

CITY OF ALACHUA
FFY 2018 AND FFY 2019 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT
FIRST PUBLIC HEARING – MARCH 25, 2019

Purpose of the Hearing

- Two public hearings are required to ensure the public can voice opinions on the proposed application.
- This hearing is held to outline the type of grants that are possible; a second hearing will be held to review the draft application before it is submitted to DEO.

Program Overview

The Florida Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program is a competitive grant program that awards funds to eligible cities, counties, towns and villages. An eligible city must have a population under 50,000, and an eligible county must have a population under 200,000.

CDBG Program Objectives

- Benefit low and moderate income persons (a minimum of 51%)
- Aid in the prevention or elimination of slum or blight
- Other urgent community development needs

Regular Categories and Activities - \$700,000

A local government may apply for only one of these grants, and may have only one of these grants open, at any given time. There is a set application due date each year. Communities are scored and ranked against other communities applying in the same category.

- **Housing Rehabilitation (HR)** – Assists low and moderate income residents with physical improvements that address code, safety and other rehabilitation items. In some cases, severely damaged structures may be demolished and replaced.

OR

- **Neighborhood Revitalization (NR)** – Assists communities with infrastructure improvements, such as paving, fire protection, drinking water, sewer, flood and drainage, handicap accessibility in public facilities, and other similar activities. It is required that no less than 51% of the residents who benefit from these activities be low to moderate income.

OR

- **Commercial Revitalization (CR)** – Provides funds to address improvements to downtown or commercial districts, including water, sewer, sidewalks, parking, building facades, etc. Alachua does not meet the community wide 51% LMI Percentage for a Commercial Revitalization category application. The HUD calculated city-wide LMI is 31.23%. A city-wide income survey or a determination of slum and blight conditions would be required to apply.

Economic Development Category – up to \$1,500,000 (Depending on job creation numbers)

A local government can be awarded one new economic development grant every year and there is *no limit to the number of these grants that can be open* at any given time, provided all grants are on schedule. A local government may apply for an economic development grant even if it has an open housing, neighborhood, or commercial grant, provided that grant is on schedule. There is no deadline – funds are awarded on a first come/first serve basis. Funds are awarded based upon the number of jobs the project will create or retain at a ratio of \$34,999 per job, up to \$1,500,000.

These funds are used to build infrastructure necessary to attract new businesses or retain expanding businesses. *Job creation is required*, and at least 51% of the jobs created must be available to low-to-

moderate income persons. (Low to moderate income jobs are defined as positions requiring no more than a high school diploma. If additional training is required, the company must provide this training at no cost to the employee.)

It is important to note that the Economic Development Category requires the participation of a business that is willing to commit to job creation or job retention.