

FY 2011-2012 and FY 2012-2013 DRAFT ANNUAL ACTION PLAN AMENDMENTS

Santa Barbara County CDBG Urban County Partnership

Introduction

The County of Santa Barbara's Community Services Department (CSD) is the lead agency for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Urban County Partnership, which includes the cities of Buellton, Carpinteria, Lompoc and Solvang. CSD's division of Housing and Community Development (HCD) administers the annual grant program. To receive a final reservation of funds, all projects must undergo an application process, staff review, evaluations by review committees, and approval by City Councils and the County Board of Supervisors. The 2011 and 2012 Annual Action Plan Amendments are subject to approval by the County Board of Supervisors.

The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) awards CDBG funding annually to the Santa Barbara County Urban County Partnership to develop viable communities and assist low and moderate income persons.

The County of Santa Barbara proposes Substantial Amendment Recommendations only for Unspent Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funds:

The purpose of the amendments is to update the CDBG funding allocations proposed in the County's 2011 and 2012 Annual Action Plans, and to reprogram unspent funds that were reserved for other projects that did not move forward due to unforeseen circumstances. HUD imposes strict expenditure requirements under the CDBG Program regulations. The ability to acquire sufficient funding necessary for development, and the identification of ready projects are necessary to avoid deobligation under CDBG Program expenditure requirements. Therefore, the County may occasionally be required to shift funding commitments from one year to another and/or from one project to another to ensure timely expenditure of funds.

2011 and 2012 Annual Action Plan Amendments:

The Board of Supervisors will consider proposed Amendments to the Annual Action Plans during the April 16, 2013 Board hearing. In accordance with the County's Citizen Participation Plan, the Substantial Amendments were required to be available for a 30-day public comment period which began on March 1, 2013 and continued through April 1, 2013. Public comments may also be heard at the Board of Supervisors April 16, 2013 hearing where the Annual Action Plan Amendments will be discussed. HUD defines a substantial amendment to an Annual Action Plan to include the addition of a new project not described in an Annual Action Plan; the deletion of a project described in an Annual Action Plan; a change in the funding amount of a project by 50% or more; a change in the purpose or scope that it would be considered a new project; a change in the location of a project; or a change of 50% or more of beneficiaries.

Specifically, the County proposes amendments to the 2011 and 2012 Annual Action Plans to re-allocate unspent funds on other eligible projects and/or activities that meet the County's 2010 – 2015 Consolidated Plan and one or more of HUD's National Objectives. This will assist in meeting timely expenditures of CDBG funds as required by HUD and ensure that any unspent CDBG funds are used to meet County's goals and objectives.

- a. Reprogram \$100,000 in City of Buellton CDBG funds for the Sidewalk ADA project from the 2011 Action Plan to the 2013 County of Santa Barbara Isla Vista Streetlighting Retrofit and Incidental Sidewalk Improvements. The State of California did not approve the Buellton project and therefore Buellton will not be expending these dollars.
- b. Reprogram \$50,000 from Casa Esperanza's Emergency Shelter CDBG funds for Culinary Job Training to a Shelter Resource Center. The Culinary Job Training project was determined not to qualify for this funding source and the Resource Center is a high priority in the County Consolidated Plan.

The County received a 2013 application from the Woman's Economic Ventures for \$50,000 that qualifies for State Program Income. HCD recommends this project for State Program Income:

- a. Fund Women's Economic Ventures with State CDBG program income funds in the amount of \$50,000 for this small business development micro-credit program. The program has historically been funded through the annual CDBG Capital and Economic Development allocation.

2012 Action Plan footnote: The 2012 Lompoc Mobile Home Emergency Repair Grant/Emergency Repair Grant (MERG/ERG) approved for \$35,000 was inadvertently combined with the Lompoc Code Enforcement program rather than being defined as a stand-alone program in the 2012 Action Plan. In order to receive funding, all projects need to be defined in related Action Plans.