

AGENDA ITEM # III-C.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM PRE-APPROVED FUNDING

The Steering Committee of the Five County Association of Governments has authorized pre-approved funding to the Five County Association of Governments for CDBG Program Administration, Direct Planning Assistance, Economic Development Technical Assistance and Housing Program Delivery. This funding has enabled the Community and Economic Development Program staff to provide planning and technical assistance to income eligible communities throughout the Five County Region. Work program elements have previously included updating the region's Consolidated Plan, community development planning assistance, administration of the CDBG program, Workforce Housing Assistance, and program delivery for the Revolving Loan Fund, Down Payment/Closing Cost, HOME and Emergency Home Repair programs.

State CDBG staff informed each of the Associations of Governments that they will no longer be eligible to receive funding for direct planning activities beginning in FY 2012. Previous grants for this particular activity have totaled \$50,000 on an annual basis. Each jurisdiction in the region has an opportunity to submit an application for funding to update their planning documents. Upon prioritization and approval of funding, these jurisdictions could contract with the Association of Governments to provide services outlined in their application, but this entire process needs to be driven by jurisdictions. In addition to the reduction in direct planning funds mentioned above, the Association of Governments grant to provide administration of the CDBG program was cut \$10,000 in FY 2011.

Community and Economic Development staff will continue to provide support in capital improvement planning, affordable housing strategy development and support, and other activities related to updating the Region's Consolidated Plan. The consolidated planning process requires public input at the local levels for citizens, local governments, and other key agencies. Staff provides assistance, direction and help to facilitate a collaborative effort to accomplish this requirement. AOG staff is also involved with efforts to encourage affordable housing strategies and development.

Staff is actively involved in program delivery to clients meeting income eligibility to provide intake for the Revolving Loan Fund, HOME, Emergency Home Repair and Down Payment/Closing Cost assistance. Examples of some of the services provided throughout the region include: 1) Housing Rehabilitation; 2) Roof and bathroom repairs; 3) Septic system repairs; 4) Replacement of inoperable heating and cooling systems and water heaters; 5) Low to Moderate Income Job Creation; and 6) District Revolving Loan Fund loan servicing. The RLF provides gap financing to qualified business expansions, start-ups, and/or relocations.

AOG staff is recommending pre-approved funding in the amount of \$90,000 which would enable staff to continue providing CDBG program administration and on-going assistance throughout the region.