

MEMO

To: Bruce Glasscock, City Manager
Frank Turner, Deputy City Manager

From: Christina Day, Community Services Manager

Date: May 3, 2011

Subject: **Robert W. Buffington Community Services Grant**

Since 1999, the City has provided Community Service grant funds to aid local social service agencies in serving Plano residents in need. Currently, the Buffington Community Services Grant, or BCSG, has standards adopted by resolution (attached) as well as administrative standards adopted both through the Community Relations Commission via application instructions or by contracts approved by City Council.

The grant is currently focused on two major objectives:

1. Community Services Purpose: The BCSG supplies funds to programs that provide short-term, urgent economic assistance or care services, offering immediate relief of crisis impacting the physical and/or mental health of Plano residents. General categories for such assistance and care include food, clothing, shelter, transportation, and medical or crisis counseling care.
2. Furthering Consolidated Plan Goals: Every five years, the City receives public input to develop a plan of housing and community development needs, consistent with the requirements of our U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funding. This plan provides a basis for which to better understand the existing needs within our community and help prioritize funding.

To be eligible for BCSG funding, an application must be completed per the grant instructions and demonstrate a program that meets the two objectives listed above. Programs that do not provide short-term economic assistance or care services or do not meet a Consolidated Plan goal are not recommended as eligible by staff. The Community Relations Commission then considers each application and makes a recommendation to Council.

In previous years, the definition of the grant was very broad, with a minimum of 50% of the funding being designated for emergency service providers. In December 2010, with the reduction in funding and increasing need, the City Council approved a narrower definition of the grant objectives, which allowed the Community Relations Commission to target funds entirely to short-term urgent economic assistance or care services.

The 2011 applications include funding requests for the following program services that are eligible for BCSG funding:

- Rent and utility assistance
- Clothing for qualified PISD school children
- Primary healthcare for qualified adults and children
- Meals for home-bound seniors
- Direct services to abused children and their families
- Dental care for qualified children and seniors
- Food pantry services
- Shelter and/or services for victims of family violence
- Services for survivors of sexual assault
- Geriatric health and wellness services
- Grief support
- Mental health support for disabled adults and children
- Transitional living for the homeless

Long-term programs that do not relieve an immediate need, however valuable, are not eligible for BCSG funds, per the definition. Those programs that support preventative, long-term care are still eligible for CDBG public service funding as long as they serve income-qualified residents and meet Federal standards, such as an annual audit as recommended for all non-profits receiving federal funds. Examples of long-term programs using CDBG funds are the Boys' and Girls' Clubs SMART Moves program at the Douglass Community Center and Communities in Schools in-school services for at-risk youth.

The Community Relations Commission and City staff are aware that United Way of Metropolitan Dallas has shifted their funding priorities to Education, Income (job training and financial education), and Health (primarily focused on children). This has left many former United Way Partners struggling to fill financial gaps left by the loss of their United Way funding. Throughout the public hearing process for the grants (conducted the past four weeks), agencies have been forthcoming about the status of their United Way grant and its impact on their current and 2012 budget. The Community Relations Commission is aware of these challenges and considers the budget of each agency as part of their overall deliberation of the grant requests.

The Community Relations Commission will meet to deliberate funding recommendations on Tuesday, May 17. If the Council wishes to provide direction or modification of the grant standards at their May 9 meeting, the Commission will be able to accommodate those considerations within the 2011 grant recommendations.

CC: Phyllis Jarrell, Director of Planning
Community Relations Commission

Attachments: Buffington Community Services Grant Resolution
Strategic Plan from 2010-14 Consolidated Plan of Housing and Community
Development Needs

RESOLUTION NO. 2010-12-16(R)

A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Plano, Texas, approving updates of the Rules and Regulations for the use of Buffington Community Services Grant funds; authorizing its execution by the City Manager or his authorized designee; and providing the effective date.

WHEREAS, the City Council recognizes the continuing need for community services within the City and, for this reason, makes funds available for social services;

WHEREAS, the City Council directed the Community Relations Commission to review the Buffington Community Services Grant for recommended updates, including the definition of "emergency services", to ensure these regulations are meeting their intent and directing funding in the best interest of the citizens of Plano; and

WHEREAS, the Community Relations Commission has considered the existing regulations and is recommending the Buffington Community Services Grant regulations be adopted as stated below;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PLANO, TEXAS, THAT:

Section I. - The Buffington Community Services Grant regulations, having been reviewed by the City Council of the City of Plano and found to be acceptable and in the best interests of the City of Plano and its citizens, are hereby in all things approved as follows:

"A. **OBJECTIVES** – The City of Plano recognizes the need for community services within the City and, for this reason, makes funds available for social services. The Buffington Community Services Grant (BCSG) supplies funds for programs that provide short-term, urgent economic assistance or care services, offering immediate relief of crisis impacting the physical and/or mental health of Plano residents. General categories for such assistance and care include food, clothing, shelter, transportation, and medical or crisis counseling care. All such services will contribute to one or more goals of the City's current, adopted Consolidated Plan of Housing and Community Development Goals.

