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TO: Community Development Commission
Executive Committee

FROM: Mary A. Keating, Director,
Department of Community Services

DATE: June 26, 2024

**SUBJECT: 2025-2026 Community Development Block Grant Program and
Emergency Solutions Grant Application Updates**

Action Requested: Staff seeks direction for approval of the proposed changes to the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Neighborhood Investment, CDBG Public Service, and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) applications for program years 2025-2026. Upon approval, staff will prepare the applications and any necessary policy or procedure updates reflecting the changes.

Details: Per the Community Development Commission (CDC) policy, applications for CDBG and ESG funds are evaluated and competitively scored. The CDC recently conducted outreach via survey opportunities, focus groups, and a public hearing to obtain input related to the County's 2025-2029 Consolidated Plan (ConPlan). Feedback received helps guide federal funds allocated to the County over the next five years.

Staff have compiled results from the outreach, and based upon community feedback, are recommending the following updates to the below noted applications.

CDBG Neighborhood Investment (NIV) Application Updates:

- Focus on infrastructure categories and accessibility improvements for people with disabilities, which were identified as high priorities within municipal survey responses. Remove planning studies and community wide facility categories, which were identified as low priorities within municipal survey responses.
- Add a scoring component for addressing a community's vulnerability to natural hazard risks associated with climate change. This will encourage projects to incorporate hazard mitigation aspects into a project scope, assisting the CDC in documenting steps taken to address natural hazard risks, as required within the ConPlan.

CDBG Public Service/ESG Application Updates:

The last call for CDBG public service applications focused on homeless support services, specifically programs providing emergency shelter, legal assistance to support the homeless or those at risk of homelessness, financial resources to homeless or those at risk of homelessness, foreclosure prevention, or support for Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) administration for homeless. Based on community feedback, community needs and priorities have shifted.

- Align applications with high priority needs as identified within non-profit needs survey responses, community needs survey responses, and focus group discussions.
 - Option One: Focus on the highest priority needs by accepting applications for programs that provide housing services including housing navigation, rent or mortgage assistance, case management focusing on housing support, or support for TBRA administration.
 - Option Two: Accept applications for programs addressing the top two highest priority needs of housing services and behavioral health services.
 - Option Three: Accept applications for programs addressing housing services, behavioral health services, youth services, services for persons with disabilities, and mental health services.
- No updates are proposed for ESG applications.

The CDC plans to solicit for applications addressing capital improvements of non-profit owned and operated buildings in the fall of 2025 to be considered for PY2026 funding.