

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NUMBER 2900  
WHICH ADOPTED A BUDGET FOR THE EXPENDITURE OF  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ENTITLEMENT FUNDS  
FOR THE CITY OF SUMTER FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027**

**WHEREAS,** the Budget for Community Development Entitlement Funds in the amount of \$333,755.00 for the Federal Fiscal Year 2026-2027 was adopted by City Council on February 17, 2026, based on the amount of funds allocated to the City of Sumter for the previous budget year; and

**WHEREAS,** the City of Sumter received a letter dated April 6, 2026, from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Office of Community Planning and Development (attached), announcing an actual allocation of \$305,378.00 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funds to the City of Sumter for Fiscal Year 2026-2027; and

**WHEREAS,** the Sumter City Council therefore finds it necessary to amend its Community Development Entitlement Budget for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 as shown on the attached amended budget to reflect the official allocation from HUD. The amended 2026-2027 CDBG Budget in the amount of \$305,378.00 is hereby made a part hereof as fully as if incorporated herein and a copy thereof is attached hereto.

**BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SUMTER, SOUTH CAROLINA, THIS \_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_ 2026, AT ITS REGULAR MEETING DULY ASSEMBLED AND BY THE AUTHORITY OF SAME:**

**Section 1.** That the amended Budget for Community Development Entitlement Funds in the amount of \$305,378.00 for the Federal Fiscal Year 2026-2027 is hereby adopted by City Council and is hereby made a part hereof as fully as if incorporated herein, and a copy thereof is attached hereto.

**Section 2.** That the City Manager shall administer the Budget and may authorize the following to achieve the goals of the budget.

- 1) Authorize the transfer of appropriated funds within and between Departments and budgeted accounts as necessary.
- 2) Designate continuing projects from surplus funds in accordance with the Comprehensive Plan.
- 3) Follow City Purchasing Ordinance in procurement and awarding of contracts.

**Section 3.** Encumbrances will be carried over to the next year as a reserve to the Fund Balance; and Expenditures approved by Council shall automatically carry amendments to Fund Appropriation where necessary.

**Section 4.** If for any reason any sentence, clause or provision of this Ordinance shall be declared invalid, such shall not affect the remaining provisions hereof.

ADOPTED IN COUNCIL ASSEMBLED THIS \_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_ 2026.

CITY OF SUMTER, SOUTH CAROLINA

\_\_\_\_\_  
David P. Merchant, Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
James B. Blessingame, Mayor Pro Tempore

\_\_\_\_\_  
Calvin K. Hastie, Sr., Councilman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Colin C. Davis, Councilman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Gifford M. Shaw, Councilman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Anthony Gibson, Councilman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rebecca Lynn Kennedy, Councilwoman

**ATTEST:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cecilia Newman, City Clerk

First Reading: April 21, 2026

Final Reading:



ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR  
COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT  
WASHINGTON, DC 20410-7000

April 6, 2026

Mr. David P. Merchant  
Mayor of Sumter  
P.O. Box 1449  
21 North Main Street  
Sumter, SC 29151

Dear Mayor Merchant,

Secretary Scott Turner is committed to improving housing opportunities, reducing regulations to lower housing cost, and expanding housing supply for hardworking Americans. The nationwide shortage of rental and owner-occupied properties and the current rate of construction have not kept pace with the demand. This lack of adequate housing supply leads to higher prices for renters and homebuyers alike, forcing some into homelessness and preventing countless Americans from becoming homeowners. Across the country, partnerships between public and private sectors are providing millions of Americans an opportunity to get ahead. HUD is determined to continue its collaboration with you so programs are responsibly utilized and can spark additional leveraging and partnerships to address the nation's housing challenges.

As authorized by the Consolidated Appropriations Act (Public Law 119-75) on February 3, 2026, I am honored and excited to announce that your jurisdiction is receiving the following Fiscal Year 2026 allocations for the identified programs:

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) \$305,378.00

HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) \$ 0.00

Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) \$ 0.00

Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS (HOPWA) \$ 0.00

Recovery Housing Program (RHP) \$ 0.00

In addition, your jurisdiction's CDBG allocation for this year provides you with \$1,457,890.00 in available Section 108 loan guarantee borrowing authority. Section 108 permits you to borrow up to five times of your current CDBG allocation. This loan allows jurisdictions to maximize access to low-interest capital, and provide long-term financing to invest in Opportunity Zones, or further address gap financing for big projects that you envision for your community.

