Meeting Participants

Lorie Adams, Paul Ashby (Phone), Esperanza Colio-Warren, Rachelle Kellogg, Chuck Kinney (Phone), Susan Long, David Loya (Phone), Mary Pitto (Phone), Gurbax Sahota, Chris Westlake, Robert Mansfield, Rob Choate.


Agenda Items

- No additional items were added to the agenda.

Status of 2017 NOFA Awards

- Group was advised that e-blast was sent to CDBG list serve group stating awards will be announced by June 30, 2018.
- Currently looking for additional disencumbrances to 2017 allocation.
- Planning and Technical Assistance (PTA) grants had $1 million set-aside, yet only $400,000 was awarded. PTAs were funded only if they met a national objective and another activity was funded; no stand-alone PTAs were awarded.
- It was confirmed that 2017 awards will be announced by June 30, 2018 as indicated by Nikki McCay.

2018 CDBG NOFA Release Alternatives

- Staff provided the 2018 CDBG Allocation Options handout that identified three alternatives for releasing 2018 funds: 1) Fund down 2017 NOFA list; 2) Issue 2018 NOFA identical to the 2017 NOFA; and 3) issue a 2018 NOFA as soon as CDBG program redesign is complete. Comments included:
  - Option 1: Fund down the 2017 list.
    - While it may be beneficial for HCD to fund down the list, it is considered a disservice to grantees. Locals are out of money.
    - Small jurisdictions are running out of money to operate programs. Funding down the list prevents grantees from applying and forces them to wait until after redesign is complete. This will shut down programs and make it difficult to re-start.
    - Many jurisdictions were disqualified for minor technicalities meaning they will not be eligible for 2018 funds.
    - Eliminates the need to release a 2018 NOFA.
    - Consideration should be given to 2017 applications to determine if they are really shovel ready.
    - Shuts out 2016 awardees. Those that were awarded in 2016 will be upset if they cannot apply in 2018.
    - Eliminates the need for an Annual Plan update or ConPlan amendment.
    - Contradicts the 2017 NOFA release that was presented as a one-time-only NOFA.
    - Jurisdictions that held off will not have an opportunity for 2018 funds.
    - The 2017 NOFA had new requirements, which meant fewer applications.
- **Option 2:** Issue 2018 NOFA identical to 2017 NOFA.
  - Allows for consistent flow of funding.
  - Creates workload burden on staff, who are stretched thin already, to release NOFA, rate, rank, and award.
  - Lower threshold requirements; may not be shovel ready.
  - If any changes to MOD, the Annual Plan must be updated.
- **Option 3:** Release 2018 NOFA when CDBG Redesign is complete.
  - Not sure when NOFA will be released; no definite commitment. Concern for this option stems from inconsistent track record of not staying with the committed release.
  - Appears to push money out the door.
- **Option 4:** Fund down the 2017 CDBG list in combination with Over-the-Counter (OTC) funding for projects.
  - For programs, this creates inconsistent funding and funding gaps for current programs.
- **Overall General Comments:**
  - Transparency is needed.
  - Must notify and announce 2017 awards.
  - Funding availability needs to be announced.
  - Complete Survey Monkey to ask jurisdictions what option they prefer, but do so after award announcements.

### ED SB106 OTC Language

- It was confirmed that Economic Development OTC funding process will continue post June 30th.

### Status of HCD transition to State’s Financial Management System (FI$CAL)

- Department is transitioning to FI$CAL between 6/1/18 – 7/8/18.
- During transition, there will be “pause” in payments.
- It was recommended that grantees continue to submit payment requests during transition and do not delay until 7/8. Requests can be processed, just no warrants can be issued. This allows payments to be queued and ready to pay post transition.
- The new system is positive for payees because it allows them to check status of payments.
- **Comments:**
  - Don’t delay payments. Small jurisdictions don’t have the cash to front projects for very long.
  - Is there an option to have funds direct deposited or wired, rather than delay for mailing?
  - Confirm if payees can view the payment process on line.
  - Reimbursement delays cause real issues for grantees.
  - Need to speed up payments.

### Other

- Next meeting was not scheduled.