

County Council of Cuyahoga County, Ohio

Ordinance No. O2014-0006

Sponsored by: Councilmember Simon Co-sponsored by: Councilmembers Greenspan, Miller, Brady, Gallagher, Germana, Hairston, Jones, Connally, Conwell and Schron	An Ordinance enacting Chapter 714 of the Cuyahoga County Code to establish guidelines for the County Community Development Block Grant Fund Program, and declaring the necessity that this Ordinance become immediately effective.
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WHEREAS, Article VII, Section 7.01 of the Cuyahoga County Charter mandates that “the County shall develop and implement policies, programs and activities for the expansion and enhancement of economic activity in the County so as to create and preserve jobs and employment opportunities for and available to residents of the County;” and

WHEREAS, Cuyahoga County, as an Urban County designated by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (“HUD”), receives and administers an annual entitlement from the Community Development Block Grant program through the Cuyahoga County Department of Development; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Development carries out various housing and community development activities with Community Development Block Grant (“CDBG”) funds including but not limited to funding eligible activities carried out by other units of local government through a Municipal Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, Cuyahoga County, as an Urban County, has entered or will enter into cooperation agreements with all participating units of local government within the County pursuant to 24 CFR §570.307 (b)(1); and

WHEREAS, the Department of Development allocates a portion of the CDBG funds annually to eligible activities carried out by members of the Cuyahoga Urban County including but not limited to a Municipal Grant Program, pursuant to the cooperation agreements entered into with units of local government; and

WHEREAS, as part of the process of identifying activities eligible to receive Community Development Block Grant funding, Investment Target Areas are identified by Cuyahoga County with the advice from its municipal partners every ten years, in a manner directed, authorized, and approved by HUD; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary that this Ordinance become immediately effective in order that critical services provided by Cuyahoga County can continue and to provide for the usual, daily operation of the County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY, OHIO:

SECTION 1. Chapter 714 of the Cuyahoga County Code is hereby enacted to read as follows:

CHAPTER 714: County Community Development Block Grant Program

Section 714.01 Program Established

There is hereby created the Cuyahoga County Community Development Block Grant program consistent with all requirements set forth by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (“HUD”) under applicable federal law and regulations, including but not limited to the regulations codified in Title 24 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) §570.

Section 714.02 Program Administration

The Cuyahoga County Community Development Block Grant (“CDBG”) program shall be administered by the Cuyahoga County Executive through the Cuyahoga County Department of Development.

Section 714.03 Funding Source

The CDBG program shall be funded through entitlement funds allocated to Cuyahoga County each fiscal year by HUD, as determined by the Director of Development, consistent with the cooperation agreements between Cuyahoga County and each Urban County member community.

Section 714.04 Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible to receive CDBG funding for an eligible activity through the Municipal Grant Program, a local community shall meet the following criteria and all other requirements of applicable federal law and regulations including in Title 24 CFR §570:

(1) The community must be a signatory to the Cuyahoga County Urban County Cooperation Agreement pursuant to 24 CFR §570.503(a); and

(2) The community must be able to document appropriate activities to affirmatively further fair housing choice; and

(3) The community must document its compliance with citizen participation requirements as set forth in Cuyahoga County's Community Development Block Grant Citizen Participation Plan pursuant to 24 CFR §570.302; and

(4) The proposed activity must meet one of the three national objectives that benefit low-and moderate-income persons, aid in the prevention of elimination of slums and blight, or meet other community development needs of an urgent nature that present a serious and immediate threat to the health or welfare of the community. These initiatives include but are not limited to the following HUD eligible activities:

- a. community master plans,
- b. housing and commercial demolition,
- c. infrastructure,
- d. public safety,
- e. streetscapes,
- f. parks and playgrounds, or
- g. community and senior centers.

(5) The community must be in compliance with any existing contract for CDBG funds as determined by the Department of Development.

(6) For eligible activities which serve a defined area within a local community, the defined area must meet HUD's requirements which may include a location in an Improvement Target Area defined by Cuyahoga County, location in an area which meets Improvement Target Area guidelines as documented by the local community, or a location in and service to an area with a certain percentage of households having incomes at or below a certain level according to HUD-approved survey data; and

(7) The Department of Development shall issue written requirements for each year's application format, contents, and required attachments; and

(8) The Department of Development shall establish and notify local communities of each year's application deadline and other requirements regarding the application deadline.

Section 714.05 Evaluation Criteria

The Department of Development shall administer an evaluation process in which all timely submitted and properly completed applications for CDBG funding eligible activities shall be scored using an objective numerical rating system. The Department of Development may invite knowledgeable officials of other County departments and non-Urban County local communities to serve on a rating and ranking committee for this evaluation.

First Reading/Referred to Committee: February 25, 2014
Committee(s) Assigned: Economic Development & Planning

[CLERK'S NOTE: Reference to Cuyahoga County Code Chapter 712 was corrected to read as Chapter 714: March 7, 2014]

Additional Sponsorship Requested: October 20, 2014

Committee Report/Second Reading: October 28, 2014

Additional Sponsorship Requested on the Floor: November 12, 2014

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