As you are finalizing your Annual Action Plans or Consolidated Plans that are due for submission to our office by August 16, 2026, please be reminded that it is important to align with

applicable laws and executive orders. If you or any member of your staff have questions, please do not hesitate to contact your local HUD Field Office in Sumter, SC or [CPDGDAS@hud.gov](mailto:CPDGDAS@hud.gov).

Thank you for your interest in CPD programs and for ensuring that these dollars are responsibly achieving outcomes as intended by law. When people have a safe and stable place to call home, they can focus on contributing to the economy and be productive members of their respective communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ronald J. Kurtz". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Ronald J. Kurtz  
Assistant Secretary  
for Community Planning and Development

**UPDATED DRAFT**



2026-2027 CDBG Budget  
Community Development Department  
Sumter, South Carolina

HUD Allocation for period April 1, 2026 - March 31, 2027

Public Service Cap (15%)

Administration Cap (20%)

**\$305,378.00**

**\$ 45,806.70**

**\$ 61,075.60**

Name of Project	Amount	Matrix Code	Regulation Citation	National Objective
<b>Administration</b> (Administer the entitlement program)	\$61,075	21A	570.206	---
<b>Demolition</b> (Eliminate slum and blight in residential and commercial areas)	\$30,000	04	570.201(D)	SBS
<b>United Ministries</b> (Provide minor home repairs for LMI citizens)	\$44,900	14A	570.202	LMH
<b>Housing Repair</b> (Housing repair for LMI citizens)	\$123,903	14A	570.202	LMH
<b>YMCA Youth Services</b> (Provide vouchers for LMI youth to participate in activities)	\$2,500	05D	570.201 (E)	LMC*
<b>Youth Employment</b> (Provide summer employment for 40 LMI youth)	\$40,000	05D	570.201 (E)	LMC*
<b>HYPE Program</b> (Provide students supplies for LMI youth)	\$3,000	05D	570.201 (E)	LMC*

**Total: \$305,378.00**

**\*Public Service**

**LMI** - Low-to-Moderate Income

**LMA** - Low-to-Moderate Area

**LMC** - Low-to-Moderate Clientele

**LMH** - Low-to-Moderate Housing

**SBA** - Slum/Blight Area

**SBS** - Slum/Blight Spot

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2900

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING A BUDGET  
FOR THE EXPENDITURE OF  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ENTITLEMENT FUNDS  
FOR THE CITY OF SUMTER, SOUTH CAROLINA  
FOR THE FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND SUMTER CITY COUNCIL, ON THIS 17<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF FEBRUARY 2026,  
AT ITS REGULAR MEETING DULY ASSEMBLED AND BY THE AUTHORITY OF SAME:

**Section 1.** That the budget for Community Development Entitlement Funds in the amount of \$333,755.00 for the federal fiscal year 2026-2027 is hereby adopted by Sumter City Council and is hereby made a part hereof as fully as if incorporated herein and a copy thereof is attached hereto.

**Section 2.** That the City Manager shall administer the budget and may authorize the following to achieve the goals of the budget.

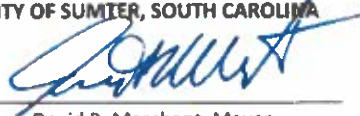
- 1) Authorize the transfer of appropriated funds within and between departments and budgeted accounts as necessary.
- 2) Designate continuing projects from surplus funds in accordance with the Grantee Consolidated Plans.
- 3) Follow the Purchasing Ordinance in procurement and awarding of contracts.

**Section 3.** Encumbrances will be carried over to the next year as a reserve to the fund balance; and expenditures approved by Sumter City Council shall automatically carry amendments to fund appropriation where necessary.

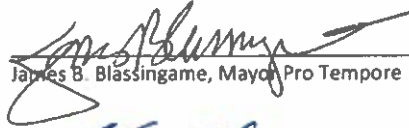
**Section 4.** If for any reason any sentence, clause, or provision of this Ordinance shall be declared invalid, such shall not affect the remaining provisions hereof.

ADOPTED IN COUNCIL ASSEMBLED THIS 17<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF FEBRUARY 2026.

