

Transforming Your Community Through the CDBG Innovative Grant Program



February 7, 2019

Webinar

Webinar Instructions

- Webinar will last approximately 1 hour
- Materials will be posted on the DCA website (dca.ga.gov)
 - Presentation, Pre-application, Webinar Recording

Webinar Instructions

- All participants will be muted
- Submit questions at any time during the webinar via the “Questions” Pane
- Questions will be answered verbally after the conclusion of the presentation

Webinar Instructions

□ Presenters

- Joanie Perry

 - Director – Community Finance Division

- Kimberly Carter

 - Director – Office of Community Development

Agenda

1. Overview of Innovative Grant Program
 - Eligibility Requirements
 - Match Requirements
 - How to Apply / Deadlines
2. Walkthrough of Pre-application
3. Final Application Scoring Criteria

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- The Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) is the cornerstone of states' efforts to address the economic and community development needs of towns and rural areas. It is also the most flexible source of federal assistance to address a wide range of community development needs that stabilize and grow communities.

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- As an effective conduit to funnel resources to help rebuild and invest in our nation's communities, Georgia's non-entitlement local governments have used CDBG for a variety of traditional infrastructure activities, including roads and bridges, drinking water systems, sanitary sewer systems, safe streets and sidewalks (curb, gutter, and street pavement), installation of utilities, improved drainage systems to prevent flooding and installation or reconstruction of public improvements to support affordable housing developments

Transforming Your Community Through CDBG

- The purpose of the 2018 Innovative Grant Program set-aside is to encourage projects that will result in transformational changes.
- DCA recognizes that transformational change cannot occur overnight or without sustainable financial resources. In order to provide communities that can demonstrate their vision, strategy and commitment to transformational change, DCA will provide financial resources to help kick start change.
- DCA is defining transformational as an individual or series of activities that will support long-term, systemic and sustainable change. We feel this definition is broad enough to allow our non-entitlement governments flexibility in defining what could be transformational.

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- The Department is committed to providing communities with the financial resources to adequately address local needs and to make an impact; even transformational changes.
 - As an additional resource to help local governments meet these challenges, for the FY 2018 funding year, DCA will include an Innovative Grant program to reward local governments that can implement projects that will result in transformational change.

To support transformational change:



- To support transformational change, for Fiscal Years 2018 and 2019, \$2,000,000 will be set-aside for the Innovative Grant Competition each year(\$4,000,000 total pool).
- Local governments eligible for the State's non-entitlement CDBG program can apply for up to \$2,000,000 for a transformational project.

Match Requirement

- The minimum match requirement is 15% of the amount of the grant request.
 - \$2,000,000 award will have a \$300,000 match
 - \$1,000,000 award will have a \$150,000 match

How To Apply

- The Innovative Grant Program requires that applicants submit preliminary pre-applications.
 - The pre-application process will allow applicants and DCA to assess the potential competitiveness of a proposed project.
 - The pre-application deadline is **May 31, 2019**.
- Final Applications
 - After review of pre-application, DCA will invite applicants that meet the criteria to submit full applications.
 - The full application deadline is **August 31, 2019**.

Pre-applications

- The purpose of the preliminary application is for the applicant to notify DCA of its interest in making a formal application and for DCA to determine if a proposed application meets the intent of the set-aside and is eligible for funding.
- DCA staff will review preliminary applications for completeness and to determine if the project is eligible under this set-aside. After review of preliminary applications, applications that are felt to meet the intent of the Innovative Round as being transformative, will be invited to submit full applications. DCA may provide comments to applicants intended to strengthen competitive applications. Staff may also conduct site visits and hold discussions with applicants for the purpose of confirming and evaluating information contained in the pre-application. In addition, staff may also consult other appropriate public and private entities in the course of evaluating preliminary applications.

Potential projects can look to one or more of the following goals:

- ❑ Provide a service to previously unserved or underserved low- and moderate-income persons or group.
- ❑ Use unique or original strategies that will produce traditional CDBG projects at a lower CDBG cost.
- ❑ Encouragement of initiative, resourcefulness and creativity in addressing problems intrinsic to low-and moderate-income persons; and

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- Coordination of private profit and nonprofit, federal, state and local public resources in unique ways or which have not traditionally been coordinated in order to address problems intrinsic to low and moderate income persons or groups.
 - Use 'community revitalization' strategies to create partnerships among federal and local governments and their related agencies, the private sector, community organizations, and local residents to alleviate blight and create opportunities in economically distressed areas.
 - In an effort to coordinate existing resources to create innovative public-private partnerships, the Innovative Grant Program encourages local governments to use a 'community revitalization' strategy in developing grant applications. This strategy, which is generally not eligible under the annual competition, allows local governments to take a different approach to rebuilding communities by addressing the problems of disinvestment, job loss, and blight in non-entitlement downtowns. This strategy will allow certain downtown revitalization and microenterprise projects to be eligible under this competition.

Innovative Grant Program

Pre-application

Components of the Pre-Application

- The pre-application is designed to:
 1. Provide guidance on the application process
 2. Obtain basic information about the project

Components of the Pre-Application

- The pre-application is structured as follows:
 - Cover Page
 - Project Description
 - Innovation Exploration
 - Preliminary Source and Use Statement
 - Project Structure (Partners)
 - Public Benefit Standards
 - Contact Information



Pre-Application Review

Scoring for Final Applications

Rating and Review Procedure

- Applications will be rated and points awarded on the following point system:

- Project Feasibility 110 Maximum

- Project Strategy and Innovation 240 Maximum

- Leverage of Additional Resources 30 Maximum

Total Maximum Points 380 Points

Question and Answer Session

Commonly asked questions will be addressed first.

Please refrain from submitting project specific questions.



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