

W. S. B. I.

Memorandum Date: February 27, 2007
Board Order Date: March 14, 2007

TO: Board of County Commissioners
DEPARTMENT: CAO/Community & Economic Development
PRESENTED BY: Mike McKenzie-Bahr, Community and Economic Development Coordinator

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: DISCUSSION/IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING A LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT SUBMISSIONS BY JUNCTION CITY AND COTTAGE GROVE

I. MOTION

MOVE FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE LETTERS OF SUPPORT

II. AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

This is request by two local Community Development Block Grant applicants for letters of support for their projects to the Oregon Economic and Community Development Department.

The first letter is in support of a housing rehabilitation grant to be submitted by Junction City on behalf of the Regional Housing Rehabilitation Program (RHRP) administered by St. Vincent de Paul. The grant application is for housing rehabilitation in both the incorporated and unincorporated areas of Junction City.

The second letter is in support of a micro-enterprise business assistance grant to be submitted by the City of Cottage Grove on behalf of Lane Micro Business. Under the project proposal, micro-enterprise business assistance will be provided to businesses in Lane and Yamhill counties.

III. BACKGROUND/IMPLICATIONS OF ACTION

A. Board Action and Other History

The first round of Community Development Block Grants are due to the Oregon Economic and Community Development Department by March 31, 2007.

Two project participants have contacted the Board of Commissioners for letters in support of their grant applications: St. Vincent de Paul and the Lane MicroBusiness Program.

St. Vincent de Paul of Lane County is the managing agency for the RHRP funds and through the management of these programs has been working to secure grants for each of the areas of Lane County. Past applications have included the areas of Florence, Lowell, Oakridge, and Cottage Grove.

Junction City has not been targeted previously so efforts have focused on getting an application prepared for the Junction City area. The grant application is for housing rehabilitation in both incorporated and unincorporated areas. Previous to 2006, Counties had to be the applicant for unincorporated areas, however rule changes at the federal and state levels now allow cities to apply for CDBG housing funds that also cover unincorporated areas around a city.

The Lane MicroBusiness Program, in collaboration with the Oregon Micro Enterprise Network has prepared a CDBG application to support the development of micro enterprise businesses in Lane and Yamhill County. The application will be submitted by the City of Cottage Grove in partnership with the City Oakridge and Yamhill County. The project will focus on giving business counseling services to micro-enterprises, which are defined as business with less than five employees.

B. Policy Issues

Should the County support CDBG applications from cities in Lane County for services that support County residents?

C. Board Goals

This project meets the following board goals:

- Work for a strong regional economy to expand the number of family-wage jobs available in Lane County.

- Contribute to appropriate community development in the areas of transportation and telecommunications infrastructure, housing, growth management, and land development.

D. Financial and/or Resource Considerations

Support of these two grant applications will not cost the County any funds. If the grants are funded, they will bring new funds into these communities for projects that will serve Lane County citizens.

E. Analysis

Both of these projects are worthy of support.

CDBG funding is a very competitive process held on a quarterly basis. Letters of support are used by the state to help determine community support for a project and points are awarded for projects that show such support.

Supporting other community applications will not impact the ability of the County to seek funding as Lane County is presently not eligible to apply for another CDBG grant because we are not spent down far enough on our two present grants.

F. Alternatives/Options

1. The Board of Commissioners can submit the letters of support.
2. The Board of Commissioners could request more information and delay action until that information is provided.
3. The Board of Commissioners can decide not to submit letters of support.

IV. TIMING/IMPLEMENTATION

The grants will be submitted by the end of March. Once the letters are signed they will be delivered to the submitting cities for inclusion in their application packets.

V. RECOMMENDATION

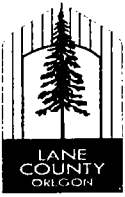
Authorize the chair to sign the letters of support.

VI. FOLLOW-UP

Staff will report back to the Board the results of CDBG funding decisions once they are announced.

VII. ATTACHMENTS

- 1) Letter of support for the application being submitted by Junction City.
- 2) Letter of support for the application being submitted by Cottage Grove.



Lane County Board of Commissioners

Bill Dwyer
Bill Fleenor
Bobby Green, Sr.
Peter Sorenson
Faye Hills Stewart

March 14, 2007
WD bc/fs/07008/T

SUBJECT: 2007 Community Development Block Grant Application – Housing
Rehabilitation Program by Junction City

The Lane County Board of Commissioners strongly support Junction City's submission for a 2007 Community Development Block Grant from the Housing Rehabilitation Program, which, if funded, will provide continued support for the Lane County Regional Housing Rehabilitation Program (RHRP).

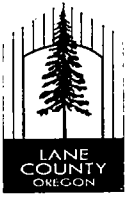
The County has been and will continue to be an active collaborator on this project that has been very successful in providing housing rehabilitation support to low and moderate-income households in our area.

The RHRP was formed by Lane County and the small cities in this region as the most efficient and effective way of operating a regional program to best meet the needs of families throughout Lane County's rural communities. As you know, unincorporated low-income residents are connected by proximity to the incorporated small cities they are near, but prior to the development of the RHRP, these residents had very little rehabilitation assistance available to them.

Over the past seven years, a sound base has been created to assist these residents but consistent funding is critical to our continue success. RHRP is a shining example of regional cooperation that is working. We have created a strong, collaborative program and hope that you will consider funding this proposal.

Sincerely,

Faye Stewart
Chair, Lane County Board of Commissioners



Lane County Board of Commissioners

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March 14, 2007
WD bc/fs/07009/T

SUBJECT: 2007 Community Development Block Grant Application –Micro-Enterprise Assistance by Cottage Grove

The Lane County Board of Commissioners strongly support the City of Cottage Grove's submission of a 2007 Community Development Block Grant for Micro-Enterprise Assistance.

The County supports active collaborations like those being demonstrated on this project. The participation of the rural cities of Cottage Grove and Oakridge and the assistance to be provided by Lane MicroBusiness Program and Oregon Micro Enterprise Network, should prove to be a successful combination in providing support to micro-enterprise businesses.

The proposed work of Lane MicroBusiness and Oregon Micro Enterprise Network to deliver business assistance services on a regional collaborative basis is an efficient and effective way of to best meet the needs of micro-enterprise businesses throughout Lane County's rural communities.

The Lane County Board of Commissioners does hereby declare its support of the formation of a regional micro enterprise assistance program and its support of a grant application for the Lane MicroBusiness Program with Cottage Grove as the lead applicant, for micro enterprise development throughout the area of the regional program.

We strongly encourage the Oregon Economic and Community Development Department to consider funding this project proposal.

Sincerely,

Faye Stewart
Chair, Lane County Board of Commissioners