

**2008/2009 PROPOSED USE OF FEDERAL GRANT FUNDS
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT**

Affordable Housing

	<u>Requested</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
<p>GREAT FALLS CITY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT— HISTORIC PRESERVATION City-wide low interest loan program to provide additional funding for multi-family housing rehabilitation projects which require historic preservation regulation compliance</p>	\$50,000	\$49,267
<p>GREAT FALLS CITY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT— REHABILITATION SPECIALIST Provision of rehab counseling, loan processing, inspections and construction monitoring for all CDBG-funded City revolving loan housing programs for low income people</p>	\$30,000	\$30,000
<p>MONTANA INSTITUTE OF FAMILY LIVING/PARK MANOR Replace all interior door locks, keys and keyless entry system at Park Manor, an elderly/handicapped subsidized apartment building located at 100 Central Avenue</p>	\$20,000	\$20,000
<p>NEIGHBORWORKS GREAT FALLS Revolving loan fund to provide down payment assistance, new construction, purchase and rehabilitation of houses and other activities addressing neighborhood revitalization activities in their CBDO-designated neighborhoods</p>	\$150,000	\$130,000

Economic Development

<p>MCLAUGHLIN RESEARCH INSTITUTE Expand building to create job opportunities for low to moderate income persons</p>	\$100,000	\$100,000
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Public Facility Improvements

	<u>Requested</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
GATEWAY COMMUNITY SERVICES Provide handicap accessible front entryway and purchase and install heating and cooling system valves in facility located at 1220 Central Avenue which houses agency that provides comprehensive community-based alcohol & drug abuse treatment services Propose funding front entryway only	\$51,083	\$13,825
GREAT FALLS CITY PARK & RECREATION, COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTER—ELECTRICAL Electrical system panel upgrade at Community Recreation Center located at 801 2 nd Avenue North	\$65,726	\$0
GREAT FALLS CITY PARK & RECREATION, COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTER—HVAC Heating and cooling system upgrade at Community Recreation Center located at 801 2 nd Avenue North Propose funding only if use >90% energy efficient furnace	\$62,000	\$111,961
GREAT FALLS CITY PARK & RECREATION—WEST KIWANIS PARK Purchase & install handicap accessible play structure, 2 benches and borders for play area at West Kiwanis Park located at 1 st Avenue Northwest and 9 th Street	\$29,000	\$29,000
GREAT FALLS CITY PUBLIC WORKS—HANDICAP RAMPS Install handicap ramps (curb cuts) to provide handicap accessibility on Central Avenue from 34 th to 37 th Street, Central Avenue and 42 nd Street, 16 th Avenue South and 4 th Street and other areas at request of disabled citizens	\$75,000	\$75,000
GREAT FALLS CITY PUBLIC WORKS—SIDEWALK REPLACEMENT Grant program to provide assistance to low income homeowners to remove & replace hazardous sidewalks in Census Tracts 3, 4 and 5 (Park Drive to 15 th Street North between Central Avenue and 8 th Avenue North) and other areas at request of low income homeowners	\$50,000	\$50,000
GREAT FALLS SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER Replace upstairs, ramp, staircase and downstairs entryway carpeting in facility located at 1004 Central Avenue which houses programs to serve the elderly Propose funding carpeting on ramp and balance toward other areas	\$15,000	\$7,000

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY Install sewer and water lines, excavate for foundation, and install sidewalks and parking pads at 604 7 th Street North, 2533 Castle Pines Way and 2537 Castle Pines Way	\$29,262	\$29,262
HEISEY YOUTH CENTER Remodel locker room at youth center located at 313 7 th Street North to make handicap accessible; renovations to include flooring, plumbing, fixtures and partitions	\$50,000	\$20,000
VOICES OF HOPE Install security system on elevator to provide secure access to 24 hour call center located at 915 1 st Avenue South	\$10,000	\$10,000

