

**WHATCOM COUNTY
EXECUTIVE'S OFFICE**

County Courthouse
311 Grand Avenue, Suite #108
Bellingham, WA 98225-4082



Jack Louws
County Executive

MEMORANDUM

To: Whatcom County Council Members
From: Jack Louws, County Executive
Subject: CDBG Grant Application for 2019 Public Services Grant
Date: March 1, 2019

We have been contacted by the Opportunity Council (OC) regarding acting as the lead agency to apply for a grant from Washington State Department of Commerce. The 2019 Public Services (Formula) Grant supports new or expanded direct services for persons with low and moderate incomes in the Whatcom, Skagit and Island County area.

Through a subrecipient agreement with the County, OC will administer this grant and oversee the distribution of services. The public services grant amount allocated to the tri-county area is \$129,122.

I am supporting this application and recommending to the Council that it be submitted to 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 this and other CDBG funding opportunities. As lead agency for this pass-through grant, the County Council is required to sign a Resolution in support of the application. We have drafted the Resolution per CDBG guidelines and it is attached.

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

/Enclosures

Community Development Block Grant

Strengthening rural communities through projects that benefit low- and moderate-income persons

GENERAL PURPOSE GRANTS

\$10,000,000

For planning or construction of public infrastructure, community facilities, affordable housing, and economic development projects.

Competitive. Maximum grant up to \$750,000 based on project type. Application materials available in March and due in June.

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY GRANTS

\$300,000

For state and local priority projects resulting in economic resilience and development in rural communities through grant or grant-to-loan assistance.

Competitive. Applications accepted throughout the year on a fund available basis.

HOUSING ENHANCEMENT GRANTS

\$200,000

For off-site infrastructure or the community facility component of a state Housing Trust Fund project.

Competitive. Maximum grant is generally \$200,000. Initial CDBG Housing Enhancement Grant application forms are submitted with a HTF Stage 2 application.

PUBLIC SERVICES GRANTS

\$1,500,000

For 17 counties and community action agencies to fund new or expanded services for lower income persons.

Allocated by formula based on population and poverty. Application materials available February and due in April.

HUD NATIONAL OBJECTIVES

CDBG project activities must meet one of three HUD National Objectives:

- Principally benefits low-and moderate-income (LMI) persons
- Aids in the prevention or elimination of slums or blight
- Addresses imminent threat to public health or safety

Funding is contingent on approval of the state's 2019 Action Plan and CDBG allocation by the US Department of Housing & Urban Development.

OUR CORE PURPOSE

Grow and improve jobs in Washington State by championing thriving communities, a prosperous economy, and suitable infrastructure.

PROGRAM CONTACT

Kaaren Roe
Section Manager
Local Government Division
360.725.3018
kaaren.roe@commerce.wa.gov

ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES:

Eligible applicants are Washington State cities/towns with less than 50,000 in population and not participating in a CDBG entitlement urban county consortium; and counties with less than 200,000 in population. Eligible cities/towns and counties are listed on the CDBG website.

Special purpose districts, public housing authorities, community action agencies, economic development councils, other non-profit organizations, and Indian tribes are not eligible to apply directly to the state CDBG Program for funding, but may be a partner in projects and subrecipient of funding with an eligible city/town or county applicant.

1011 Plum Street SE, Olympia, WA 98504
<http://www.commerce.wa.gov/cdbg>

Attachment #1 – Scope of Work & Budget

SCOPE OF WORK

A. Service Programs

NOTE: List the specific public service activities from the CDBG application's Project Description & Low- and Moderate-Income Benefit Table, or reference the CDBG application's Project Description & Low- and Moderate-Income Benefit Table.

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 community members 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. This service center, located in Oak Harbor, will also engage and refer to other local service providers to serve homeless, veterans and those with mental health and chemical dependency issues.

CDBG San Juan Narrative:

CDBG Public Services grant will provide support to the three 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 and the mainland as well. 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.

2019-20 CDBG Public Services Grant Budget

Cost Categories	Amount
Staffing	\$101,488.00
Goods & services	\$12,001.00
Travel	\$1,798.00
Indirect	\$13,835.00
TOTAL	\$129,122.00