



# Rhode Island Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG)

Proposed Program Modifications

# CDBG Staff

## ▶ Changes in Structure

- ▶ Assistant Chief vs. Supervisor of CDBG
- ▶ Additional Principal Planner(s)
- ▶ Dedicated Fiscal Staff (Deborah Mazzone)
- ▶ Possible additional fiscal clerk

## ▶ Responsibilities:

- ▶ Michael Tondra, Chief ([Michael.Tondra@doa.ri.gov](mailto:Michael.Tondra@doa.ri.gov))
- ▶ Laura Sullivan - Program Policy, Amendments, Applications ([Laura.Sullivan@doa.ri.gov](mailto:Laura.Sullivan@doa.ri.gov))
- ▶ Charles Kimes - Environmental Review, Monitoring/Technical Assistance ([Charles.Kimes@doa.ri.gov](mailto:Charles.Kimes@doa.ri.gov))
- ▶ Deborah Mazzone - Fiscal, Financial Monitoring ([Deborah.Mazzone@doa.ri.gov](mailto:Deborah.Mazzone@doa.ri.gov))
- ▶ June House - Disaster Recovery ([June.House@doa.ri.gov](mailto:June.House@doa.ri.gov))
- ▶ Mary Bray/Pheamo Witcher - Reporting, Homelessness ([Mary.Bray@doa.ri.gov](mailto:Mary.Bray@doa.ri.gov) or [Pheamo.Witcher@doa.ri.gov](mailto:Pheamo.Witcher@doa.ri.gov))
- ▶ Darlene Price (HRC) - Healthy Housing, Rehabilitation Setaside ([Darlene.Price@doa.ri.gov](mailto:Darlene.Price@doa.ri.gov))
- ▶ Raymond Neirinckx (HRC) - BHRI, Housing Technical Assistance ([Raymond.Neirinckx@doa.ri.gov](mailto:Raymond.Neirinckx@doa.ri.gov))
- ▶ Simon Kue, Planning/Comprehensive Plan ([Simon.Kue@doa.ri.gov](mailto:Simon.Kue@doa.ri.gov))

<http://OHCD.ri.gov>

# Program Design Changes

- ▶ PY' 2016 Debrief
  - ▶ HUD Monitoring
    - ▶ Reduce complexity in Program Design
    - ▶ Increased documentation requirements
      - ▶ Administration (Timesheets)
      - ▶ National Objective (Clearly stated by applicant; otherwise denied)
      - ▶ Budget and Cost Estimate (Funds Necessary & Reasonable)
      - ▶ Amendments (Cannot be used to circumvent review process)
  - ▶ Increased interest in setasides
  - ▶ Little/No \$ left for "low" priorities activities
    - ▶ Letter of denial
    - ▶ Meet w/Entitlement
- ▶ PY' 2017 Changes
  - ▶ Reduce number of recipients
  - ▶ Reduce number of activities
  - ▶ Larger awards (Project, Recipient)

# Program Design Changes

- ▶ Rolling Applications (Upon notification of award)
  - ▶ Available Statewide Non-Entitlement
  - ▶ Categories:
    - ▶ Housing Rehabilitation (decision - approx. 2 weeks)
    - ▶ Affordable Housing (permanent and transitional housing) (decision - up to 8 weeks)
    - ▶ Economic Development (including job training) (decision - up to 8 weeks)
- ▶ Annual Competitive Application (6-9 months after HUD announcement of State's alloc.)
  - ▶ Balance of funds not committed (if any) made available
  - ▶ Limited to communities with highest level of need
    - ▶ Concentrations of LMI persons (List)
  - ▶ Limited activities (non-rolling)
    - ▶ Public facilities, infrastructure, services (within cap), planning
  - ▶ Certain activities may benefit region

# Rationale

- ▶ Low priority activities typically only funded in high-need areas;
- ▶ Many activities (area benefit) only eligible in areas with concentrations of LMI persons;
- ▶ Rolling applications allow OHCD to assist interested parties w/capacity limitations;
- ▶ Funding can be awarded when needed;
- ▶ Reduces percentage of denied applications;
- ▶ Reduces administrative burden (local and State);

# Transition Plan

- ▶ August-September
  - ▶ Moratorium on rolling applications
  - ▶ Program Income Assessment
    - ▶ Used in State calculations
    - ▶ Changing regulations
  - ▶ Program forms/policies circulated
    - ▶ Standardized Forms
    - ▶ Policies (public comment, environmental review, etc.)
  - ▶ Closeouts
    - ▶ Amendments
  - ▶ Meeting w/Entitlements
  - ▶ Documentation cleanup
- ▶ October 1<sup>st</sup>
  - ▶ Kickoff (Rolling Application Period)
  - ▶ Winter - Annual Competitive Application (if funds available)



CDBG

# Questions and Answers

Public Comment (Consolidated Plan)  
written comments to Rick Rollins, RIH, by 8/9/2017