



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 15, 2014

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~ Media Advisory ~

**SPRINGFIELD IS SEEKING PROPOSALS FOR HOUSING
AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS**

*PROPOSALS COULD INCLUDE DOWNTOWN REDEVELOPMENT PROJECTS
THAT ADDRESS SPECIFIC CONDITIONS OF BLIGHT*

Beginning Friday, January 17, 2014 applications for funding by the City of Springfield Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnerships Programs (HOME) will be available from through Community Development and Housing Division office at Springfield City Hall, 225 Fifth Street. The deadline for submitting an application is March 10, 2014 at 5pm.

The primary purpose of the CDBG Program is to develop viable urban communities by providing decent housing, a suitable living environment, and economic opportunities principally for people of low- and moderate-income. The primary purpose of the HOME Program is to develop viable urban communities by providing decent, safe and affordable housing for person of low income.

HUD has not released final allocation amounts, so the FY2014 application process is going forward based on FY2013 amounts. The City reserves the right to adjust project allocations to reflect increases or reductions to actual funding amounts. A portion of the estimated \$479,568 CDBG grant has been reserved by the City's Community Development Advisory Committee (CDAC) for ongoing activities. These include \$71,935 for social services to the Human Services Commission, \$95,914 in grant administration and planning, \$70,000 for city housing programs and \$87,966 for project/program delivery costs. A portion of the estimated \$283,783 HOME grant has also been reserved by the CDAC

for ongoing activities. These include \$14,189 for Community Housing Development Organizations operating expenses, \$100,000 for the Springfield Home Ownership Program (SHOP), \$28,378 in grant administration and \$57,405 in project/program delivery costs. Approximately \$102,496 from previous allocations is also available for re-allocation this year.

It is estimated that \$153,753 in CDBG funds and \$186,306 in HOME funds will be made available for eligible projects and activities, including public facility improvements, neighborhood projects, housing development activities, economic development activities and other special capital projects that benefit low and moderate-income city residents. The City is also accepting CDBG Business Development Loan applications from established and emerging for-profit businesses located in the Downtown corridor.

Because of the significant reductions to the federal HUD budget, Springfield's CDBG allocation is considerably less than in previous years. We anticipate this trend to continue until the federal budget crisis is resolved. Therefore, in order to ensure the future viability of the CDBG program, it is strongly recommended that requests for CDBG funding be in the form of a repayable loan instead of a grant.

Preference will be given to projects that address youth and public safety issues; projects where participation from cooperating community partners in targeted areas is demonstrated; projects that leverage or recycle funds; projects which show support from the benefiting neighborhoods, projects which address crime and public safety issues Downtown, and projects which enhance community pride and improve the quality of life citywide.

A packet containing the 2014 application for funding and information about the CDBG and HOME programs will be available beginning January 17, 2014. Packets may be obtained at the Community Development and Housing Division office during regular business hours. Packets are also available online at: www.springfield-or.gov/dpw/HousingandBlockGrants.htm. All applications must be received by the City no later than 5:00 pm on March 10, 2014.

For more information: call (541) 726-2358, or e-mail kko@springfield-or.gov.