

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC WORKSHOPS TO INVITE PUBLIC INPUT FOR THE PROPOSED 2010 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG), HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIPS ACT (HOME), AND THE EMERGENCY SHELTER GRANT (ESG) PROGRAMS FOR THE URBAN COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO**

The Urban County of San Luis Obispo is requesting proposals and comments regarding the use of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, HOME Investment Partnerships Act (HOME) funds, and the Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) funds within the cities of Arroyo Grande, Atascadero, Grover Beach, Paso Robles, and San Luis Obispo and the unincorporated areas of the county. These cities and the County have been designated by the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) as an "urban county" eligible to receive annual, formula-based grants of CDBG, HOME, and ESG funds directly from HUD. HUD has not notified the Urban County of the funding levels for 2010. The Urban County will use the 2009 allocation funding amounts as an estimate for 2010. The 2009 funding amounts were as follows: \$2,090,452 in CDBG funds, \$1,439,586 in HOME funds, and \$91,679 in ESG funds.

The resulting estimate of allocations of 2010 CDBG funds are shown below for each participating jurisdiction of the Urban County:

Arroyo Grande	\$105,618	San Luis Obispo	\$629,608
Atascadero	\$186,732	Special Urban Projects Fund	\$115,252
Grover Beach	\$122,935	Unincorporated County	\$653,100
Paso Robles	\$277,207		

CDBG funds may be used for a variety of community development activities as long as the activity meets at least one of the three national objectives and is an eligible activity per the CDBG regulations. The three national objectives are as follows:

1. Benefit primarily to families with incomes below 80 percent of area median; or
2. Aid in the prevention or elimination of slums or blight; or
3. Address urgent needs that pose a serious, immediate threat to the public health or welfare.

Each year HUD publishes income limits, adjusted by family size, for families with incomes below 80 percent of area median or below 50 percent of median. The income limits for 2009 in the San Luis Obispo County area are the following:

Persons in Family	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Low-Income: ( $<80\% \times$ median)	\$39,651	\$45,301	\$51,001	\$56,651	\$61,201	\$65,701	\$70,251	\$74,801
Very Low-Income: ( $<50\% \times$ median)	\$24,801	\$28,301	\$31,851	\$35,401	\$38,251	\$41,041	\$43,901	\$446,751

CDBG-eligible activities include: acquisition of real property, affordable housing activities, construction or rehabilitation of public facilities and improvements, clearance and demolition of buildings, provision of certain types of public services, relocation payments and assistance, removal of architectural barriers, housing rehabilitation, historic preservation, code enforcement, commercial or industrial rehabilitation, special economic development activities, planning studies, and grant administration. In addition to meeting one of the national objectives listed above, at least 70 percent of total 2010 CDBG funding must be approved for activities that benefit low-income families, and the overall CDBG program should not exclude benefit to very low-income families.

HOME funds may be used only for affordable housing related activities that benefit low-income families. There is a local funding match requirement equal to 25 percent of the HOME funds. Numerous other program requirements apply, as described in the HOME regulations, copies of which are available from the County Department of Planning and Building.

Any individual, group or organization wishing to apply for CDBG, HOME or ESG funding must submit an application to the County or applicable city, using the official proposal forms. **Applications will be accepted until close of business Monday, October 19, 2009. Hard copies of the original application must be PHYSICALLY received by 5:00 P.M. on Monday, October 19, 2009. Postmarks are not acceptable.** To obtain an application, go to the following website: [www.sloplanning.org](http://www.sloplanning.org) under "2010 Grant Funding Opportunities." Please direct your questions to Tony Navarro, Planner III, (805) 781-5787, or to one of the following contact persons at the participating jurisdictions.

