

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM

SUBJECT: GA DCA – 2017 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Direction

DATE OF MEETING: January 24<sup>th</sup> 2017

Regular Meeting (x)

Work Session (x)

BUDGET IMPACT: See Footnote #2 Below

Recommendation (x)

FUNDING SOURCE:

Policy/Discussion ( )

(X) Annual ( ) SPLOST VII ( ) Capital ( ) N/A

Report ( )

ACTION REQUESTED ON:

2017 CDBG Direction

HISTORY, FACTS AND ISSUES:

It is time for the LCBOC to consider the pursuit of a 2017 Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). Ultimately, direction from the Board is being requested to address the following three items:

- A. Whether or not to pursue a 2017 CDBG application?
- B. If pursued, who to use for the preparation of the application and the administration of the CDBG grant?
- C. Which organization to partner with to pursue<sup>1</sup> the \$500,000-\$750,000 in CDBG funding?

Based on previous experience staff does anticipate costs<sup>2</sup> to Lowndes County as a result of pursuing and potentially having a CDBG grant awarded. For the 2017 cycle, due mainly to the interest of multiple organizations, staff chose to formalize the selection process<sup>3</sup>. Overall, the selection process began with the required CDBG public hearing on September 20<sup>th</sup> and ended with a request for proposal (RFP)'s due on October 6<sup>th</sup>. Ultimately, only one (1) organization submitted an RFP: the Valdosta-Lowndes County Habitat for Humanity. Staff is recommending that: A. Lowndes County pursue a 2017 CDBG application; B. Lowndes County use the Southern Georgia Regional Commission (SGRC) for the preparation of the application and, if awarded, the grant administration; and C. Lowndes County partner with the Valdosta-Lowndes County Habitat for Humanity for the 2017 CDBG application.

<sup>1</sup> It should be noted that if a grant is pursued and awarded in the 2017 cycle, under current rules and regulations Lowndes County won't be able to pursue another award until 2019.

<sup>2</sup> Based on previous experience, the following are costs expected to be incurred if the CDBG grant is pursued and funded: Staff Time (Engineering, Planning, and Finance), Attorney Time, Title Insurance, Preparation and Enforcement of a Guarantee Agreement, Program Audits, Potential Attendance at the GA DCA CDBG Recipients Workshop, Consideration of Development Fees (If any) (capacity, permitting, etc.), Maintenance of the Building (Negotiated by Lease), Financial Liability if Grant Requirements/Conditions are Violated (\$500,000-\$750,000 Amortized For ~20 Years), and Permanent DCA Oversight of the Building/Project.

<sup>3</sup> Additional details about the selection process are as follows: The initial required CDBG public hearing was held September 20<sup>th</sup>. It was advertised in the VDT on Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, September 13<sup>th</sup>. In addition to the normal CDBG public hearing agenda items, explanations and written guidance on the RFP selection process was handed out and addressed. Following the public hearing, organizations were given until October 6<sup>th</sup> to turn in their proposals. To help with additional public notice about the hearing and the RFP selection process two attempts were made to send targeted e-mails to representatives of the previously interested organizations. These e-mails were sent on September 13<sup>th</sup> and then after the hearing on September 20<sup>th</sup>.

OPTIONS: 1. Approve 2. Approve with Conditions 3. Table 4. Deny

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Pursue Staff's Recommendations for the 2017 CDBG Cycle

DIVISION: Planning

County Planner: Jason Davenport *JD*

  
County Manager

Action by the Board: \_\_\_\_\_