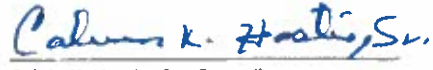
CITY OF SUMTER, SOUTH CAROLINA



David P. Merchant, Mayor



James B. Blessingame, Mayor Pro Tempore



Calvin K. Hastie, Sr., Councilman



Colin C. Davis, Councilman



Gifford M. Shaw, Councilman



Anthony Gibson, Councilman



Rebecca Lynn Kennedy, Councilwoman

ATTEST:



Cecilia Newman, City Clerk

First Reading: February 3, 2026

Second/Final Reading: February 17, 2026

## The ITEM 02/21/2026

### Notice to Public

As an Entitlement Community the City of Sumter expects to receive approximately \$333,755.00 from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development for fiscal year 4/1/26-3/31/27. The city is required to complete an Annual Action Plan that identifies the activities it will undertake. Persons wishing to make comments on the proposed plan may do so in writing or by visiting the Community Development office. The review period runs from February 23, 2026 to March 23, 2026. The office is located at the Liberty Center, Suite 4, 12 W. Liberty Street, Sumter, SC. The Office hours are 8:30am to 5:00pm Monday through Friday. You may call Clarence Gaines at 803-774-1649 or Carolet Thomas at 803-774-1652, for further information. Non-English-speaking persons, hearing impaired or deaf persons may call the same phone number for assistance and information. Entry to the Liberty Center is handicap accessible.

<b>Specific Projects</b>	
<b>Administration</b>	<b>\$66,751.00</b>
(administer the entitlement program)	
<b>Demolition</b>	<b>\$30,000.00</b>
(eliminate slum and blight in residential and Commercial areas)	
<b>Housing Repair</b>	<b>\$143,104.00</b>
(housing repair for low-moderate-income citizens)	
<b>Youth Employment</b>	<b>\$43,500.00</b>
(provide summer employment for 60-65 low moderate income youth)	
<b>United Ministries</b>	<b>\$44,900.00</b>
(provide minor home repairs for low moderate-income citizens)	
<b>YMCA Youth Services</b>	<b>\$2,500.00</b>
(provide vouchers for LMI youth to participate in activities)	
<b>HYPE Program</b>	<b>\$3,000.00</b>
(provide student supplies for LMI youth)	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$333,755.00</b>



David P. Merchant  
Mayor

Clarence Gaines  
Community Development Director

**Clarence Gaines**

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**From:** Kelly Sanders <[ksanders@ymcasumter.com](mailto:ksanders@ymcasumter.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 7, 2026 11:55 AM  
**To:** Clarence Gaines; Deron McCormick  
**Cc:** Denise Lewis  
**Subject:** Funding Request for Youth Department At Risk Afterschool Program

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of the Youth Department of the Sumter Family YMCA to respectfully request funding support for our At-Risk Afterschool Program, which serves youth facing academic, social, and economic challenges within our community.

Our program provides a safe, structured, and supportive environment during critical afterschool hours for youth ages 4-13 years old. Through academic support, mentoring, life-skills development, and enrichment activities, we aim to reduce risk factors such as academic failure, negative peer influence, and juvenile involvement, while promoting positive youth development and long-term success.

Currently, the demand for services exceeds our available resources. Funding support would allow us to:

- Expand program enrollment to serve additional at-risk youth
- Provide academic tutoring and homework assistance
- Offer mentorship, social-emotional learning, and leadership development
- Ensure access to nutritious snacks and safe transportation

The requested funds of \$2500.00 would directly support program participants and ensure consistent, high-quality services throughout the school year. With your support, we can continue to make a measurable impact by improving school engagement, strengthening life skills, and providing youth with positive alternatives during afterschool hours.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this request further and share additional information regarding program outcomes, budget details, and community impact. Thank you for your time, consideration, and commitment to supporting youth in our community.