Public Service Activities

	<u>Requested</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
AREA VIII AGENCY ON AGING Purchase food for Meals on Wheels, a citywide home delivery meal program for seniors who are handicapped or unable to prepare meals	\$25,000	\$25,000
BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF NORTH CENTRAL MONTANA Recreational/educational scholarships for summer program for children from low income families; administered at two Weed & Seed Safe Haven locations (Great Falls Housing Authority-1722 Chowen Springs Loop and Westside Unit-600 1 st Avenue Southwest)	\$20,400	\$20,400
CASA-CAN CHILDREN'S ADVOCATE NETWORK Purchase computer, software, volunteer training materials and provide training conference expenses to expand volunteer program located at 415 2 nd Avenue North which provides advocates for abused and neglected children in the legal system Propose funding all except software	\$5,449	\$4,800
CASCADE COUNTY LAW CLINIC Purchase 2 computers, software, scanner, 2 printers, fax machine, shredder and Montana Annotated Code for agency located at 503 1 st Avenue North	\$5,260	\$0

CASCADE COUNTY RETIRED AND SENIOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM	\$6,500	\$0
Purchase computer server and elderly resource directories for agency located at 1004 Central Avenue.		
EASTER SEALS-GOODWILL INDUSTRIES	\$17,750	\$17,750
Provide scholarships for P.L.A.Y., an early intervention program for children with Autistic Disorders under the age of three and purchase specialized commercial shredding equipment for Outsources Unlimited, an employment program which provides jobs for disabled workers; agency located at 4400 Central Avenue		
FAMILY CONNECTIONS	\$18,750	\$18,750
Provide child care scholarships for low income families; program administered through agency located at 600 Central Plaza		
GREAT FALLS CITY PARK & RECREATION— COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTER	\$6,500	\$6,500
Provide scholarships for low income children for after school child care program, summer camp programs, and lifeguard certification; programs offered at community center located at 801 2 nd Avenue North and Morony Natatorium located at 111 12 th Street North		
HANDS, INC.	\$25,000	\$20,149
Provide child care scholarships for children from low income families; program offered at all Great Falls elementary schools		
QUALITY LIFE CONCEPTS	\$17,611	\$7,211
Purchase and install ceiling track system, additional slings and elevated bath tub at group home for people with developmental disabilities at 3937 15 th Avenue South		
Propose funding track system only		
VICTIM-WITNESS ASSISTANCE SERVICES, INC.	\$8,970	\$0
Purchase digital color imaging system (printer, copier, fax board, scanner, stand, warranty) and notebook computer for agency that provides assistance for victims of crimes and their families; agency located at 112 1 st Street South		

YOUNG PARENTS EDUCATION CENTER	\$17,000	\$17,000
Provide day care scholarships and emergency housing scholarships for low income teen or young adult parents completing high school or GED programs; programs located at alternative high school at 2400 Central Avenue		

Administration

CDBG PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION	\$183,414	\$183,414
General oversight, promotion, financial accountability, monitoring, reporting, and coordination of the CDBG program including activities to further fair housing and the Continuum of Care for Homelessness		

TOTAL CDBG FUNDING REQUESTED	\$1,144,675	
TOTAL CDBG FUNDING RECOMMENDATION		\$996,289
TOTAL ANTICIPATED CDBG GRANT		\$917,014
TOTAL CDBG FUNDS AVAILABLE FROM PREVIOUS YEARS		\$79,275
TOTAL AVAILABLE CDBG FUNDS		\$996,289

**2008/2009 PROPOSED USE OF FEDERAL GRANT FUNDS
HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM**

	<u>Requested</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
GREAT FALLS HOUSING AUTHORITY—SAND HILLS	\$250,000	\$250,000
Continuation of Phase I to acquire land, undertake site improvements and construct one affordable handicap accessible four-plex apartment complex at 1501 23 rd Street South		
NEIGHBORWORKS GREAT FALLS	\$250,000	\$106,330
Owners in Partnership XVI—construct or rehabilitate single family houses and provide down payment and closing cost assistance for low income home buyers on citywide basis		
HOME PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION	\$39,400	\$39,400
General oversight, management, promotion, financial accountability, monitoring, and coordination of the HOME program		
TOTAL HOME FUNDING REQUESTED		\$539,400
TOTAL HOME FUNDING RECOMMENDATION		\$395,730
TOTAL ANTICIPATED HOME GRANT		\$394,063
TOTAL HOME FUNDS AVAILABLE FROM PREVIOUS YEARS		\$1,667
TOTAL AVAILABLE HOME FUNDS		\$395,730

CITY COMMISSION PUBLIC MEETING

April 15, 2008

A public meeting was held as part of the regular City Commission meeting on April 15, 2008, in the Commission Chambers at the Civic Center. The meeting was held to provide an opportunity for citizens to advise the City Commission on their opinions regarding the proposed Action Plan, the proposed use of CDBG funds, and on the performance of the CDBG and HOME grant programs in administration, distribution and implementation of federal funds.

