

ATTACHMENT C

PUBLIC COMMENTS – 5 YEAR CONSOLIDATED PLAN AND CDBG 2010 ACTION PLAN

Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs

**COMMENTS REGARDING THE PROPOSED
FIVE-YEAR CONSOLIDATED PLAN
AND THE
PY2010 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT
ACTION PLAN**

Notices of a 30-day public commenting period for the Five-Year Consolidated Plan and the FY2010 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Action Plan were published in the Birmingham, Huntsville, Mobile, and Montgomery newspapers. In addition, the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA) emailed notices of the draft Plans' availability to more than 700 interested parties, requesting that they submit written comments by January 19, 2010, regarding the modifications to the Plans.

During the Public Hearing conducted in Cullman, Alabama, several attendees made comments. The following is a summarization of the comments received and ADECA's responses. Please note that the comments and responses are in abbreviated form. (NOTE: While a second Public Hearing was held in Evergreen, Alabama, there were no comments.)

Comment #1

Comment: Please repeat the yearly CDBG goals.

ADECA Response: Program priorities were repeated.

Comment #2

Comment: Is there a breakout between new versus rehabilitated infrastructure? Is there a minimum line size? There should be. We are now finding 4 inch lines inadequate.

ADECA Response: There is no priority between new versus rehabilitated; there is a mix of water and sewer. There is no minimum line size. We send a copy of the application to ADEM for review. ADEM requires 6 inch lines in most cases; if there are very few customers, ADEM will allow 3 inch lines, but usually 6 inch lines are used. We are now replacing many 2 inch lines to support fire hydrants.

Comment #3

Comment: There is an environmental concern if water sits too long in big lines regarding chlorine. The size must be use-specific.

ADECA Response: None required.

Comment #4

Comment: Does the priority for new sewer include centralized only or de-centralized systems? A centralized system is not always cost effective and sometimes a decentralized system is more environmentally safe, costs less, and still requires a management entity. I agree that the water main size needs to be adequate; also for fire protection. I agree about the water sitting too long.

ADECA Response: We look at several alternatives.

Comment #5 - HOME

Comment: Is modular housing recognized? I urge you not to forget this as an alternative.

HOME Response: We do, but we do have design quality standards. We recognize it for jobs and affordability.

Comment #6 - CDBG

Comment: In the past, the date for open projects on ED has not been clear... Next year, consider less stringent closeout requirements on hard-to-close-out ED projects because jobs are not being created; communities are still having to sit out.

ADECA Response: We have not planned a waiver for hard-to-close ED projects, but it's at the Director's discretion. An open '06 ED project will prevent all other projects except another ED. We will look at having less stringent closeout requirements on ED projects.

Comment #7

Comment: Concerning the Black Belt, will you also look at incentives for high unemployment rates? We have 3 counties with higher rates than the Black Belt. 18% equals disaster.

ADECA Response: We will take that into account. We already take "need" and "distress" into account.

Comment #8

Comment: Could you clarify the Community Enhancement review?

ADECA Response: We use two reviewers for each project.

Comment #9

Comment: Will you set aside time to provide Technical Assistance to unsuccessful applicants? We get a lot of calls and they don't understand why they received no money and I would like to refer them to you. Are you and Doni contacting Washington to get more stimulus money? Everyone needs to call and let Washington know what we need.

ADECA Response: Yes, we do provide Technical Assistance and will continue to provide Technical Assistance. We will come to mini-workshops for communities requesting them. We do not specifically contact Washington.

Comment #10

Comment: How do you look at road projects? With gasoline tax down, rural counties are having difficulty paving even severely substandard roads.

ADECA Response: We hear a lot of complaints about a lack of local and other funds for a multitude of needs; there are lots of unhappy people. We just don't have the money. Roads are a priority.

Comment #11

Comment: For the balance of the state, the rural areas are not getting the money; most of the CDBG fund goes to entitlements. People are disenchanting.

