



Travis County Commissioners Court Agenda Request

Meeting Date: August 19, 2014

Prepared By/Phone Number: Christy Moffett, MSSW 854-3460

Elected/Appointed Official/Dept. Head:

Sherri E. Fleming, County Executive of Travis County Health and Human Services & Veterans Service

Commissioners Court Sponsor: Judge Samuel T. Biscoe

AGENDA LANGUAGE:

Approve proclamation acknowledging the 40th anniversary of the Community Development Block Grant program on August 22, 2014.

BACKGROUND/SUMMARY OF REQUEST AND ATTACHMENTS:

On August 22, 1974, President Gerald R. Ford signed a law creating one of HUD's hallmark programs – the *Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program*. Title I of the Housing and Community Act of 1974 merged seven individual competitive grant programs into a block grant providing local communities the flexibility to decide for themselves how best to meet their own community development needs.

For the next 40 years, thousands of cities, urban counties and rural communities have come to rely upon this critical resource, investing \$144 billion to undertake a wide variety of activities from improving public facilities to producing affordable housing. Each year, CDBG funds are distributed to state and local governments according to their population, poverty, and other housing variables.

CDBG's impact can be measured in every corner of the U.S. and in the lives of millions of Americans, 95% of whom are low- to moderate-income citizens. Last year alone, the program allowed state and local governments to help nearly 28,000 individuals to find permanent employment or to keep the full-time jobs they have. CDBG also supported the rehabilitation of nearly 95,000 homes and financed public improvement projects that benefitted an estimated 3.3 million residents in communities from coast to coast.

Travis County has been a CDBG entitlement since 2006 and has received millions of dollars in CDBG funds and all projects have benefitted low to moderate income people in the CDBG service area. The CDBG service area includes the unincorporated areas of the county and the Village of Webberville.

To learn more the CDBG Program's Accomplishments over the last 40 years, please visit:

http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/comm_planning/communitydevelopment/CDBG_Turns_40

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

Staff recommends approval of the proclamation.

ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES:

In addition to all of the projects completed each year, CDBG also has a robust planning program which includes fair housing and community engagement to identify needs and gaps in services.

The CDBG program has been able to provide a spotlight to the challenges of living outside the urban core and continues to advocate on behalf of residents seeking equal access to services and programs in the outlying areas of the county.

FISCAL IMPACT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:

None

REQUIRED AUTHORIZATIONS:

None

Cc:

Mary Etta Gerhardt, County Attorney
Laura Sovine, HHS
Lee Turner, TNR
Aerin Pfarffengartner, PBO
Leroy Nellis, PBO
DeDe Bell, Auditor's Office
Cyd Grimes, Purchasing Office
Kelly Weiss, AHFH

Jim Lehrman, HHS
Steve Manilla, TNR
Charles Berg, TNR
Michelle Gable, Auditors Office
Nicki Riley, Auditor's Office
Janice Cohoon, Auditor's Office
Jason Walker, Purchasing Office
Dan Pruett, MOWAM

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT

COUNTY OF TRAVIS, TEXAS

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, On August 22nd, 1974, President Gerald R. Ford signed a law creating one of HUD's hallmark programs – the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program.; and

WHEREAS, Title I of the Housing and Community Act of 1974 merged seven individual competitive grant programs into a block grant providing local communities the flexibility to decide for themselves how best to meet their own community development needs; and

WHEREAS, For the next 40 years, thousands of cities, urban counties and rural communities have come to rely upon this critical resource, investing \$144 billion to undertake a wide variety of activities from improving public facilities to producing affordable housing; and

WHEREAS, In 2006, Travis County became a CDBG entitlement community and has received over \$6.87 million from HUD; and

WHEREAS, As of August 2014, Travis County has spent over \$5.6 million in CDBG funds benefitting low to moderate income people in the unincorporated areas of the County and the Village of Webberville ; and

WHEREAS, The CDBG Program has repaired 42 homes in partnership with Meals on Wheels and More; and

WHEREAS, The CDBG Program has purchased 31 lots for affordable single family home ownership and completed 17 of those homes so far, in partnership with Austin Habitat for Humanity; and

WHEREAS, The CDBG Program has improved substandard roads, provided homes access to a permanent water source and repaired a park after flood damage benefitting 10,124 people in partnership with Travis County Transportation and Natural Resources Department ; and

WHEREAS, The CDBG Program has expanded social work services to provide better access to people isolated by geography to 1,484 people in partnership with the TCHHS/VS Family Support Services Division; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE TRAVIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT TO OBSERVE AUGUST 22, 2014 AS

“The 40th ANNIVERSARY of the COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM”

SIGNED AND ENTERED THIS 19th DAY OF AUGUST, 2014.

SAMUEL T. BISCOE
COUNTY JUDGE

RON DAVIS
COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 1

BRUCE TODD
COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 2

GERALD DAUGHTERY
COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 3

MARGARET J. GOMEZ
COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 4