The following listing is a summary of the comments which were expressed in support of the proposed disposition of funds.

Joe Boyle, chairman, Great Falls Housing Authority Commission: Mr. Boyle urged support of the Housing Authority's Sand Hills HOME proposal to construct accessible, subsidized housing in the form of a four-plex with two bedroom apartment units. He noted this would be phase 1 of constructing 16 affordable units and construction was expected to begin this Fall. The Housing Authority's waiting list shows the most pressing need is for one and two-bedroom units. The new units would be for the elderly, handicapped or small families. Mr. Boyle related that without HOME funds the Housing Authority could not afford to construct this affordable housing.

Nancy Wilson, director, Meals on Wheels: Ms. Wilson thanked the City Commission for their past support and requested continued CDBG funding for the Meals on Wheels program. She related the meal delivery program is growing. Ms. Wilson also noted Great Falls is the only town in Montana that does not have to put people on the waiting list for this meal delivery program, partly because they have been able to use CDBG funding.

Sheila Rice, executive director, NeighborWorks Great Falls (aka Neighborhood Housing Services, Inc.): Ms. Rice thanked the City Commission for many, many years of support for NWGF. She related she supports the proposed allocations for this year but wished to open a dialogue with the City of Great Falls regarding the City's role in affordable housing. Ms. Rice distributed a chart which showed a decrease in the City's overall support of NWGF. She noted the chart did not show the following: a) the decrease in overall funding available to the City which has occurred; b) the impact of program income; c) NWGF's production which for many years was nine to 10 units annually and this last year was 34 units; d) increase in tax base as a result of NWGF activities; and, e) impact of affordable housing on economic development. Ms. Rice asked the City Commission to examine their role in affordable housing, especially as efforts move forward to conduct a community-wide housing assessment. She noted five of the seven priorities in the plan are related to housing, while only 25% of the annual amount is allocated to affordable housing.

Stuart Lewin: Mr. Lewin commended the work Ms. Rice has done with NWGF, in particular the home buyer education which counseled potential home buyers to obtain fixed mortgage rates. This information greatly helped local people avoid the mortgage foreclosure crisis which is occurring elsewhere in the country.

Ron Guessman: Mr. Guessman indicated that he believes what Ms. Rice meant to say regarding the tax base was that the tax revenue rather than the tax base is increased.

Dona Stebbins, mayor: Ms. Stebbins noted that NHS aka NWGF has been doing foreclosure prevention for 13 years and this foresight helped decrease the level of the foreclosure problem in Great Falls.

Bill Bronson, city commissioner, questioned **Marty Basta, department head for the Park and Recreation Department,** regarding the two proposals the Park & Recreation Department Community Recreation Center submitted. Mr. Bronson questioned why the Community Development Council recommended not funding the electrical upgrade proposal but recommended funding the HVAC upgrade proposal at nearly twice the requested amount. Mr. Basta explained that after talking with the Community Development Council the Park & Recreation Department prioritized a high efficiency cooling and heating system and decided if they could purchase a more energy efficient system they would re-evaluate the need for an electrical upgrade.

Mary Jollie, city commissioner, questioned Joe Boyle as to why last year the Housing Authority was given funds for building a tri-plex and this year they are proposing to build a four-plex. **Kevin Hager, deputy director, Great Falls Housing Authority,** indicated that after looking at the size of the recently purchased site they determined four four-plexes would fit on the site. Because of the increased cost of construction it made more sense overall economically to build more units. Ms. Jollie also questioned Mr. Hager as to whether NWGF support has decreased as a result of the City through the Housing Authority taken more CDBG funds. Mr. Hager noted the Housing Authority has been allocated HOME funds rather than CDBG funds.

No one spoke in opposition of the proposed disposition of funds.