

CDBG/HOME Frequently Asked Questions

1. What does an individual homeowner or landlord need to do to get a loan through the City's housing rehabilitation programs?

Applications are available online or we can mail you one. It takes approximately a month for the application to be reviewed by the loan committee and the paperwork to be processed. Payback of residential loans is deferred until the first mortgage is paid off. Payback of loans to landlords begins once the project is completed. For more information, please call Bruce Haman, Rehab Specialist, at 406-455-8404.

2. What are Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME grant funds and what are they used for?

The City of Great Falls receives CDBG and HOME federal grant funds from the Department of Housing and Urban Development and distributes them into the community. Both types of funds must be used within the city limits. CDBG funds are used to benefit lower income citizens, including providing affordable housing. HOME funds are used for affordable housing activities only. For more information, please call Jolene Wetterau, CDBG/HOME Administrator, at 406-455-8407.

3. Who can get CDBG and HOME funds and what is the process to get them?

A non-profit agency or government department can apply for funds. Once each year the City of Great Falls accepts applications for funding. The allocation process typically begins with a mandatory application workshop in December and the application deadline is in mid-January. For more information, please call Jolene Wetterau, CDBG/HOME Administrator, at 406-455-8407.

4. Who decides which agencies or departments will get CDBG and HOME grant funds?

Each year, a 10 member citizen advisory board, the Community Development Council, reviews the applications and makes allocation recommendations to the City Commission. In addition, Planning & Community Development Department staff provide information to the City Commission regarding funding needs. The City Commission submits all final funding recommendations to the Department of Housing and Urban Development who makes the ultimate decision regarding who will receive the money. For more information, please call Chris Imhoff, 406-455-8407.

5. Can an individual person get CDBG or HOME grant funds and, if so, how can they be used?

The only grant funds distributed directly to individuals are through four housing rehabilitation programs the City of Great Falls administers. These funds are available on a continual basis in the form of no-interest loans to individual homeowners and landlords if they meet income eligibility requirements. Loan programs are intended to address life/safety hazards and bring older homes up to modern building code requirements. For more information, please call Chris Imhoff, 406-455-8407.

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