**SINCERELY,**

**KELLY SANDERS**  
Director of Youth Development  
YMCA of Sumter  
510 Miller Road, Sumter, SC 29150  
803.773.1404 ext. 2490 | [ksanders@ymcasumter.org](mailto:ksanders@ymcasumter.org) | [www.ymcasumter.org](http://www.ymcasumter.org)





M.H. Newton Family Life Enrichment Center  
H.Y.P.E After School Programs  
Nita M. Lovery 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers  
415 Manning Avenue, Sumter, SC 29150  
[hypedecsc@yahoo.com](mailto:hypedecsc@yahoo.com)  
(803) 934-9527 (office) (803) 934-0022 (fax)

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January 7, 2026

Deron McCormick  
21 N. Main Street  
Sumter, SC 29150

Dear Mr. McCormick,

Please use this letter as our formal request for funding from the Community Block Development Grant for 2026. With the support of the community, we have been able to continue our programs uninterrupted for the past 24 years. We are requesting \$5000.00 to help with supplies and materials for our programs that are housed in the H.O.P.E. centers. With the support of the Community Block Development Grant, this would not only help us ensure our children continue to receive the best after-school support possible, but it would also strengthen our 21<sup>st</sup>-century community learning centers grant application for the 2026-2027 school year.

Thank you for all you do to make Sumter a better place for us to live, work, worship, and play. If you need any additional information, please feel free to contact me at the number listed above.

For the children,

Barney A. Gadson,  
Director  
H.Y.P.E. After School Programs

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# SUMTER UNITED MINISTRIES

*rebuilding lives*

City of Sumter  
PO Box 1449  
Sumter, SC 29150  
Attention: Deron McCormick

October 29, 2025

Dear Deron,

On behalf of Sumter United Ministries, I am writing to request \$44,900 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for the April 2026 - March 2027 grant year.

The mission of our Construction Ministry is to ensure that homes in our community are safe, dry, secure, and accessible. Since 2010, we have been honored to partner with the City of Sumter, leveraging CDBG resources to improve living conditions and restore dignity and stability to our neighbors in need.

These funds are critical to our ability to coordinate volunteers and, when necessary, hire local contractors to complete essential home repairs. Our primary areas of focus include roof replacements, accessibility modifications (such as wheelchair ramps), and emergency home stabilization projects.

Currently, the cost of materials and labor continues to rise. A modest roof replacement now averages \$4,500, while a typical wheelchair ramp costs around \$1,500.

The impact of these funds extends far beyond the cost of materials—it represents hope, safety, and renewed independence for those we serve. For example:

- During our Summer Restore project, we built a wheelchair ramp for a 56-year-old woman who had recently undergone a leg amputation. Before the ramp was built, the only way for her to enter or leave her home was with the assistance of EMS. Now, she can come and go freely and safely on her own.
- We also replaced the roof of a 50-year-old woman's home during Summer Restore, ensuring she has a dry, secure place to live and protecting her home from further damage. When she first applied for assistance, she had recently been laid off, but by the time her roof was replaced, she had found part-time employment and was beginning to get back on her feet.

Each of these projects—and many others—are made possible through the continued support of the City of Sumter's CDBG funding. We are deeply grateful for the City's ongoing partnership and commitment to improving housing conditions for low-income residents. With the requested \$44,900, we will continue serving our neighbors with excellence, compassion, and accountability—transforming homes and lives throughout Sumter.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Please let me know if additional information or documentation is needed.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mark Champagne".

Mark Champagne  
Executive Director

36 Artillery Dr. PO Box 1017 | Sumter, SC 29151 | ph 803-775-0757 | fax 803-773-2742  
[info@sumterunitedministries.org](mailto:info@sumterunitedministries.org) | [www.sumterunitedministries.org](http://www.sumterunitedministries.org)

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**Date: September 23, 2025**

**Location: North Hope Center**

**Citizen Attendance: 3**

**Concerns and comments raised at the meeting were:**

- Inquiry regarding funding for demolition projects was addressed.
- A homeowner on VanBuren Drive requested rehabilitation assistance; relevant information was provided.
- Citizens expressed appreciation for ongoing communication regarding available community programs and requested additional information on success stories associated with CDBG initiatives.

**Date: September 30, 2025**

**Location: South Hope Center**

**Citizen Attendance: 7**

**Concerns and comments raised at the meeting were:**

- Citizens inquired about the process for applying for sewer grants; information was provided.
- Residents reported sewer line blockages occurring during rainfall at the intersections of Bartlette, Washington, Salem, and Oakland Streets, and raised concerns regarding potential sinkhole development in the area.
- Questions were raised about responsibility for trash removal in cases where individuals are evicted or vacate a residence and leave belongings on the curb; the issue was addressed.
- Citizens expressed concerns about vacant and overgrown lots and requested clarification regarding procedures for addressing these properties after extended periods, as well as whether measures exist to hold property lienholders accountable for ongoing maintenance.
- A citizen requested information on available funding opportunities for architectural services, specifically for Union Station Church located at the corner of Manning Avenue.



