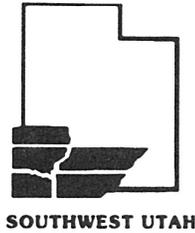


Five County Association of Governments

1070 West 1600 South, Building B
St. George, Utah 84770

Fax (435) 673-3540



Post Office Box 1550
St. George, Utah 84771

Office (435) 673-3548

June 16, 2021

CDBG Policy Board Chairperson,

The Five County Association of Governments Steering Committee met today and has discussed the potential for upcoming changes to the current method of distribution of State Small Cities Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds. Those federal funds, administered by the State of Utah, and which are important to our communities, counties, and eligible not-for-profit organizations, are distributed through a formula to the various eligible associations of governments who determine prioritizations through an approved Rating & Ranking process. We understand that the CDBG Policy Board may be asked by the State CDBG staff to vote on changes to the Method of Distribution that could alter the current formula this September.

Considering the fully year-long effort by AOG staff from each of the AOGs working cooperatively together with the State CDBG staff during the last method of distribution update, it is known that a less than five-month period will not provide sufficient time for open collaboration and coordination with the AOG governing bodies (in our case the Five County Steering Committee) to be adequately informed of possible changes. We have been made aware that only one working meeting for AOG staff and State CDBG staff towards coordination on the method of distribution has been proposed for July 29, 2021. One such meeting, and the short timeframe to a possible adoption of any changes, is woefully inadequate. This will not provide for an open and healthy discussion this important matter warrants. We are opposed to a process that does not provide enough time to respond with concerns with potential changes to the method of distribution. As you are aware, the Covid-19 pandemic continues to impact AOG workload, and available staff time is limited.

The Steering Committee of the Five County Association of Governments strongly urges the CDBG Policy Board to postpone any decision to change the CDBG method of distribution by at least one-year and maintain the current method of distribution in the interim. Consideration over at least one-year will allow AOGs and their governing bodies time to appropriately consider possible changes to the current method of distribution.

I am happy to answer questions that you may have.

Sincerely,

Beaver County Commissioner Wade Hollingshead

Chair, Five County Association of Governments Steering Committee

Cc: Utah Small Cities CDBG Policy Committee Members