- Jim Bergman, Community Dev. Dept., City of Arroyo Grande, 214 E. Branch St., Arroyo Grande, CA 93420, (805) 473-5420
- Valerie Humphrey, Public Works Dept., City of Atascadero, 6907 El Camino Real, Atascadero, CA 93422, (805) 470-3486
- Janet Reese, Community Dev. Dept., City of Grover Beach, 154 S. 8th St., Grover Beach, CA 93433, (805) 473-4520
- Ed Gallagher, Community Dev. Dept., City of Paso Robles, 1000 Spring St., Paso Robles, CA 93446, (805) 237-3970
- Michael Codron, Community Dev. Dept., City of San Luis Obispo, 919 Palm St., San Luis Obispo, CA 93401, (805) 781-7175
- Tony Navarro, Dept. of Planning and Building, 1035 Palm Street, Rm. 370, San Luis Obispo, CA 93408, (805) 781-5787

Criteria that will be used to evaluate the proposals prior to funding decisions by the cities and the County include the following:

1. Consistency with federal regulations and laws
2. Community support (for example, approval of project by a city council)
3. Seriousness of community development need proposed to be addressed by project
4. Degree to which project benefits low-income and very low-income families or persons
5. Feasibility of the project to be completed as budgeted or by June 30, 2011 for public service activities, planning and capacity building and administration projects, or by December 31, 2011 for projects involving acquisition, construction or rehabilitation.
6. Cost effectiveness of funds requested and leveraging of other funds
7. Organization's experience or knowledge regarding CDBG or HOME requirements

The following criteria, in addition to those listed above, will be used only to evaluate proposals for funding under the "Special Urban Projects Fund" allocation of CDBG funds, pursuant to the cooperative agreements between the County and each of the participating cities:

1. Degree of benefit to more than a single jurisdiction.
2. Need by the project for more funding than is available through the other allocations.
3. The project provides direct benefit to most needy groups such as very low-income and/or handicapped persons, at-risk youths (gang prevention), etc.

The project schedule required as part of any CDBG or HOME proposal should describe realistic milestones leading to completion of activities for which funding is requested by December 31, 2011. This is necessary to enable the county to maintain expenditure and activity performance at levels acceptable to HUD. This, in turn, will prevent potential future actions by HUD to "de-obligate" unspent CDBG or HOME funds or apply measures to correct slow performance of activities.

The cooperative agreements with the cities give them a high degree of authority over funding decisions regarding their allocations of CDBG funds. Where appropriate, some jurisdictions may consider "sharing" their allocations to support activities located in other jurisdictions, perhaps contingent upon some form of future compensation. Unless a city's recommendations to the County regarding which projects to fund (with its allocation of CDBG funds) is clearly in conflict with CDBG regulations, the County will approve those recommendations. The Urban County will conduct one or more public workshops for public discussion of the draft 2010 One-Year Action Plan, which will include the projects for which each jurisdiction proposes to authorize CDBG funding.

The public workshops will be held at the following locations, dates and times:

**City of San Luis Obispo - Human Relations Commission**, 5:00 P.M. Tues., September 22, 2009, San Luis Obispo City Hall, 990 Palm St.

**North County Workshop** – 7:00 P.M. Tues., September 29, 2009, Atascadero City Hall, 6907 El Camino Real, Rm. 4, Atascadero

**South County Workshop** – 7:00 P.M. Wed. September 30, 2009, Arroyo Grande City Hall, 215 E. Branch St., Arroyo Grande

**San Luis Obispo Workshop** - 7:00 P.M., Tues., October 6, 2009, City/County Library, Community Room, 995 Palm Street, San Luis Obispo

You are invited to attend these workshops to provide input into plan development. If you cannot attend one of the workshops and would like to include your comments as part of the process, please send all written comments to Tony Navarro, Planner III, Department of Planning and Building, County Government Center, Rm. 300, San Luis Obispo, CA 93408 or e-mail comments to [tnavarro@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:tnavarro@co.slo.ca.us). For more information, call (805) 781-5787. If you have questions or need additional information about the funding programs, or about the citizen participation process, please contact Mr. Navarro.