

CDBG's 2018 Community Opportunity Grant FAQ Sheet

All proposed projects submitted for funding under the City of Coeur d'Alene's 2018 Community Opportunity Grants must meet at least one National Objective and further the goals of the City of Coeur d'Alene's 5-year Consolidated Plan.

Review Committee Rating Point System: How many points are in each category? Including discretionary?

Need- 14 points possible
Goals and Outcomes- 28 points possible
Plan and Implementation- 28 points possible
Capacity- 20 points possible
Leverage- 10 points possible
Discretionary- 15 points possible

*A complete list of criteria factors is available in the **Application Guidelines** document on the City's website at www.cdaid.org/communitygrant.

What are the definitions of public service, public facilities and improvements, and economic development activities?*

HUD's definitions of these activities, stated in the HUD Basically CDBG Assistance Manual, are extensive and are available on the HUD Website [here](http://www.hudexchange.info/resource/19/basically-cdbg-training-guidebook-and-slides/) or at <https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/19/basically-cdbg-training-guidebook-and-slides/>.

*It is important to remember that all eligible projects will need to match a HUD matrix code. Check [this document](#) or go to <https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/Matrix-Code-National-Objective-Table.pdf> to determine if your project has an eligible code. If you need additional help, please contact the City's CDBG Grant Administrator for technical assistance: Michelle Cushing, (208) 769-2382, mcushing@cdaid.org.

Some activities may not be applicable to the City of Coeur d'Alene's 2018 Community Opportunity Grants. All proposed projects must meet at least one National Objective and further the goals of the City of Coeur d'Alene's 5-year Consolidated Plan.

What if your project falls into more than one category?

Funding for these projects is limited. Projects which qualify under more than one National Objective, such as assistance to LMI, should submit under the category that would be easiest for

them to report on. If you are unsure under which National Objective your project fits best, please do not hesitate to call Michelle Cushing at (208) 769-2382 or email her at mcushing@cdaid.org.

What are the dates of the funding cycle?

The City's annual plan year and funding cycle is April 1 to March 31.

Who determines the allocation of funds under the City's Entitlement program?

The City follows their established protocol, as written in the five-year Consolidated Plan, which includes staff planning and public participation (including public meetings and public hearings.)

How do the discretionary points work and do you always get 15 points?

Discretionary points are optional and may be assigned by individual Review Committee members when they feel a project displays an exceptional quality under one of the application criteria categories. Committee members get a maximum of 15 points per grant cycle and may disperse them through the applications as they choose. Many CDBG Entitlement programs use a similar system, but utilize the term Bonus points rather than discretionary points. Either way, the points are tied directly to criteria listed in the Grant Application.

Can you explain how the scoring happens for each category?

There are five rating factors: Need, Goals and Outcomes, Plan and Implementation, Capacity and Leverage. Each has an assigned number of points, and the application guidelines contain a list of questions (criteria) to be answered under each category. A review committee will rate each application individually, and then the scores for each potential project are entered onto a summary sheet. Because this is a limited fund, and includes additional limitations for Public Services proposals, recommendations to the City Council will be based on the highest ranked proposals for which there is adequate funding.

Is it conceivable that one applicant could get the entire \$191,820?

Yes, it is conceivable. Public Services projects, however, are limited to 15% of the City's total annual allocation, approximately \$42,771.40 for the 2018 grant year. If a Public Service project is recommended at \$20,000, it will follow that at least one other project may receive funding.

Could the review committee give \$35,000 to an organization that asked for \$191,820 in order to fund more projects?

If the amount an organization is requesting is crucial to the successful completion of their project, the committee would not reduce the award just to try and fund more projects. However, if there are funds remaining after the grants with the highest scores are awarded; funds may be offered to the next highest scoring application not awarded.

Who has the final verdict for the CDBG grant?

City Council receives recommendations and makes final approval.

Does the organization applying for the grant have to be in Coeur d'Alene City limits?

No, however, the project must principally serve at least 51% or more low-to-moderate income citizens within Coeur d'Alene City limits. It may be very difficult to guarantee this mandated criteria if the services given or if unit location sits outside of City limits.

When does Davis Bacon apply?

Davis Bacon will apply when a construction project is funded partially or fully with CDBG funds in the amount of \$2,000 or more. However, Davis-Bacon does not apply to the rehabilitation of residential structures containing less than eight units. HUD has concluded that new construction (as well as rehabilitation) of residential property is also exempt from Federal labor standards if the property contains less than 8 units.

What is the HUD definition of “homeless”? The following definition of “homeless” is provided as information only

1. an individual who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence; and
2. an individual who has a primary nighttime residence that is —
 - A. a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designed to provide temporary living accommodations (including welfare hotels, congregate shelters, and transitional housing for the mentally ill);
 - B. an institution that provides a temporary residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized; or
 - C. a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.

Does Coeur d'Alene have a slum and blight area?

There are no Coeur d'Alene neighborhoods outside the revenue allocation areas defined by Ignite CDA that have been designated as “slum and blight.” Should an applicant’s grant proposal require such a designation, it would have to be approved through the City Council.

What happens to the rest of the 2018 CDBG Allocation?

The complete list of allocations for the City’s 2018 Annual Action Plan is available on the City’s website at <http://www.cdavid.org/cdbg>.