



Community Development Block Grants – 2023

CDBG

The Community Development Block Grant Program was enacted in 1974 by the Department of Housing and Urban Development to replace a variety of other funding programs that were less flexible. CDBG funding is based on an annual federal allocation divided by factors like poverty, age of housing and more.



Entitlement Program

70% of the federal allocation is given to entitlement communities. The Entitlement Program provides annual funding to local governments of metropolitan cities and urban counties. A metropolitan city is the principal city of a metropolitan statistical area or a city in a MSA with a population of more than 50,000. An urban county typically has a population of more than 200,000, made up of cooperating jurisdictions or unincorporated areas.



State Program

30% of the federal allocation is given to the State and Small Cities Program, which provides funds to local governments of rural areas and cities with a population less than 50,000. The states administer their own programs.

Small Cities CDBG Program – Kansas 2023

The Department of Commerce distributes CDBG federal funds to Kansas cities and counties in four primary categories: Annual Competitive Grants, Economic Development Grants, Commercial Rehabilitation Grants, Urgent Need Grants, and Housing Grants.

1. Annual Competitive Grants

The 2023 Annual Competitive Grant projects include focused project types in the following categories and are awarded once a year on a competitive basis:

- **Water and sewer infrastructure:** These funds are only available for communities that are listed on the KDHE Consent Order List. A list of these communities is available on the Kansas Commerce website. Funding amounts are determined by beneficiaries.
- **Regional Water Planning:** These funds are to promote the collaboration and consolidation of water systems throughout Kansas. CDBG will provide 50% to develop a preliminary engineering study up to a maximum of \$12,500. The 50% match can come from local dollars or combined with the KDHE Regional PWS Planning Grant Program.
- **Community Facilities and Services:** These funds will be utilized towards eligible projects within two categories: (1) Community Centers, Libraries, and Parks – Up to \$3 million; and (2) Sidewalks and Trails – Up to \$1 million. Funding amounts are determined by beneficiaries.
- **Childhood Education and Care Facilities:** These funds are for non-profit childcare and education facilities to address shortages. The funds will allow for construction of new buildings or renovations of existing buildings, acquisition, engineering or architectural fees and administration of funds. Funding amounts are determined by beneficiaries.
- **Youth Job Training:** These funds are to address “at risk” youth by promoting self-sufficiency, independence, and job training in a particular field or skill. The grant will allow for screening and skills assessments, training and certification of participants, training and instructional materials, and grant administration. Maximum award is \$100,000. A 25% local match is required.
- **Architectural Barrier Removal:** These funds are to increase accessibility to essential good and services in communities’ downtown and main street districts. This will give public and private buildings the opportunity to meet compliance and regulatory mandates (Ex: ADA compliance). Maximum award is \$50,000 per individual building or \$250,000 for a city-wide project. A 25% matching fund is required.

2. Economic Development Grants

Business finance grants to cities or counties can be loaned to private businesses to provide gap financing that creates or retains permanent jobs. Funding is also available for infrastructure improvements that directly create or retain permanent jobs. Eligible activities include infrastructure, land acquisition, fixed assets and working capital. Some repayment is required for all Economic Development categories. Grants are made to cities and counties, who then loan funds to developing businesses. Repaid funds are returned to the state revolving loan fund. Funds may also be used for infrastructure on a loan/grant basis. The funding ceiling is \$35,000 per job created or retained with a maximum of \$750,000.

3. Commercial Rehabilitation Grants

This funding is to help cities improve the quality of downtown commercial districts by assisting private property owners in the rehabilitation of blighted buildings. The funding is for for-profit buildings with a limit of one building per application. The funds are for building exterior, asbestos abatement, lead based paint evaluation and reduction and correction of code violations. Maximum grant amount is \$250,000, and a 25% match is required by the private owner of the building.

4. Urgent Need Grants

These awards assist local governments in meeting community needs created by severe natural or other disasters that pose immediate threats to the health or welfare of the community and for which no other financial resources are available. Application for Urgent Need must be completed within six months of the issue occurring. Applications must be certified as an urgent need by the agency having jurisdiction over said conditions. Only the immediate emergency will be addressed through this category with long-term resolution of the problem being addressed through regular rounds of awards or other funding sources.

5. Housing Grants

A variety of housing activities may be funded through housing grants, including homeowner rehabilitation, homebuyer assistance, development assistance (acquisition, rehabilitation, clearance and demolition), and acquisition, rehabilitation, conversion, and reconstruction of rental housing.

National Objectives

A wide variety of activities can be funded through Community Development Block Grants, however, each activity must meet a national objectives. Activities must benefit low to moderate income persons, prevent or eliminate slums or blight, or meet a particularly urgent need.

LMI Benefit National Objective

Area Benefit



▶ An activity can be listed under the Area Benefit national objective if the service area is residential with a population of at least 51% LMI individuals. The service area is determined based on the activity being funded. Examples of activities that can be funded based on Area Benefit include sewer/water projects, parks, and community centers.

Limited Clientele

An activity that fulfills the Limited Clientele national objective targets a specific subset of the population rather than a geographic area, such as those with disabilities. A program for illiterate adults is an example of an activity that falls under Limited Clientele.



Housing



▶ To meet the Housing national objective, an activity must benefit LMI persons/households occupying structures. The activity can involve one-unit structures occupied by LMI households, a duplex with one side occupied by LMI households, or 3+ units where at least 51% are occupied by LMI households. Activities include rehabilitation, homebuyer assistance, and acquisition.

Job Creation/Retention

The Job Creation/Retention national objective targets LMI individuals in the workforce. Activities must create or retain permanent jobs, and 51% of those jobs must be held by LMI persons. Jobs are counted on full time equivalent basis. Examples of activities that fall under this objective include business loans, commercial rehabilitation, funding business infrastructure.



Prevent/Eliminate Blight National Objective

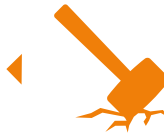
Area Basis



- ▶ An activity under Area Basis targets slums or blighted areas where at least 25% of properties in the area experience physical deterioration, abandonment, significant declines in property values, chronic high turnover and vacancy rates, or environment contamination. The objective is also met if public improvements in the area are in a state of deterioration.

Spot Basis

Spot Basis activities target a sole slum or blighted property located outside of a blighted area. Activities are limited to acquisition, clearance, relocation, historic preservation, remediation of environmentally contaminated properties, and building rehabilitation.



Urgent Need National Objective

Urgent Need



- ▶ The Urgent Need national objective can only be met when existing conditions pose a serious and immediate threat to the health and welfare of a community. The conditions must be recent (generally within 18 months) and the recipient must be unable to fully finance the activity through other means.

How the Flint Hills Regional Council can help

The Flint Hills Regional Council is a nonprofit organization with a goal of enhancing the economic viability and quality of life in the Flint Hills through regional collaboration. The organization provides community planning, grant, and technical assistance to its 19 member jurisdictions in the Flint Hills area. Reach out to Grant Specialist Holly Boice at hboice@flinthillsregion.org for more information on CDBG opportunities in the Flint Hills.