

## INFORMATION ABOUT THE 2017 SMALL COMMUNITIES PROGRAM

The Federal Government, acting through the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) provides Small Communities Program (SCP) grant funds to Boroughs, Cities, Townships and Counties. Each state has been given the choice to either have HUD administer to program or handle it themselves.

Pennsylvania has chosen to administer its own program through the Pa. Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) successor to the Department of Community Affairs. Act 179 of 1984 by the PA Legislature determined how funds would be distributed. All counties receive yearly entitlements based on population. Distressed Boroughs and Townships with populations exceeding 4,000 also receive entitlement funding.

Approximately 13% of the total funds available to the state are set aside for distribution by competition. Only Tioga County, not any individual municipalities, qualifies for entitlement funding. Additional funding for municipalities is available through the competitive application process.

Tioga County has invited its municipalities to submit proposals for possible SCP funding. Since 1984, the county has funded approximately 128 separate projects using \$7,560,463 in SCP Entitlement Funds. In addition, the county has assisted communities and service agencies in securing other funding from PA Blight Elimination Grants, Commerce Grants, PA Recreation Grants, PennDOT Highway Programs and EPA, DEP and Rural Utility Services Water and Sewer Programs, Pennvest and the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency.

The deadline for submission of the County's 2017 Entitlement Application is **September 30, 2017**.

Four major types of activities may be proposed as projects:

1. **HOUSING:** Improvements to public and/or private housing in a community.
2. **PUBLIC OR COMMUNITY FACILITIES:** Improvements to water, sewer, streets, public buildings, etc.
3. **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:** Projects, which create new jobs or save jobs in danger of being lost.
4. **COMPREHENSIVE NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION:** Combination of the above categories.

DCED has allocated approximately \$235,251 in SCP funding for fiscal year 2017. DCED will review each application to determine if they meet the general qualifications criteria of Act 179 and will be evaluated to determine if each application:

- A. Presents a thorough Community Development Needs Analysis to include identification of pertinent socioeconomic factors, and a history of recent community development efforts.
- B. Presents a meaningful community development program to include objectives which exhibit a clear relationship to the needs analysis and displays evidence of citizen involvement and sensitivity to meeting the needs of low and moderate income people.
- C. Propose activities, which logically and adequately address community development problems, identified in the needs analysis and objectives, and which have a reasonable expectation of timely completion within the limits of available resources.
- D. Presents a plan that demonstrates administrative capacity to ensure the success of long-term community development efforts.

Applications from current grantees will also be evaluated with regards to their timeliness and progress of existing activities as well as their continuing capacity. Applicants that have demonstrated untimely performance are subject to having their 2016 grant application denied.

All entitlement applicants submitting a 2017 application must include a “THREE YEAR PLAN” for Community Development. In order to develop this plan, the County will accept project proposals from individual communities, which outline their needs and proposed activities. A PROPOSAL FORMAT FOR COMMUNITY PROJECTS IS INCLUDED WITH THIS INFORMATION. These proposals will be the basis of the Three Year Plan and will also be used to select projects funded for 2016. Applicants that previously submitted proposals that are included in the current Three Year Plan but are not yet funded, should review their proposals and notify the Housing Authority of any pertinent changes. Project proposals must be submitted no later than **August 24, 2017.**

#### Competitive Application

DCED will accept Community Development applications for competitive funding at any time. The maximum grant request is \$750,000.

Each application will be competitively evaluated on the basis of the following Criteria:

- A. Seriousness of the problem to be addressed. Each application will be evaluated to determine the seriousness of the identified problem, as compared to problems identified in other applications .
- B. Resolution of the problem – Each application will be evaluated to determine the degree to which the proposed project will resolve the identified problems as compared to the degree to which other proposed projects will resolve identified problems.

- C. Benefit to Low and Moderate Income – Each application will be evaluated to determine the extent to which the proposed project will benefit this income category, as compared to how other proposed projects will benefit this income category.
- D. Timeliness – Each application will be evaluated to determine the applicant’s ability to complete the proposed project in timely fashion, as compared to the ability of other proposed projects to be completed in a timely manner
- E. Need for CDBG Assistance – Each application will be evaluated to determine the comparative need for CDBG assistance.
- F. Past Performance – If applicable, the applicant’s past performance and timeliness in administering previous CDBG project will be evaluated.

Selective competitive applicants must meet the same General Qualifications Criteria and Prerequisites outline as for entitlement applications. Both competitive and entitlement projects must benefit 51% or more Low/Moderate income persons. Income limits for such persons for Tioga County as of June 1, 2017 are as follows:

Number of persons per household/family:

1 - \$32,300	2 - \$36,900	3 - \$41,500	4 - \$46,100
5 - \$49,800	6 - \$53,500	7 - \$57,200	8 - \$60,900

In addition to entitlement and discretionary Small Community Projects, DCED also administers several other grant programs that can be applied for by submitting Single Application for Financial Assistance. Further information regarding these programs can be obtained by contacting:

PA Department of Community and Economic Development  
 Office of Community Development and Housing  
 DCED Center for Community Building  
 Commonwealth Keystone Building  
 400 North Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
 Harrisburg, PA 17120-0225  
 (717) 787-5327