

Minutes
Block Grant Working Committee Meeting
Wednesday, November 1, 2023 – 4:00 p.m.
Community Development Division
Aurora City Hall, Fifth Floor, Conference Room - 44 E. Downer Place, Aurora, Illinois

The meeting was called to order at 4:10 p.m. by Chairman Lubshina

I. Roll Call

Block Grant Working Committee Members Present: Gerald Lubshina (Chairman), Linda Cole, Dan Hoffman, Warren Barton, Ken Gaul, Brooke Shanley, Minal Shah

Members Absent: Eric Rodriguez, Blanca Rodriguez, Judy Durham,

Staff Present: Chris Ragona, Liz Carrizales, Adam Grubbs, Amy Munro

II. Minutes of Meetings

A. March 13, 2023 Special Meeting
A draft of the minutes was considered.

A motion to approve the minutes from March 13, 2023 was made by Ms. Cole and seconded by Ms. Shanley. The minutes were approved as prepared.

III. Old Business

A. None

IV. New Business

A. Substantial Amendment (2023-#3) – Recommendation for Approval of the 2023 HOME American Rescue Plan (HOME-ARP) Projects

Mr. Ragona thanked the Committee for attending the meeting. He stated that this is the first of two meetings that the Community Development Division (CDD) will be holding in the next 45 days. At the December meeting, CDD staff will present recommendations for approval of the 2024 CDBG projects.

For additional background, Mr. Ragona provided the Block Grant Working Committee (BGWC) with the updated HOME-ARP Needs Assessment as well as the 2023 HOME-ARP application summary sheet. He gave a brief overview of the HOME-ARP Program, eligible activities, and residents to be served.

He said the City received a special one-time allocation in the amount of \$2,726,703 through the American Rescue Plan in 2021. Funds are to be utilized to create affordable housing and provide supportive services for Aurora’s homeless, at risk of homelessness population. He gave a brief overview of the City’s HOME-ARP Needs Assessment and stated that City Council approved the corresponding HOME-ARP Allocation Plan in March 2023. Following HUD’s approval of the Plan, the City released Phase 1 of its two-phase application on June 1, 2023 with a deadline of June 30, 2023. Phase II of the application was released to the recommended Phase II agencies on August 1, 2023 with a deadline of September 1, 2023.

Mr. Ragona stated that a total of 13 applications requesting \$5.4 million in HOME-ARP funds were received. Following City staff analysis of the applications, 10 were recommended for moving onto the HOME-ARP Phase II Application.

He said that a total of 10 applications were received for Phase II, and staff is recommending approval of 7 applications for HOME-ARP funds. Two denied applications have been recommended for alternate funding. Community Housing Advocacy and Development (CHAD) has been recommended for HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) funding because they are currently qualified as a special designation known as a Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO) and this source would be a better fit. Ladder Up has been added to the Quality of Life pool and an award decision will be released later this fall when the full 2024 Quality of Life recommendations draft award list is released. Association for Individual Development (co-applicants: Hased House & The Neighbor Project) was denied funding.

Mr. Ragona gave a brief summary of the following HOME-ARP recommendations:

Applicant	Project Type	Funding Request	Recommended Funding Amount
Association for Individual Development (co-applicants: Hased House & The Neighbor Project)	Affordable Housing Development	\$1,500,000	\$0
Community Housing Advocacy and Development (CHAD)	Affordable Housing Development	\$132,000	*\$0
Association for Individual Development	Supportive Services	\$319,000	\$275,000
Hased House	Supportive Services	\$660,000	\$440,000
Ladder Up	Supportive Services	\$125,750	*\$0
Loaves & Fishes	Supportive Services	\$50,000	\$50,000
Mutual Ground	Supportive Services	\$300,000	\$200,000
Prairie State Legal Services	Supportive Services	\$441,950	\$100,000
VNA Health Care	Supportive Services	\$500,000	\$200,000
Hope Fair Housing	Administration and Planning	\$50,000	\$50,000
City of Aurora Administration	Administration and Planning	\$226,703	\$226,703
Total Request and Award		\$4,305,403	\$1,541,703

Discussion took place.

A motion to recommend approval to the City Council for the Substantial Amendment 2023-#3 proposed funding recommendations was made by Ms. Shanley and seconded by Mr. Hoffman. The motion was approved unanimously.

Mr. Ragona said that it is expected that the HOME-ARP recommendations will follow the City's 2024 Annual Action Plan public participation schedule which are expected to take place later this fall.

V. Other Matters

None.

VI. Upcoming Meetings and Events

- A. Wednesday, December 6, 2023, 4:00 PM – Block Grant Working Committee Regular Meeting – Aurora City Hall, 5th Floor Conference Room

Mr. Ragona advised that the December 6, 2023 meeting will be cancelled, a special meeting will be scheduled mid-December, date to be determined. BGWC members will be notified of any changes.

VII. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:44 p.m. was made by Mr. Hoffman and seconded by Ms. Cole. The motion was approved unanimously.