

**Crawford County**  
**Community Development Block Grant**  
Program Year 2023  
Summary of Public Hearing/Meeting Comments

**1. Introduction**

- Good evening, everyone. My name is David Zak, President and CEO of the Crawford Partnership for Education and Economic Development.
- I am here tonight to speak to you about the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program and the work that we are doing to support economic development and community improvement in Crawford County.
- Our organization has successfully won the contract to administer the CDBG funds on behalf of Crawford County.
- As the program administrator, our role is to help communities identify and develop projects that meet the program's objectives and requirements.

**2. Overview of CDBG Program**

- The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program provides funding to states, cities, and counties to support community development activities such as infrastructure improvements, housing development, and economic development.
- The program is administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and has been in existence since 1974.
- The program is designed to be flexible, allowing communities to use the funding in a variety of ways that best address their unique needs and priorities.
- The CDBG program has been successful in supporting community development initiatives across the United States and has provided more than \$150 billion in funding to communities.

**3. National Objectives**

- The CDBG program has three national objectives that guide the use of CDBG funds.
- The first objective is to benefit low- and moderate-income individuals and families.
- The second objective is to address urgent community needs, such as improving infrastructure or providing affordable housing.
- The third objective is to eliminate slum and blight in communities.
- Communities are required to develop a plan for how they will use the funding and are encouraged to engage with residents and stakeholders throughout the planning process.

**4. Eligible Activities**

- Several eligible activities can be funded through the CDBG program.
- These include housing development, infrastructure improvements, economic development, and public services.
- The CDBG program offers a range of funding opportunities to help Crawford County improve its infrastructure, support economic development, and enhance the quality of life of its residents.

**5. Available Funding**

- Crawford County in Ohio is eligible for various CDBG programs that offer different funding amounts and objectives.

- Community Development Allocation: \$220,000 available for grant funding for community development projects such as public facility construction or improvement, blighted building demolition, accessibility improvements, and historic preservation. Crawford County is eligible for \$178,000 for up to two projects.
- Critical Infrastructure: Competitive grant funding for high-priority improvements such as roads, storm damage, fire protection facilities, and other public facilities. Crawford County can receive up to \$500,000 through this program.
- Neighborhood Revitalization: Grant funding to improve quality of life, livability, and functionality of distressed areas and neighborhoods. Crawford County can receive up to \$750,000 through this program.
- Residential Public Infrastructure: Grant funding for water and/or sanitary sewer projects primarily for residential users. The project must be located in an area with a low- to moderate-income population of at least 51 percent and must have a minimum total project cost of \$200,000. Crawford County can receive up to \$750,000 through this program.
- Flexible Grant Program: Grant funding for eligible activities which do not fit with other CDBG programs, including economic development, community development, housing, and downtown activities. The amount of available funds through this program varies depending on the needs of the community.

## **6. Past Activities**

- Crawford County has received several CDBG grants in the past.
- In Program Year 2015, the county received a grant totaling \$116,000 for countywide demolition and transportation services.
- In Program Year 2017, the county received a grant totaling \$607,000, which helped fund several projects, including the Livingston Avenue Sewer Extension and the Galion-based Neff Market Building.
- In Program Year 2019, Crawford County received a grant totaling \$220,000 for an Impediments Study and sidewalk improvements in Crestline, Bucyrus, and Chatfield.
- For the latest Program Year 2021 grant, the County planned to install sewer lines in Galion and a handicap ramp in Chatfield. However, those projects fell through, and the grant is now supporting a Salvation Army/Marion-Crawford ADAMH facility.

## **7. Summary of Program Requirements**

- Projects should target to be finished in 2024. The final work completion deadline is August 31, 2025.
- Davis-Bacon prevailing wage rates must apply.
- Develop a plan for how funds will be used.
- Regular reporting on progress and impact of CDBG-funded projects.
- At least 70% of funds must benefit low- and moderate-income individuals and families.
- Engage with residents and stakeholders throughout the planning process.
- Requirements are designed to ensure that the funds are used effectively and in a manner that benefits the community as a whole.

## **8. The Process**

- Step 1: Become informed about the CDBG program.
- Step 2: Fill out preliminary needs and project proposal questionnaires.
- Final project proposal deadline: May 2, 2023.

- The Commissioners will review and choose the projects that will be funded between the Project Submission date and the Second Public Hearing.
- Second Public Hearing (required by law): May 16, 2023, at 1:30 p.m.
- Application submission deadline for selected projects: June 14, 2023.
- Community engagement and input are encouraged throughout the process.
- The process is designed to be transparent and responsive to the needs and priorities of individual communities.