



Legislation Text

File #: 18-0932, **Version:** 1

Item:

Discussion of Proposal for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Neighborhood Revitalization Grant

Date Of BOCC Meeting: August 6, 2018

Request For Board Action:

The Board is requested to review the proposed application elements and ask any questions they wish.

Durham County is an eligible applicant for up to \$750,000 from the NC Department of Commerce as part of their Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Neighborhood Revitalization Program. Since 2013, all funds from this state program had been re-allocated to water infrastructure projects (such as our Rougemont Water System), but Commerce has been convinced to put some of it back into neighborhood revitalization. The program allows a broad range of uses to be funded. The funds that Durham County would be eligible for can only be used outside of the City limits.

Durham County has many revitalization needs, though it seems clear that at the moment, affordable housing needs would be the high priority. Because Durham County does not have in-house expertise in affordable housing, staff consulted with members of the housing repair collaborative as well as with Triangle J Council of Governments (TJCOG), which is playing larger, coordinating and facilitating roles for other, nearby counties relating to housing grants and work. Our partners are well positioned to determine where our priorities, their skill sets (for implementing projects), and available opportunities intersect, and their application proposal brought forward for today's discussion represents exactly that. They are prepared to work together to complete the application for our submittal. If we received the grant, the plan is for TJCOG to administer it, working through our high leverage, local and non-profit housing partners.

A valid application obviously requires a clear proposal, but also requires two public hearings to receive public input on the draft proposal. We have tentatively set those public hearings for August 13th and Sept. 11th, with the final application due by September 28th.

Alignment With Strategic Plan: More and better affordable housing options, including facilitating the repair of existing low-cost housing, improves outcomes across all domains of our Durham County Strategic Plan.

Resource Persons: Drew Cummings, Chief of Staff; Aspen Romeyn, Principal Planner - Regional Planning (TJCOG); Dan Sargent, Exec. Dir. of Rebuilding Together of the Triangle; Blake Strayhorn, Exec. Dir. of Habitat for Humanity of Durham; and Peter Skillern, Exec. Dir. of Reinvestment Partners

County Manager's Recommendation: The County Manager recommends that the Board review the proposed application elements and ask any questions they wish.

County Manager: _____