



Board of County Commissioners Agenda Request

7A

Agenda Item #

Requested Meeting Date: January 5, 2018

Title of Item: Submit full Small City Development Program Application

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> REGULAR AGENDA <input type="checkbox"/> CONSENT AGENDA <input type="checkbox"/> INFORMATION ONLY	Action Requested: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approve/Deny Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Adopt Resolution (attach draft) <i>*provide copy of hearing notice that was published</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Direction Requested <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Item <input type="checkbox"/> Hold Public Hearing*
Submitted by: Ross Wagner		Department: Economic Development & Forest Ind
Presenter (Name and Title): Ross Wagner, Economic Development & Forest Industry Coordinator		Estimated Time Needed: 10 Minutes
Summary of Issue: In October of 2017, Aitkin County applied for a Small City Development Program grant for housing rehabilitation in Williams and Wagner Townships. If you recall, our application was submitted by Lakes and Pines and if we were to be successful, Lakes and Pines would also administer the program. Pre-applications were submitted in November with full applications due February 22, 2018. Our initial application received a "grade" of Marginally Competitive. Though that grade may not sound the greatest, it is the second highest level of grading with Competitive being the highest level. Even without the highest grade, we are encouraged to submit the full application. In 2017, 26 applicants received a grant award, though I do not have the numbers, some of those receiving grants would have been graded as marginally competitive, so we have a good chance to work with Lakes and Pines to take our application from marginal to competitive. The cost for Lakes and Pines to submit the full application would be \$750.00 which is budgeted for in the Tourism and Development Fund. I would recommend that we continue the process for SCDP funding for Housing Rehab in Wagner and Williams Township. The notification letter from MN DEED is attached.		
Alternatives, Options, Effects on Others/Comments:		
Recommended Action/Motion: Approve submitting an application for SCDP grant funds		
Financial Impact: Is there a cost associated with this request? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No What is the total cost, with tax and shipping? \$ 750.00 Is this budgeted? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Please Explain:		

Legally binding agreements must have County Attorney approval prior to submission.

Patrick H. Armon, Grants Specialist Coordinator

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The Small Cities Development Program (SCDP) staff has reviewed the preliminary proposals submitted for the 2018 funding cycle. The program received 48 preliminary proposals totaling approximately \$28.9 million. Of those proposals, 36 have been determined to be either competitive or marginally competitive. The remaining proposals were determined to be not competitive. We have based these decisions with the expectation of receiving a 2018 allocation from HUD of approximately the same amount of money as last year. However, it is hard for us to project the allocation amount with much accuracy considering the current budget climate at the federal level.

Assigning three degrees of competitiveness is a way to ensure that only full applications with a sound chance of receiving awards will be submitted. This process is intended to allow applicants to make informed decisions about whether or not to pursue the time and expense associated with submitting an application.

We anticipate that communities with proposals that receive a competitive and marginally competitive label will move forward with the submission of a full application, but we caution that this does not guarantee project funding. We also anticipate that improvements to the original proposals with rehabilitation will be made in order to compete; justifying the numbers presented and solidifying interest in participants and contractors to achieve the full goals proposed. We do not expect to receive full applications from proposals that were determined to be not competitive. If your community is not listed below, the proposal is considered not-competitive.

All proposals involving housing rehabilitation should thoroughly examine for accuracy their "Plan A" and "Plan B" target areas. Remember that if an awarded application does not have a plan B target area, there will be no option for a target area expansion approval during the grant. With that in mind, if a community's project involves rehabilitation and does not currently contain a Plan B option, the community may want to consider adding one in the full application.

Do not hesitate to contact the SCDP Representative assigned to respective proposals with questions about their suggestions to improve a competitive or marginally competitive proposal. However, if your proposal was assigned a label of not competitive, please allow us time to work with competitive and marginally competitive proposals. We will provide those associated with not competitive proposals the opportunity to work with us after the 2018 grant implementation workshops on improvements for possible resubmission for the 2019 application cycle.

Full applications are due to our office by 4:30 p.m. on February 22nd. No fax or electronic copies will be accepted.

The following is the result of the SCDP preliminary proposal review:

Competitive

Clarkfield
Granite Falls
Kensington
Lake Benton
Lake City
Onamia
Starbuck
Tyler/Ruthton
Verndale
Warroad
Willmar
Willow River
Windom
Winger
Winnebago
Winona

Marginally Competitive

Aitkin County
Brainerd
Caledonia
Deerwood
Elgin
Emily
Eyota
Kerkhoven
Lake County
Mahnomen
Marshall
Melrose
Menahga
Morris
Pine River
Raymond
Red Lake Falls
Sabin
St. James
St. Joseph