project are available and ready. Criteria considered include experience of project staff, experience undertaking projects of similar complexity, funding availability, clear implementation plan, site control (if project is related to a specific property), and other factors that may facilitate or limit the ability to implement the project in a timely manner.
- b. Organizational Capacity (10 points): Points will be awarded based on documentation and information provided, showing that the organization has demonstrated capacity to manage federal funds. Criteria considered include past performance of any local, state, or Federal funding programs as demonstrated in the application, experience of project staff, and organizational policies and procedures.

Score: of 20

6. Environmental Justice

Maximum of 5 Points

- a. Points will be awarded if the activity considers environmental justice factors (see <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/environmental-review/environmental-assessment/guide/socioeconomic/environmental-justice/>), and engages with affected communities. Any activity that has a potentially inequitable adverse impact on the environment or on residents of Columbus will receive fewer points. Current and planned coordination with affected communities and mitigation of potential impacts will be considered.

Score: of 5

7. Application Completeness

Maximum of 5 points

Applications will receive up to 5 points, based on completeness.

Score: of 5

Total Points: _____ /100