ADECA Response: None required.

Comment #12

Comment: I'm impressed with the efficient administration and fair treatment by ADECA. Apply for the money.

ADECA Response: None required.



BOB RILEY
GOVERNOR

STATE OF ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF SENIOR SERVICES

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IRENE B. COLLINS
Commissioner

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December 17, 2009

Mr. Shabbir Olia, Program Director
Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs
P. O. Box 305690
Montgomery, AL 36130-5690



SUBJECT: State Plan

Dear Mr. Olia:

Thank you for the opportunity to have input in your State Plan. I apologize for the delay in responding but we have been moving our location within the Plaza from the 4th to the 5th floor and the letter from Ms. Ingram was misplaced. I cannot stress enough the importance of giving proposals that include "Safe Centers" priority when evaluating applications for capital projects using U.S. Housing and Urban Development funds. As you know, Alabama routinely experiences disasters (tornados, hurricanes, and etc.) that impact seniors and especially those low income, frail elderly who do not have the means to protect themselves.

"Safe Centers", if strategically located throughout Alabama, could provide that protection during the disaster seasons. This is one prong of a multipronged approach to protect the frail elderly. I am also moving ahead, with the assistance of Alabama's Health and Human Services network, with coordinated transportation that, when fully implemented, will provide the mobility necessary to transport those seniors in harms way to the "Safe Centers".

As awesome as this may sound, we are remiss for not having this arrangement during the disasters Alabama experienced in recent years that impacted many of our seniors who had no where to go and no way to get there. Please consider this urgent plea to incorporate proposals containing "Safe Centers" or "Safe Rooms" in your State Plan.

Sincerely,

Irene B. Collins
Commissioner

IBC/mj

cc: Doni Ingram, Director
Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

BOB RILEY
GOVERNOR



State of Alabama

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC
AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

DONI M. INGRAM
DIRECTOR

January 14, 2010

Mrs. Irene B. Collins, Commissioner
Alabama Department of Senior Services
P.O. Box 301851
Montgomery, AL 36130-1851

Dear Mrs. Collins:

Thank you for your letter of December 17, 2009, regarding the PY2010 CDBG Action Plan in which you suggested incorporating "Safe Centers" or "Safe Rooms" in the design of Senior Centers. While the grant ceiling of \$250,000 serves as a limiting factor for incorporating Safe Centers and Safe Rooms in the Senior Centers, ADECA does and will continue to encourage applicants to secure other funding sources to incorporate these important facilities in the Senior Centers.

Thank you for your interest in the State's Community Development Block Grant Plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Doni M. Ingram".

Doni M. Ingram
Director

DMI:GA:sp



January 13, 2010

Lee Flenory
4004 Alvin Avenue S.W.
Birmingham, Alabama 35221

Mr. Shabbir Olia
Alabama Department of Economic
and Community Affairs
401 Adams Avenue
Montgomery, Alabama 36103

Dear Mr. Olia:

RE: Proposed CDBG PY2010 Action Plan Competitive Application Process

In regard to your criteria for rating the PY2010 CDBG competitive applications, I am asking you to consider conducting site-visits to all proposed project sites prior to rating the applications and adding the site-visit to the criteria for rating with assigned (added/deducted) points to/from the total score based on the project site review.

If you have any questions, please call me at 334-353-1700 (D) or 205-477-8166 (E).

Sincerely,


Lee Flenory

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

BOB RILEY
GOVERNOR



State of Alabama

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC
AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

DONI M. INGRAM
DIRECTOR

January 13, 2010

Mr. Lee Flennory
4004 Alvin Avenue S.W.
Birmingham, AL 35221

Dear Mr. Flennory:

Thank you for your letter of January 13, 2010, suggesting a change to the criteria for rating the PY2010 CDBG competitive applications.

We will take your suggestion under advisement.

Thank you for your interest in the competitive application process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Doni M. Ingram".

Doni M. Ingram
Director

SAO:GA:sp