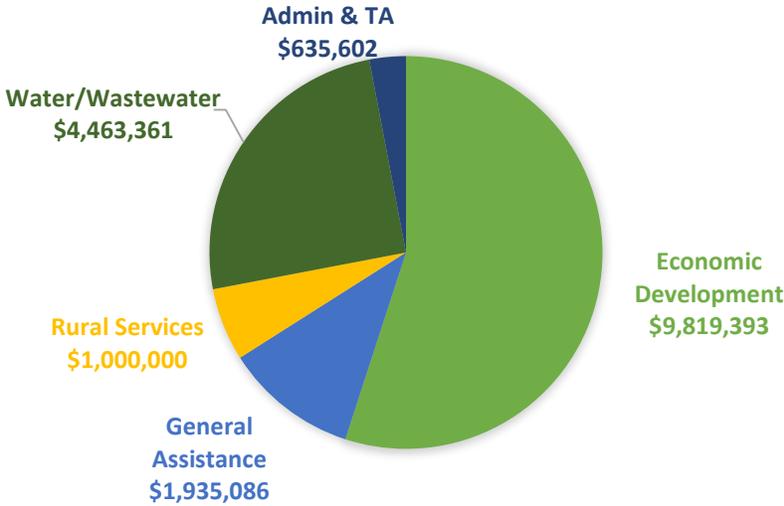




Arkansas Community & Economic Development Grant Program (ACEDP)
July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020
2019 Allocation: \$17,853,442



What is CDBG?

Congress created the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program in 1974 to benefit low- and moderate-income persons, prevent and eliminate conditions of slum or blight, and address other urgent community development needs. AEDC has administered the State CDBG program since 1983 when HUD moved the administration of the funds to the states. In Arkansas the CDBG program is also known as the Arkansas Community and Economic Development Program (ACEDP).

Who is Eligible?

Eligible applicants include cities and counties with a population of under 50,000 with a benefitting low- to moderate-income (LMI) population of at least 51 percent, or for projects which benefit a targeted eligible clientele. Larger entitlement cities receive their own funding and are not eligible for funds from this program. They are: Conway, Fayetteville, Fort Smith, Hot Springs, Jacksonville, Jonesboro, Little Rock, North Little Rock, Pine Bluff, Rogers, Springdale, Texarkana, and West Memphis.

Only cities and counties may apply for CDBG grants. Grants cannot be made directly to non-profit or for-profit groups or individuals. However, cities and counties may apply for projects that will benefit non-profit groups, for-profit companies, or LMI persons.

General Assistance - CDBG funds will be utilized for public facilities and public infrastructure projects. Funds are awarded for: senior centers; child care centers; public health facilities; youth centers; accredited public libraries; removal of architectural barriers from city halls or county courthouses for accessibility; residential water and wastewater; street, curb, gutter, sidewalk, or storm sewer; flood control and drainage; and, other public facility or infrastructure project determined to be a high priority, and not eligible to be funded under another CDBG program.

Scoring criteria includes: Project need, impact, and readiness; citizen participation; leveraging of resources; benefit to LMI persons; and cost per user.

Applicants anticipating the use of federal and/or state administered funds in order to finance water or wastewater improvements must apply with the Water Wastewater Advisory Committee (WWAC). Four state agencies partner in support of water and wastewater services: Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ); Arkansas Department of Health (ADH); the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission (ANRC); AEDC; U.S. Department of Agriculture - Rural Development (USDA-RD); and Communities Unlimited. The WWAC provides project development guidance and recommends project financing to communities through its application process.

Representatives from the member agencies meet the first Wednesday of each month to review pre-applications for water/wastewater projects. The WWAC meetings are open to the public, and potential applicants may attend the meetings. Projects have to be submitted the WWAC by the 15th of a month to make the agenda for the next meeting. The application process includes submitting a WWAC pre-application with information regarding a Preliminary Engineering Report (PER).

Rural Services - CDBG funds will be utilized for community center, fire station, multi-purpose center, and fire truck and fire-fighting equipment projects.

The Arkansas Rural Development Commission will review Application and make recommendations for funding of projects to benefit rural communities with a population of less than 3,000 persons. Applicants should contact the Division of Rural Services to obtain an application for the Rural Services Block Grant Program (RSBGP).

Economic Development - CDBG funds will be utilized for providing communities with resources to assist businesses which expand the State's economic base and which create quality jobs principally benefiting LMI persons. Eligible activities will generally include: grants or loans to for-profit businesses (through the applicant community) for a variety of business purposes; or public facilities (infrastructure) projects undertaken by applicant communities for economic development purposes, where a benefiting business agrees to locate or expand premised on the infrastructure improvements and agrees to create jobs for LMI persons.

Funds may be used by eligible applicants to: 1) Provide infrastructure necessary to serve the location of a new or expansion of an existing industry which will create new jobs or retain existing jobs; 2) provide loans to industry for economic development purposes when it can determine that the provision of such financing is necessary to create new jobs and/or retain existing jobs; 3) provide funds for the construction of facilities; 4) provide funds for a Commission-approved training program; or, 5) undertake any combination of 1 through 4 above, provided that all other requirements can be met.

Projects are generally evaluated through a cost benefit analysis process; and for basic eligibility, financial feasibility, appropriateness and the extent to which the project will result in the creation and/or retention of permanent jobs, primarily for LMI persons.

Application Process

Complete information regarding each program's application and selection criteria will be made available online. Application guidelines will provide specific details on the application questions, deadlines for completing applications, threshold requirements, and any other necessary items. Application workshops will be held throughout the program year.

Arkansas Economic Development Commission
Grants Management Division
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