

Community Development Block Grant

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Description: The stimulus bill provides \$1 billion for funding the Community Development Block Grant program. The CDBG program is a federally funded pass through grant program from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Stimulus funds will be distributed on a formula basis to cities with populations of at least 50,000 and to the states for disbursement to smaller communities and counties. The Wyoming Business Council administers the CDBG program for the state. The cities of Cheyenne and Casper each receive their own allocations. As of February 19, 2009, HUD has not released the exact amount of funding that will be made available to Wyoming or to the cities of Cheyenne and Casper. The WBC estimates that the stimulus bill will provide Wyoming between \$1 million and \$3 million dollars. Preference must be given to projects that can award contracts based on bids within 120 days. It is not known whether there will be a required state match.

Wyoming has received an annual funding allocation ranging from a low of \$2.2 million to a high of \$3.75 million. Any project funded with CDBG funds must meet one of three HUD imposed national objectives:

- Benefit to low and moderate income persons
- Elimination of slums and blight
- Projects which meet an urgent community development need that pose a serious and immediate threat to the health or welfare of the community

There are three primary project categories within the Wyoming CDBG program:

- Community development projects (public infrastructure, handicapped accessibility, community facilities)
- Economic development (downtown development, infrastructure, planning)
- Housing infrastructure (administered under contract by the Wyoming Community Development Authority)