

Five County Annual Action Plan Reporting

Executive Summary

The Five County report for the 2021 Utah Annual Action Plan describes activities completed in the past year and offers the region an opportunity to review and update goals year to year. The progress made in the last year is complemented by an understanding of the expected funds for the upcoming fiscal year and a discussion of the projects to be rated and ranked in the coming year. As a result of writing this report, Five County staff have reviewed the challenges to economic development, housing, and CDBG activities that exist in the region and can take action to address these challenges. Such actions could include adjustments to rating and ranking criteria, regional priorities, workshops and meetings, and engagement with jurisdictions in the region.

This document is the Five County Association of Governments contribution to the 2021 Utah Annual Action Plan assembled by the State of Utah's Housing and Community Development office, which reports on Community Development Block Grant activities statewide.

Work Completed

The Five County Association of Governments Community and Economic Development staff provide technical planning assistance to Low-and Moderate-Income communities in the region. Our efforts also support those communities in completing Community Development Block Grant applications for funding to complete projects in the region. During the 2021 Fiscal year, the FCAOG staff activities include:

- Completion of 4 Moderate-Income Housing Plans.
- Revision of FCAOG CDBG Rating and Ranking Criteria.
- How to Apply Workshops for the 2021 application cycle.

Outreach and Consultation

The public has been offered several opportunities to engage and provide comment on AOG CDBG activities, plans, and policies. In this fiscal year, there have been no comments from the public. In contrast, AOG contacts, organizations, municipalities, counties, special service districts, and nonprofits regularly communicate their needs and challenges. Meetings and communication for various planning processes support ongoing relationships with organizations throughout the region. This provides staff with an improved understanding of the community need, ongoing projects, and actions the AOG can take to support these organizations in addressing identified problems.

Expected Resources and Allocation Priorities

The Five County region is expecting to receive \$907,269 in CDBG funding, with \$0 remaining from the previous year's funding and program income. These dollars will be used throughout the region to address community challenges and needs. The region has identified allocation priorities for this funding by evaluating community development capital projects, requested from individual community, county, and special service district One-Year Capital Improvement Plans. Priorities include: 1) Public Utility Infrastructure; 2) Public

Safety Activities; 3) Community Facilities; 3) LMI Housing activities; 4) Projects to remove Architectural Barriers; and 6) Parks and Recreation. Priorities are reflected in the regional Rating and Ranking Criteria.

Housing

The Five County Association of Governments assists communities in drafting Moderate-Income Housing Plans to improve the understanding and remove barriers to affordable housing in the community. The AOG has prioritized assisting LMI communities or communities with limited planning staff.

An element of the Moderate-Income Housing Plans includes assessing the barriers that exist in a community to developing affordable housing options. These can include zoning and land use policies, requirements in the development process, available buildable land, among other barriers. This report discusses common barriers experienced in the region with potential strategies to address or reduce the barrier.

There are three Public Housing Agencies in the Southwestern Utah region, which assist LMI households with housing accommodation and aid: Beaver Housing Authority, Cedar City Housing Authority, and St. George Housing Authority. The Beaver Housing Authority is the only Public Housing Agency that owns public housing in the non-entitlement area. Regular communication with the housing authorities has contributed to consistent prioritization of affordable housing in the Rating and Ranking Criteria for CDBG funding in the Five County Region. Consultation with housing authorities further informs AOG staff of the challenges and needs that communities have regarding affordable housing.