

St. Louis County Department of Human Services  
Office of Community Development  
Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) OVERVIEW

**WHAT IS CDBG?**

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program provides annual grants on a formula basis to entitled cities and counties to develop viable urban communities by providing decent housing and a suitable living environment, and by expanding economic opportunities, principally for low- to moderate-income persons.

**NATIONAL OBJECTIVES**

All activities funded by the CDBG program must meet one of the following National Objectives:

1. Primarily benefit low- and moderate-income residents.
2. Eliminate slums and blight.
3. Alleviate urgent, serious, and critical community needs that are of recent origin.

**ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES**

- **Infrastructure & Public Facilities Improvements** - Acquisition, construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation or installation of public facilities and improvements, such as streets, sidewalks, parks, water and sewer facilities, sanitary sewers, neighborhood centers, parking lots, fire stations, and ADA accessibility enhancements.
- **Clearance Activities** - Clearance, demolition, and removal of buildings.
- **Public Services** - Provision of public services (including labor, supplies, and materials) including but not limited to those concerned with employment, crime prevention, child care, health, drug abuse, education, fair housing counseling, energy conservation, utility payments, or recreational needs. To be eligible for CDBG assistance, a public service must be either a new service or a quantifiable increase in the level of an existing service above that which has been provided by or on behalf of the unit of general local government. Due to federal restrictions, no more than 15 percent of a municipal allocation may be designated for public service activities without prior Office of Community Development approval. Examples of public services include crime awareness, youth services, neighborhood cleanups, and subsistence payments (rental/utility assistance).
- **Rehabilitation & Preservation Activities** - CDBG funds may be used to finance the rehabilitation of:
  - Privately owned buildings and improvements for residential purposes.
  - Low-income public housing and other publicly owned residential buildings and improvements.
  - Publicly or privately owned commercial or industrial buildings, except that the rehabilitation of such buildings owned by a private for-profit business is limited to improvements to the exterior of the building and the correction of code violations.
  - Nonprofit-owned nonresidential buildings and improvements.

**INELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES**

- Improvements to buildings used for conduct of government such as a city hall.  
Exceptions: Police/fire stations, community centers, ADA improvements to government buildings.
- General government expenses such as regular trash pickup.
- Political activities such as campaigns, voter registration drives.
- Activities that support religious worship or proselytizing.

St. Louis County Department of Human Services