B. **REQUIREMENTS** - Grants are for expenses incurred within the City of Plano Fiscal Year, between October 1 and September 30. All funds must be spent no later than September 30. Bills remaining to be paid after that date may not be paid with BCSG funds. Unspent funds must be returned to the City of Plano. Records to justify expenditures must be maintained by the agency for a period of five years after termination of the grant agreement.

Per the State of Texas, grants to a social service organization may not exceed 50% of the organization's annual budget.

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C. INELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES – Non-profit organizations may not utilize BCSG funds for any of the following:

1. Duplication of programs.
2. Social functions, parties, receptions, fund-raising benefits, refreshments, or beverages.
3. Licensing fees of any kind.
4. Underwriting, investments, stocks, bonds, or any financial obligation.
5. Fines, penalties, or costs of litigation.”

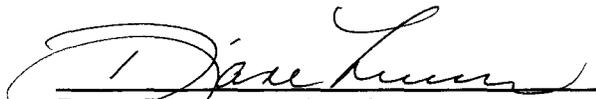
Section II. - This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its passage.

DULY PASSED AND APPROVED THIS THE 13TH DAY OF DECEMBER, 2010.



Phil Dyer, MAYOR

ATTEST:



Diane Zucco, CITY SECRETARY

Approved as to form:



Diane C. Wetherbee, CITY ATTORNEY



City of Plano, Texas Five Year Strategic Plan

This document includes Narrative Responses to specific questions that grantees of the Community Development Block Grant, HOME Investment Partnership, Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS and Emergency Shelter Grants Programs must respond to in order to be compliant with the Consolidated Planning Regulations.

GENERAL

Executive Summary

The Executive Summary is required. Include the objectives and outcomes identified in the plan and an evaluation of past performance.

5 Year Strategic Plan Executive Summary:

The City of Plano has established the following strategies, objectives and outcomes to guide its Consolidated Plan for program years 2010 to 2014.

DECENT HOUSING

Strategy DH: Encourage the provision of decent, safe and affordable housing for low and moderate income and special needs residents.

- **Objective DH-1.1 (Affordability):** Continue to preserve and enhance existing housing stock through home rehabilitation.

DH-1.1 five year outcomes:

- Provide programs to rehabilitate and improve the existing stock of homes occupied by low and moderate income owners.
 - *Outcome/five year goal:* 95 units
- Continue to offer and market programs to rehabilitate and improve existing rental stock occupied by low and moderate income renters.
 - *Outcome/five year goal:* 10 meetings and/or speaking engagements specifically to market the rehabilitation program to landlords with low and moderate tenants

- **Objective DH-1.2 (Affordability):** Continue to create affordable homeownership opportunities through homeownership assistance, new construction and/or acquisition and rehabilitation of land and properties for income qualifying households.

DH-1.2 five year outcomes:

- Provide assistance to homebuyers with downpayment assistance, closing cost assistance, and/or homebuyer education and counseling.
 - *Outcome/five year goal:* 60 units

- Consider sale of publicly owned land to affordable housing developers. Inventory available parcels and evaluate their feasibility for affordable housing development.
 - *Outcome/five year goal:* Develop map of vacant parcels by zoning district for affordable housing developers
- **Objective DH-1.3 (Affordability):** Increase and support affordable rental housing opportunities in Plano.
 - DH-1.3 five year outcomes:*
 - Continue to support the efforts of the Plano Housing Authority (PHA) to maintain affordable housing developments and issue Housing Choice Vouchers.
 - *Outcome/five year goal:* Complete 5 annual environmental reviews for PHA Capital Funding
 - *Outcome/five year goal:* Certify PHA initiatives as compliant with the Consolidated Plan as needed
 - Support applications for and the development of Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) projects.
 - *Outcome/five year goal:* Completed on an as needed basis

SUITABLE LIVING ENVIRONMENT

Strategy SL: Improve and maintain suitable living environments by supporting and enhancing public facilities, public services and infrastructure for low income persons, special needs populations and neighborhoods in need of revitalization.

