

## PALM BEACH COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

**Meeting Date:** 

**December 1, 2009** 

[X]Consent

[ ] Regular

Department:

**Housing and Community Development** 

Submitted By:

**Housing and Community Development** 

## I. EXECUTIVE BRIEF

**Motion and Title: Staff recommends motion to approve:** Revisions to the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program Criteria relating to agency certification by Nonprofits First and homeless shelter/transitional housing restrictions.

**Summary:** The County's CDBG evaluation process currently requires non-profit agencies to be certified by the agency Nonprofits First or to have initiated the certification process to receive funding. Because of economic hardship faced by some agencies most agencies are unable to afford the cost of the certification process. Staff is recommending that the requirement be modified to be a preference whereby additional evaluation points are given to those agencies that are certified. CDBG criteria currently requires that all non-profit agencies located in municipalities prove that at least 51% of beneficiaries reside outside the municipality where the agency is located and outside other entitlement municipalities. Due to the transient nature of the homeless population, staff recommends exempting homeless shelters and transitional housing from this requirement. **Countywide** (TKF)

Background and Policy Issues: On October 28, 2008 the Board of County Commissioners expanded the CDBG evaluation process to require that all non-profit agencies be certified by the agency Nonprofits First, or to have initiated the certification process by October 1, 2009. During the FY 2009-2010 CDBG process, various applicant agencies advised of their inability to fund the cost of certification. Because of this economic hardship, and the fact that CDBG funds cannot be used for the cost of certification, staff recommends that the requirement be modified to be a preference whereby additional evaluation points are given to those agencies that are certified. CDBG regulations at 24 CFR 570.309 (Restriction on Location on Activities) state that "CDBG funds may assist an activity outside the jurisdiction of the grantee only if the grantee determines that such an activity is necessary to further the purposes of the Act and the recipient's community development objectives, and that reasonable benefits from the activity will accrue to residents within the jurisdiction of the grantee. The grantee shall document the basis for such determination prior to providing CDBG funds for the activity". The Board of County Commissioners, on October 22, 2002 (Agenda Item 5F-3) approved that all non-profit agencies located in municipalities and applying to the CDBG program under the "Countywide" category must prove that at least 51% of beneficiaries reside outside the municipality and outside other entitlement municipalities. Staff recommends exempting homeless shelters and transitional housing from this requirement due to the transient nature of the homeless population and the frequent inability of homeless individuals to document last place of residence. Staff believes the purpose of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 and the community development objective of assisting homeless individuals and families is met by allowing agencies to assist the homeless even if such agencies are located inside the entitlement municipalities of West Palm Beach, Boca Raton, Boynton Beach and Delray Beach. Agencies operating local homeless shelters and transitional housing will be presumed to provide countywide services and will be exempt from documenting that at least 51% of beneficiaries reside outside the municipality where the agency is located.

Attachments:	
Recommended By: Columbia D. Jones	11/20/09
Department Direct	pr /Date/
Approved By: Sharan County A Still By	11/30/09
Assistant County Administrato	r / Date

## II. FISCAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

## A. Five Year Summary of Fiscal Impact:

	Fiscal Years Capital Expenditures Operating Costs: External Revenues: Program Income (County) In-Kind Match (County):	2009	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	2012	<u>2013</u>			
	NET FISCAL IMPACT:		*See belo	>					
	# OF ADDITIONAL FTE POSITIONS (Cumulative):								
	Is Item Included In Current Budget? Yes No								
	Budget Account #: Fund	Dep	ot	Unit	Object				
	Program Code/Program Period								
	B. Recommended Sources	s of Funds	/Summary o	of Fiscal Imp	act:				
*	No fiscal impact at this time.								
	C. Departmental Fiscal Re	view:							
Shairette Major, Fiscal Manager I									
III. REVIEW COMMENTS									
A. OFMB Fiscal and/or Contract Administration Comments:									
	M I 1/23 1a Au. J. Joseph 11 124109								
	OFMB (	ica lan	Pod	Contract D	év. and Coh	trol			
	B. Legal Sufficiency:								
	Senior Assistant Coun	ty Attorney	3/09						
	C. Other Department Revi	ew:							
	Department Dire	ector	<del></del>						