**Date: October 7, 2025**

**Location: Birnie Hope Center**

**Citizen Attendance: 12+**

**Concerns and comments raised at the meeting were:**

- Citizens reported complaints regarding a sinkhole located at the intersection of Council and Salem Streets.
- Concerns were raised about inadequate street lighting in poorly illuminated areas along Cook and McCray's Mill Roads. Uneven pavement on Cook St.
- Complaints were received concerning insufficient grass cutting on South Street.
- Drainage issues on Lemon and McCormick streets.

**Date: October 14, 2025**

**Location: South Sumter Resource Center**

**Citizen Attendance: 17**

**Concerns and comments raised at the meeting were:**

- Citizens asked about the maximum funding amount available for housing rehabilitation.
- Inquiries were made regarding property eligibility for Historic Preservation designation.
- Concerns were noted about overgrown property on Belton Court posing health risks (mosquitoes, snakes, etc.).
- Issues were raised regarding the corner of Gates and Atlantic streets.
- Questions about how funding allocations are determined among community entities (e.g., United Ministries, HYPE, YMCA).
- Inquiry as to whether CDBG funds can support additional outreach programs.
- Request for programs that teach youth basic home repair skills, like the United Ministries Summer Restore Program.
- Citizens asked how communities can directly engage with HUD.
- Citizens requested clarification on allowable uses for Façade Grant funds for downtown businesses, including:
  - a) Installation of additional security cameras
  - b) Increased property rehabilitation funding
  - c) Support for community outreach such as feeding programs for the homeless, seniors, and the disabled
- Clarification sought concerning the definition of public facilities.



**Date: October 21, 2025**

**Location: South Sumter Resource Center - (Southside Neighborhood Meeting)**

**Citizen Attendance: 15**

**Concerns and comments raised at the meeting were:**

- The lot located opposite South Sumter Gym, which is owned by the City of Sumter, is proposed to be transformed into a community garden.
- Consider reallocating funds from the Façade Grant to support social programs, including initiatives for feeding the homeless, assisting individuals with disabilities, and aiding senior citizens.
- Explore potential solutions or plans to prevent vehicles from damaging residential water meters.
- Address the drainage issue at the Airnasium, as rainwater currently has no proper outlet.

**Public Hearing**

**Date: November 18, 2025**

**Location: Sumter Opera House, Council Chambers**

**Concerns raised at the meeting:**

- Reallocating funds from the Façade Grant to support those in need of assistance.
- The Airnasium needs a better drainage system.



**CDBG EXPECTED EXPENDITURES  
FOR PROPOSED CDBG BUDGET  
April 1, 2026, to March 31, 2027**

1. **Administration** - Salaries, benefits, vehicle maintenance and gas, conferences, office supplies
  2. **Demolition** - On-going demolition requests will ensure funds will be spent on a yearly basis.
  3. **United Ministries Housing Rehab** - The agency will use volunteers to do minor housing rehab for low-to-moderate-income homeowners within the city limits. The city will provide CDBG funds for the material needed.
  4. **Housing Repair** - Rehab six (6) houses of low-to-moderate-income homeowners on a yearly basis, (based on cost of repairs). A Lead-Based Paint inspection must be conducted on each house when using Community Development Block Grant funds. The cost for a Lead-Based Paint inspection for each house is \$500.00, and the cost for the re-inspection once the lead is removed is \$450.00.
  5. **YMCA** - Provide vouchers for low-to-moderate-income youth to participate in activities.
  6. **Youth Program** - All funds will be expended during the summer of 2026 program. The goal is to hire thirty-five (35) low-to-moderate-income students with Community funds and an additional 30 students with American Rescue Plan funds.
  7. **HYPE** - Provide student supplies, mentoring, and field trips for low-to-moderate-income youth within the program.
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# CDBG Entitlement Program Eligibility Requirements

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Entitlement Program provides annual grants on a formula basis to entitled cities and counties to develop viable urban communities by providing decent housing and a suitable living environment, and by expanding economic opportunities, principally for low- and moderate-income persons. The program is authorized under Title 1 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, Public Law 93-383, as amended; [42 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.](#)

HUD awards grants to entitlement community grantees to carry out a wide range of community development activities directed toward revitalizing neighborhoods, economic development, and providing improved community facilities and services.

