

## Community Development Block Grant

**Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Description:** The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA or stimulus bill) provides \$1 billion for funding the Community Development Block Grant program. The CDBG program is a federally funded pass through grant program from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Stimulus funds, being referred to as Community Development Block Grant Recovery (CDBG-R), will be distributed on a formula basis to cities with populations of at least 50,000 and to the states for disbursement to smaller communities and counties. The Wyoming Business Council (WBC) administers the regular CDBG program for the state and will administer the CDBG-R program as well. The cities of Cheyenne and Casper each receive their own allocations. The stimulus bill will provide the State of Wyoming \$857,718. The cities of Cheyenne and Casper will receive \$145,516 and \$119,192, respectively.

The purpose of CDBG-R funds is to maximize job creation and economic benefit by:

- Preserving and creating jobs and promoting economic recovery;
- Assisting those most impacted by the recession;
- Providing investment needed to increase economic efficiency;
- Investing in transportation, environmental protection, or other infrastructure that will provide long-term economic benefits;
- Minimizing or avoiding reductions in essential services; or
- Fostering energy independence.

There are some new provisions for the CDBG-R. For example, preference must be given to projects that can award contracts based on bids within 120 days of award, no state match is required, goods purchased for the construction, maintenance or repair of a CDBG-R building or public works project must be manufactured in the United States unless there are extenuating circumstances, projects must be completed and grant funds utilized by September 30, 2012 or they revert back to the U.S. Treasury.

A state making application for CDBG-R funds must identify projects they propose to fund with stimulus funds. The WBC conducted an abbreviated call for applications and received four. Those applications received included: Goshen County; Table Mountain Vineyards; Mountain View, Lincoln-Uinta Child Development Center; Powell, Habitat for Humanity ReStore; and Sundance, The Sundance Kid's Day Care. Based on a threshold scoring system, job creation, ability to go to bid quickly, community capacity, and the criteria listed above for meeting the intent of the ARRA, the WBC selected the Powell and Sundance projects to advance to HUD who subsequently approved those projects.

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