



October 29, 2014

TO: PY 2015 Residential Public Infrastructure Program Advisory Committee Members
FROM: Michael A. Hiler, Deputy Chief, Office of Community Development
Michael A. Hiler
SUBJECT: PY 2015 Residential Public Infrastructure Program Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

On October 14, 2014, from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., the PY 2015 Residential Public Infrastructure Program Advisory Committee met at the Creekside Conference and Events Center in Gahanna, Ohio. The following is a summary of the major topics discussed at the meeting.

Introduction

Timothy Leasure, Office of Community Development (OCD) Community Development Analyst, called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

Introductions were made.

Planning

Community Development Implementation Strategy

OCD presented a new planning requirement proposed to become effective for the 2015 Program Year—the Community Development Implementation Strategy (CDIS). The CDIS would require all Community Development Allocation communities to notify eligible jurisdictions and neighborhoods about the existence of OCD's CDBG Community Development Programs. Communities would also be required to prioritize local projects and evaluate how CDBG-funded programs may assist with each project. Projects submitted for funding under the Residential Public Infrastructure Program should be included in the long term plan of the county or direct grantee city.

American Community Survey (ACS)

Low- and moderate-income (LMI) numbers from the 2006-2010 American Community Survey (ACS) Low- and Moderate Income Summary Data (LMISD) will be used to qualify service areas for PY 2014 Residential Public Infrastructure Program and all PY 2015 CDBG programs. ACS data is only available at the place or census tract/block group level and does not include census tracts or block groups within defined counties, cities, villages, and townships.

Qualifying Projects under the Area Benefit LMI National Objective

There are three methods applicants can use to qualify service areas; ACS data, income surveys, and a combination of ACS data and income survey results.

Program Update

OCD awarded eighteen grants, totaling \$8,704,400, under the PY 2013 grant program. These grants are expected to leverage \$52,015,116 in other public funding.

OCD has approved four projects under the PY 2014 Residential Public Infrastructure Program totaling approximately \$2.03 million. Approximately \$6.02 million in PY 2014 funding has not yet been committed. Additional funding may become available in April if all of the Economic Development Program funds have not been committed.

Application Documents

The OCEAN system web-based Residential Public Infrastructure Program application has not yet been finalized for use. The PY 2013 application has been updated and can be submitted for PY 2014 projects. Applicants are also required to submit a Letter of Interest prior to submission of a full application. The Letter of Interest must include brief description of the proposed project and project area; A summary of other funds committed to the project; A copy of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) Permit to Install or Plan Approval, if applicable; A brief description of the community's current water and wastewater systems; Name, address, telephone number and email address of the community's Chief Elected Official; and Name, address, telephone number and email address of the community's grant writer.

PY 2015 Residential Public Infrastructure Program Discussion

Eligible Applicants

Non-entitlement counties, cities and villages are currently eligible applicants for Residential Public Infrastructure Program funding. A brief discussion about eliminating villages as possible applicants resulted in mixed opinions from the committee members. Some committee members felt the impact would be minimal since counties can apply on the behalf of villages and use memorandums of understanding to pass the funds through to the villages. Other members thought this would be an unnecessary involvement of another governmental unit.

Collaboration and Regionalization

The Office of Community Development modified the PY 2014 Residential Public Infrastructure Program to consider collaboration on equal footing with regionalization. This was a recommendation of the PY 2014 Advisory Committee. Regionalization and collaboration will continue to be encouraged whenever feasible.

Sustainability

Mr. Leasure expressed OCD's concern about the ability of many small local systems to be sustainable. It was a generally held position of the committee that water and/or sewer systems must be efficiently operated and the user fees must be high enough to cover debt service and operation maintenance, and reserves (OMR).

Other

Committee members expressed concern about the high margin of error of the ACS median household income (MHI) numbers. OCD proposed setting a threshold of \$30/month user fee for a single utility and \$60/month a month user fee for two utilities. The percentage of the area MHI being used for utility payments would be eliminated as a scoring consideration. Instead, the sustainability of the system will be measured by looking at the income generated and the costs (debt service and OMR) of operation. Historical and projected demographics may also be used.

Program Goals

The program's goals and metrics, as well as Ohio's reporting to the Department of Housing and Urban Development on those goals, were discussed. In general, the Committee believes that the goals and metrics accurately reflect the program's mission.

Application Submission

The open cycle for application submission will be continued.

Reporting requirements (FPR)

The online application and grant management system will be used for the submission of Status and Final Performance Reports starting with PY 2014. Communities receiving funds through an Electronic Funds Transfer may also use the online system to draw funds starting with grants awarded in PY 2014.

Training and Wrap-Up

The committee members were notified of the upcoming Community Development Conference to be held on November 19 through 21, 2014 at the Sawmill Creek Resort in Erie County.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.



Ohio Development Services Agency
Office of Community Development

PY 2015

Residential Public Infrastructure Program Advisory Committee Members
Creekside Conference and Event Center
October 14, 2014

ATTENDANCE LIST

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>
Glen Crippen	Hocking Athens Perry CA
Matt Davis	E.D./C. Director
Lauren Falcone	Consultant
Joyce Gray	Ohio RCAP
Julie Green	Trumbull County Planning Commission
Michelle Hyer	Buckeye Hills-Hockey Valley
Ben Kepple	Ohio Development Services Agency
Tim Leasure	Ohio Development Services Agency
Dennis Miller	Maumee Valley Planning
Mary Oakley	Ohio Development Services Agency
Joy Padgett	Governor's Office of Appalachia
Josh Roth	Ohio Development Services Agency
Carolyn Thurman	Ohio Development Services Agency
Jeannette Wierzbicki	OMEGA
A.C. Wiethe	Belomar Regional Council
Melissa Zoller	Development Specialist III