



Human Relations Commission

Agenda Report

For Agenda of: 9/3/2025

Item Number: 5a

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SUBJECT: ANNUAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT COMMUNITY NEEDS WORKSHOP

RECOMMENDATION

The Human Relations Commission to take public feedback and vote on funding priorities for the Community Development Block Grant program as deliberated during the meeting.

BACKGROUND

Annually, the Human Relations Commission (HRC) hosts a Community Needs Grant Workshop which allows the public to provide comments on current community development, social equity, and human service needs in the community. This input is used by the HRC to review, update, and approve funding priorities for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program.

CDBG funds are intended to assist in the development of viable urban communities by providing decent housing and a suitable living environment, and by expanding economic opportunities, principally for low- and moderate-income persons. Eligible projects include those that meet community development needs, and that are identified as a public improvement or facility. The estimated allocation for CDBG funding for the City of San Luis Obispo will be released when the County of San Luis Obispo releases their Notice of Funding Availability on September 11, 2025. For the 2024-25 funding cycle, the City of San Luis Obispo had \$395,676 for project applications.

The primary goals of this workshop are to inform the public about the grant process, provide an overview of eligible activities, and describe how activities are selected to receive CDBG funding through the City of San Luis Obispo, as well as to receive feedback from key stakeholders on the funding priorities for the CDBG program.

The ranked CDBG funding priorities for the 2024-25 cycle were as follows:

- 1) Provide emergency and transitional shelter, homelessness prevention, and services.
- 2) Develop and enhance affordable housing for low- and very low-income persons.
- 3) Enhance economic development (to include seismic retrofit, economic stability,

- low- and moderate-income jobs).
- 4) Promote accessibility and/or removal of architectural barriers for the disabled and elderly.

NEXT STEPS

Staff have determined the next steps for the 2026-27 CDBG funding cycle and outlined them in the tentative schedule below:

Date	Action
September 3, 2025	HRC Community Needs Workshop and Recommendation of Funding Priorities
September 11, 2025	San Luis Obispo County Releases CDBG Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA)
October 10, 2025	Applications Due by 5:00 PM to San Luis Obispo County
October 21, 2025	City Council Reviews and Approves CDBG Funding Priorities
November 5, 2025	HRC Reviews Applications and Votes on Funding Recommendations
February 2026	City Council Reviews and Approves CDBG Funding Recommendations
April 2026	San Luis Obispo County Reviews and Approves Funding Recommendations*

**Public Notice will be published for a 30-day review prior to the April 2026 Board of Supervisors meeting.*

After the Community Needs Workshop, the HRC will vote to approve the funding priorities to help guide potential CDBG applications in developing their proposals and will also provide guidance on prioritization. After City Council approves the recommended funding priorities, staff will return to the HRC in November for a public hearing to develop draft CDBG funding recommendations. Those recommendations will then be sent to City Council for approval and then to the County Board of Supervisors for final approval.