



Satpal Singh Sidhu
Whatcom County Executive



MEMORANDUM

To: Whatcom County Council Members
From: Satpal Sidhu, County Executive
Through: Tyler Schroeder, Deputy Executive *TKS*
Subject: CDBG Grant Applications for 2022 and public hearing requirement
Date: April 29, 2022

Satpal

County administration has been approached with requests from two local agencies asking for partnership in support of the following three grant applications from the Washington State Department of Commerce's Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG):

- 1) Opportunity Council: 2022 Public Services (Formula) Grant in the amount of \$131,000 supporting new or expanded direct services for persons with low and moderate incomes in the Whatcom, Skagit and Island County area;
- 2) Opportunity Council: 2022 General Purposes Grant in the amount of \$500,000 supporting the Housing Rehabilitation Program; and
- 3) Sean Humphrey House: 2022 General Purposes Grant in the amount of \$280,000 supporting acquisition of property at a second site which will provide housing and support services to low income persons living with HIV.

Through subrecipient agreements with the County, each of these subgrantees will administer their grant and oversee the distribution of services. See additional details on Opportunity Council's grants attached; further information on the Sean Humphrey House property acquisition will be presented at the May 24th hearing.

I am supporting these applications and requesting authorization from the Council to submit them to, and if successful, enter into grant contracts with, the Washington State Department of Commerce. As part of the application process, we are required to conduct a public hearing in order to receive public input on the use of CDBG funds and to inform the public on the nature of these and other CDBG funding opportunities. The public hearing is scheduled for May 24, 2022.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

/Enclosures

CDBG Public Services 2022-23

SCOPE OF WORK

A. Service Programs

The Community Development Block Grant for Public Services is administered by counties throughout Washington State to support partnerships with regional Community Action programs in delivering new or expanded services that address root causes of poverty.

CDBG Whatcom Narrative:

In Whatcom County, CDBG funds will support services and activities in East Whatcom County, a region of Whatcom County that includes many low-income residents in a geographically remote and underserved rural community. Services will be provided and coordinated by Opportunity Council information and referral specialist at the East Whatcom Regional Resource Center. The primary activities will be connecting low to moderate income residents with services including early childhood education, food resources, and energy assistance programs.

CDBG Island County Narrative:

In Island County, CDBG funds will increase capacity to serve low-income households including housing support services. This funding supports current homeless housing and prevention screening, qualifying and enrolling clients in services such as Basic Food and other supportive programs. Staff will also engage and refer to other local service providers to serve people who are homeless, Veterans and people with mental health and chemical dependency issues.

CDBG San Juan Narrative:

CDBG Public Services grant will provide support to the Community Resource Centers on San Juan, Orcas and Lopez Islands in San Juan County. The geography and limited transportation systems in San Juan County create a significant challenge in providing services to low-income households. The Community Resource Centers are the conduit that connects people to services on each of the islands. Opportunity Council will contract for information and referral services with each Community Resource Center so residents can access housing, food, energy assistance, and employment opportunities.

2022-23 CDBG Public Services Grant Budget	
Cost Categories	Amount
Staffing	\$102,964.58
Goods & services	\$12,175.71
Travel	\$1,824.28
Indirect	\$14,035.43
TOTAL	\$131,000.00

Memorandum

Date: April 29, 2022
To: Satpal Sidhu, Whatcom County Executive
From: Greg Winter, Opportunity Council Executive Director *GW*
Re: Community Development Block Grant funding for home repairs in three counties

Opportunity Council respectfully requests Whatcom County's assistance and support for a grant application for a \$500,000 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) from the Washington Department of Commerce for Opportunity Council's ongoing Home Repair Program.

If awarded these WA CDBG funds, Opportunity Council will use the funding over a three-year period to provide deferred loans and grants for the costs of health and safety repairs for approximately 25 homeowners with low-income living in Whatcom, Island and San Juan Counties who cannot otherwise afford the cost of home repairs.

The Opportunity Council's role is to work with homeowners to confirm their income eligibility and then to develop the scope of work for the repairs, to solicit bids from private contractors, to coordinate the construction project, and to ensure quality in accordance with good practices and established guidelines of the funding.

The Opportunity Council has successfully delivered this Home Repair Program in the past and is currently finishing up a three-year project funded by a WA CDBG awarded in 2020 for similar purposes. The \$500,000 awarded in 2020 is allocated to homes already scheduled for construction. These funds help ensure preservation and durability of homes and the health and safety of families in our community.

Community Action

A Community Action Agency
serving Whatcom, Island and
San Juan Counties since 1965

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Thank you for consideration of this request.