

ATTACHMENT 7

Program Structure and Evaluation Criteria

Program Oversight

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program is administered by the Marin County Community Development Agency (CDA), Housing and Federal Grants Division. The program is designed to address community needs and affirmatively further fair housing through strategic investment of federal funds. Staff ensure compliance with all U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) regulations and coordinate the annual application, review, and monitoring process.

CDBG grants require a minimum award of \$15,000 per year. Countywide projects that serve all three Planning Areas (County Other, San Rafael, and Novato) may pool funds across areas to meet this threshold.

Application Review Process

To enhance transparency and strengthen the evaluation process, the Countywide Priority Setting

Committee (PSC) convened an Application Review Subcommittee. The Subcommittee held meetings on March 20 and March 26, 2025, to conduct in-depth reviews of each application. Members assessed project alignment with federal goals, community needs, and adopted priorities and provided insight and clarifying questions to guide funding decisions.

Eligibility Requirements

To qualify for CDBG funding, all projects must meet at least one of HUD's National Objectives:

- Benefit low- and moderate-income (LMI) persons
- Prevent or eliminate slums or blight
- Address urgent community needs for LMI populations

Evaluation Criteria

Applications are scored based on the following factors:

- **Readiness:** Demonstrated capacity to obligate and expend funds within the grant year.
- **Sustainability:** Long-term viability and impact beyond the CDBG funding period
- **Effectiveness & Accountability:** Organizational capacity, experience, and financial oversight; plans for leadership transitions, if applicable.
- **Impact:** Degree to which the project serves high-need, hard-to-reach, or high-volume populations; cost-effectiveness per person served

PSC-Adopted Priorities

The PSC has identified the following overarching funding priorities:

- Projects that affirmatively further fair housing
- Projects serving protected classes
- Projects serving low-income persons

FY 2025-26 Public Services Priority Areas

1. Children, Youth, and Parent Support Services

This priority area supports programs that assist low-income families and reduce disparities in access to early childhood education and childcare. Eligible services include:

- Childcare scholarships
- Student enrichment and extracurricular programs
- Parent education and engagement
- Case management and therapeutic services
- Transportation assistance
- Home visitation and early childhood supports
- Family legal support

2. Housing Support Services

This area focuses on services that promote housing stability and fair housing choice. Eligible activities include:

- Fair housing counseling
- Legal assistance
- rental and down payment support
- housing locator services.