- **Objective SL-2.1 (Availability/Accessibility):** Develop and upgrade public facilities and infrastructure to help lower income persons, those with special needs and neighborhoods in need.
 - SL-2.1 five year outcomes:*
 - Support and assist with the creation of additional shelter, supportive services, and transitional housing for homeless and under-housed.
 - *Outcome/five year goal:* 100 people
 - *Outcome/five year goal:* Certify local agency initiatives as compliant with the Consolidated Plan, as needed
 - Continue to assist with housing accessibility modifications for elderly and disabled residents within the City of Plano.
 - *Outcome/five year goal:* 5 housing units

- **Objective SL-2.2 (Availability/Accessibility):** Fund public service activities serving primarily lower income persons and those with special needs.

SL-2.2 five year outcomes:

- Provide support to organizations that engage in public services for Plano residents, especially special needs populations, including but not limited to low income elderly, persons with disabilities, persons with HIV/AIDS and at-risk youth.
 - *Outcome/five year goal:* 4,625 individuals
- Assist homeless supportive services across the entire spectrum of need, from homelessness to self-sufficiency, with the continued emphasis on homelessness prevention.
 - *Outcome/five year goal:* 100 families
 - *Outcome/five year goal:* Participate and fund annual Collin County Homeless PIT survey: 5 units

- **Objective SL-3 (Sustainability):** Support the rehabilitation/revitalization of aging neighborhoods through a mixture of infrastructure improvements, home and business rehabilitation, code enforcement, and expanding economic opportunities.

SL-3 five year outcomes:

- Actively pursue and track neighborhood well being by focusing resources on areas of greatest opportunity for improvement.
 - *Outcome/five year goal:* 3 neighborhoods showing measureable improvements

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

Strategy EO: Encourage economic opportunities that promote private investment for low and moderate income persons and area workforce.

- **Objective EO-2 (Availability/Accessibility):** Create and/or expand opportunities for small businesses and/or microenterprises.

EO-2 five year outcomes:

- Support activities that provide job training and assist with job/small business creation.
 - *Outcome/five year goal:* 50 people

OTHER

Strategy O: Continue program planning and administration that supports all of the above strategies and objectives.

- **Objective O-1:** Use CDBG and HOME funds to coordinate, monitor and implement the Consolidated Plan objectives according to HUD.
 - *Outcome/five year goal:* Create Action Plan and CAPER documents acceptable to HUD: 10 units

Past performance. The City of Plano met and exceeded ten of the seventeen objectives listed within the first four years of the 2005-2009 Consolidated Plan period. The objectives that have been met or exceeded include: new Section 8 units; apartment rehabilitation; rent and utility assistance; assistance for elderly persons; homeless services; youth services; literacy training; transportation assistance; and health care. The city anticipates to meet two of the remaining unmet objectives by the end of the 2005-2009 Consolidated Plan period.

Goal 1. Affordable Single Family Housing:

- The city had set a five year goal to assist with 35 new infill housing units; as of the end of 2008 the city had assisted with the creation of 19 infill units. The city does not anticipate to meet its five year goal due to the lack of available land.
- A goal to acquire/rehabilitate 25 housing units was set for the 2005-2009 Consolidated Plan, at the end of the 2008 Action Plan year 7 housing units had been acquired/rehabilitated. The city does not anticipate to meet its five year goal due to the fact that the city has only one designated Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO).
- One hundred first time homebuyers were planned to be assisted during the five year period; 69 of those homebuyers had been assisted by the end of the 2008 program year. By the of the 2009 Action Plan year the city anticipates to have assisted an additional 31 homebuyers, which meets the five year goal.

Goal 2. Affordable Rental Housing:

- The city set a five year goal to assist with 100 new Section 8 units, during the first four years of the Consolidated Plan the city had already met its goal and had assisted 236 units.
- The city does not expect to meet the goal of creating 1,000 new Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) units by the end of the Consolidated Plan period. As stated in the 2005-2009 Consolidated Plan, the city continued to support private developers who wished to utilize LIHTC to create affordable housing in the City of Plano. However, no grant applications were submitted to request city funds for use in the development of LIHTC units during the 2005-2009 Consolidated Plan years.
- Four LIHTC developments, 865 LIHTC units in total, are located within the city. Of the four developments, two developments (490 units) were built during the 2005 and 2006 calendar years.