Entitlement communities develop their own programs and funding priorities. However, grantees must give maximum feasible priority to activities which benefit low- and moderate-income persons. A grantee may also carry out activities which aid in the prevention or elimination of slums or blight. Additionally, grantees may fund activities when the grantee certifies that the activities meet other community development needs having a particular urgency because existing conditions pose a serious and immediate threat to the health or welfare of the community where other financial resources are not available to meet such needs. CDBG funds may not be used for activities which do not meet one of these national objectives.

## Eligible Grantees

Eligible grantees are as follows:

- Principal cities of Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs)
- Other metropolitan cities with populations of at least 50,000
- Qualified urban counties with populations of at least 200,000 (excluding the population of entitled cities)

Eligibility for participation as an entitlement community is based on population data provided by the U.S. Census Bureau and metropolitan area delineations published by the Office of Management and Budget. HUD determines the amount of each entitlement grantee's annual funding allocation by a statutory dual formula which uses several objective measures of community needs, including the extent of poverty, population, housing overcrowding, age of housing and population growth lag in relationship to other metropolitan areas.

# CDBG Entitlement Program Eligibility Requirements

## Eligible Activities

CDBG funds may be used for activities which include, but are not limited to:

- Acquisition of real property
- Relocation and demolition
- Rehabilitation of residential and non-residential structures
- Construction of public facilities and improvements, such as water and sewer facilities, streets, neighborhood centers, and the conversion of school buildings for eligible purposes
- Public services, within certain limits
- Activities relating to energy conservation and renewable energy resources
- Provision of assistance to profit motivated businesses to carry out economic development and job creation/retention activities

Each activity must meet one of the following national objectives for the program: benefit low- and moderate income persons, prevention or elimination of slums or blight, or address community development needs having a particular urgency because existing conditions pose a serious and immediate threat to the health or welfare of the community for which other funding is not available.

Generally, the following types of activities are ineligible:

- Acquisition, construction, or reconstruction of buildings for the general conduct of government
- Political activities
- Certain income payments
- Construction of new housing (with some exceptions)

## Eligible Beneficiaries

Over a 1, 2, or 3-year period, as selected by the grantee, not less than 70 percent of CDBG funds must be used for activities that benefit low- and moderate-income persons.

HUD does not provide CDBG assistance directly to individuals, businesses, nonprofit or organizations or other non-governmental entities. If you are interested in participating in this program, you need to contact your local municipal or county officials to find out how the program operates in your area. Participation requirements may differ from one grantee to another.

# CDBG Entitlement Program Eligibility Requirements

## **Find out who administers the CDBG Program in your area.**

If your local government officials cannot answer your questions, or if you are a local official, contact the **HUD field office** that serves your area. Note that the local government administers the program and determines which local projects receive funding.

## **Citizen Participation**

A grantee must develop and follow a detailed plan which provides for, and encourages, citizen participation and which emphasizes participation by persons of low- or moderate-income, particularly residents of predominantly low- and moderate-income neighborhoods, slum or blighted areas, and areas in which the grantee proposes to use CDBG funds. The plan must:

- Provide citizens with reasonable and timely access to local meetings, information, and records related to the grantee's proposed and actual use of funds
- Provide for public hearings to obtain citizen views and to respond to proposals and questions at all stages of the community development program, including at least the development of needs, the review of proposed activities, and review of program performance
- Provide for timely written answers to written complaints and grievances

In May 2012, HUD introduced the **eCon Planning Suite** including the Consolidated Plan template in IDIS OnLine and the CPD Maps website. By creating a more cohesive planning and grants management framework and providing better data and a tool for analysis, the eCon Planning Suite supports grantees and the public to assess their needs and make strategic investment decisions. HUD grantees are now required to submit their Consolidated Plan and year one Annual Action Plan using the Consolidated Plan template in IDIS OnLine. If grantees have an approved multi-year Consolidated Plan, they are not required to use IDIS to submit their Annual Action Plan until the next multi-year strategy is due.