



Wood County
Planning Commission
WCPC

To: Wood County Political Jurisdictions and other eligible CDBG applicants
From: Dave Steiner, Director, Wood County Planning Commission *W.C.S.*
Re: Changes to the FY15 Federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program
Date: February 13, 2018

As you may recall, The Ohio Development Services Agency (ODSA), which administers the State's CDBG Program had implemented some changes to their programs beginning with their PY15 grant. The Community Assessment Strategy (CAS) was replaced by Community Development Implementation Strategy (CDIS).

The CDIS enables the county to holistically prioritize CDBG investments through the participation of all political entities within the County that are eligible for funding. To prepare the CDIS, all communities and other eligible applicants for CDBG funding are required to attend a community forum to identify and prioritize their individual community's needs in respect to infrastructure, public utility, transportation, housing, public services, ADA modifications, and park/recreational improvements. For CDBG funding consideration, the proposed activities must be designed to primarily benefit low and moderate income persons, aid in the elimination of slum and blight conditions or address an urgent need (such as tornado/flood damage). To determine LMI benefit, the State has provided household income data broken down by community, census tract and block group. If need be, the State allows communities to undertake household income surveys of the project area to determine eligibility. Project areas must be at least 51% LMI.

The community forum will be held on **Wednesday March 7, 2018 at 6 PM** in the Wood County Commissioners Hearing Room at One Courthouse Square on the 5th Floor. All interested parties that may be seeking PY18 CDBG funds from the County are required to attend and be prepared to report on the community development needs of their respective community. Failure to attend this meeting may jeopardize a community's likelihood of receiving grant funding.

We have attached a survey to denote community development needs. This will need to be completed prior to March 7th, and will need to be submitted at the CDIS meeting.

After the Public Forum, the County will compile all of the information from the communities and prepare overall county needs assessment using templates and forms furnished by the State. Projects will be ranked according to their feasibility (readiness to proceed, other funding and approved permits), criticality (addressing safety, health and/or general welfare issues), and impact (number of people benefiting and percentage of low and moderate income people assisted). These rankings will help the County determine funding priorities.

Should you have any questions about the upcoming March 7th meeting, or on the attached survey, please do not hesitate to contact the Wood County Planning Commission at 419.354.9128.