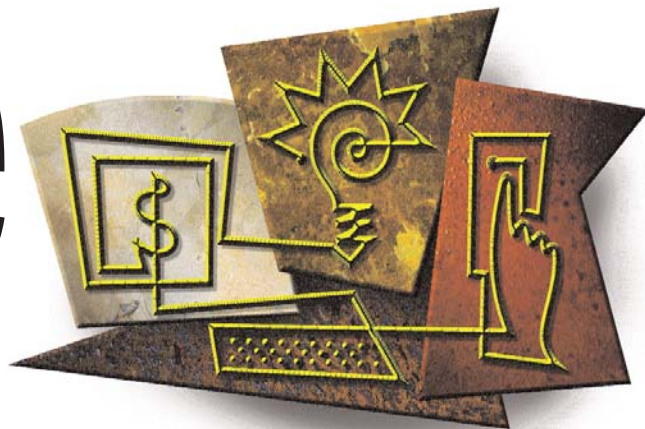


Grantline

A resource to assist county officials in locating federal, state and foundation grants available to enhance Illinois communities.



A member service of the Illinois Association of County Board Members

November 2008

Submit Your Public Comments ASAP Regarding the HUD Neighborhood Stability Program

As you may or may not be aware, the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has recently announced allocations for the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) for the State of Illinois totaling \$172.5 million. This includes \$55,238,017 for the city of Chicago; \$28,156,321 for Cook County and \$53,113,044 for the State of Illinois (Illinois Department of Human Services). The remaining funds will be allocated to Dupage County, Will County, Lake County, Joliet, McHenry County, Aurora, Kane County, Rockford, St. Clair County, Elgin and Cicero.

NSP Funds will be used to provide emergency assistance to state and local governments to purchase and rehab foreclosed properties that might otherwise become sources of abandonment and blight within their communities. Specifically, funds may be used for:

1. Acquisition, Rehabilitation, Rental, Sale, Conversion, Construction of Housing Units
2. Financing mechanisms for purchase of foreclosed homes
3. Homeownership Assistance
4. Infrastructure for housing as part of redevelopment
5. Demolition, Acquisition (for demolition), Land Banks if maintenance and demolition also take place
6. Housing Counseling



Each municipality is required to submit a plan to HUD by December 1 outlining how the funds will be used for the 18 month period beginning January 1, 2009. They are also required to make their plans available for public comment, and submit the comments and names of persons providing the comments along with their plans. Given that Chicago is one of the communities hardest hit by the mortgage foreclosure crisis and subprime lending, we are uniquely positioned to reap the benefits of this program. I strongly recommend that you take the time to review the plans for Chicago (or your locale), the State of Illinois and Cook County share your comments as they might apply to your particular circumstances. You don't have to be a housing expert to respond.

The reverse page contains a list of contacts and other resources for you to familiarize yourself with the issue.

| Agency | Contact Information | Deadline for Public Comment |
|------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Chicago Dept. of Housing | For all submissions please specify "NSP Application: Public Comment" on the Subject line of the correspondence. Public comment must be submitted either via: Fax: (312) 742-1313 Email: katie.ludwig@cityofchicago.org Mail: City of Chicago Department of Housing Attn: Katie Ludwig (NSP Application-Public Comment) 33 N. LaSalle, 2nd Floor Chicago, IL 60602 | Saturday Nov. 22nd, 2008 11:59p.m. |
| Cook County | Copies of the Amendment may be obtained at the Cook County Department of Planning and Development, 69 W. Washington St. Ste. 2900, Chicago, IL 60602. Written Comments will be accepted until November 24, 2008 and may be sent to this address or emailed to: gmullons@cookcountygov.com | Monday, Nov. 24th, 2008 |
| State of Illinois Department of Human Services | Neighborhood Stabilization Program Public Comment. The public can provide comments to the State Action Plan until 5pm on 11/21/2008. Please email your comments to DHS.IllinoisNSP@Illinois.gov or mail to: Illinois Department of Human Services Attn. Office of Assistant Secretary Grace Hou 401 S. Clinton St. 7th Floor. Chicago, IL 60607 | Friday, Nov. 21, 2008 5:00p.m. |



Nine Counties Eligible for Federal Disaster Help

Chicago, IL- The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has designated nine counties as eligible for federal assistance to help pay for emergency services and repair or replacement of facilities and infrastructure damaged by September flooding. FEMA and the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) announced that government entities and some private non-profit agencies in Bureau, Cass, Greene, Kendall, Macoupin, Scott, Will, and Woodford counties may apply for aid. Will and Woodford were previously designated to receive help from FEMA's Individuals and Households Program. Under the public assistance program, municipal and county agencies and other qualified entities can receive reimbursement for eligible

disaster related costs. These may include debris removal, emergency protective measures and repair of damage to roads, bridges, buildings, utilities and recreation areas. FEMA Public Assistance is a cost-share program with the federal share usually set at 75 percent. The state manages the grants for all projects.

These newly designated counties have 30 days from the date of designation (Nov. 18th) to submit a Request for Public Assistance (RPA) with state officials. Those who want to submit an RPA should contact their local emergency manager for more information. The state will soon schedule briefings to explain the process to prospective applicants. The main goal of the PA program is to restore facilities to pre-disaster levels. However, funding is available for some damaged facilities to be rebuilt to a higher standard if it can be demonstrated the increased costs will save taxpayers money in the future. There are now a total of 13 Illinois counties eligible for public assistance as a result of the September flooding. The four counties already designated for the program are Cook, DuPage, Grundy and LaSalle. FEMA coordinates the federal government's role in preparing for, preventing, mitigating, the efforts of, responding to, and recovering from all domestic disasters, whether natural or man-made, including acts of terror.