



To: Wood County Political Jurisdictions and other eligible CDBG applicants  
From: Dave Steiner, Director, Wood County Planning Commission *W.C.P.C.*  
Re: Changes to the FY15 Federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program  
Date: February 10, 2015

The Ohio Development Services Agency (ODSA), which administers the State's CDBG Program, has implemented a series of changes to the program effective with this year's FY15 Grant. Previously, the State required its grantees (community recipients of CDBG funds) like Wood County, to prepare a planning document titled a Community Assessment Strategy (CAS), to denote area-wide needs and identification of low and moderate income (LMI) areas throughout the County. This document was used by the county, in part, to make the funding decisions for the CDBG community allocations.

Starting this year, the CAS will be replaced with a new planning document entitled the Community Development Implementation Strategy (CDIS). This new document will enable 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 requested to attend a community forum to identify and prioritize their individual community needs in respect to infrastructure, public utilities, 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 4, 2015 at 6 PM** in the Wood County Commissioners Hearing Room at One Courthouse Square on the 5<sup>th</sup> Floor. All interested parties that may be seeking FY15 CDBG funds from the County are strongly encouraged to attend and be prepared to report on the community development needs of their respective community. Failure to attend this meeting may hinder a community's likelihood of receiving grant funding.

For your information, we have attached the LMI data for Wood County and a sample survey to denote community development needs. This information can also be found at:  
<http://www.co.wood.oh.us/planning/community-programs.htm>

After the Public Forum, the County will compile all of the information from the communities and prepare a 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 for project selection at a later date.

Please contact the Wood County Planning Commission at 419-354-9128 with any questions or concerns.

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