

REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL

DATE: FEBRUARY 10, 2021

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: NATHAN HAMBURGER, CITY MANAGER

BY: LOUIS CELAYA, DEPUTY CITY MANAGER
JOHN TREICHLER, ADMINISTRATIVE ANALYST

SUBJECT: CONDUCT A PUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 21-1967, APPROVING COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS FOR THE 47th PROGRAM YEAR (JULY 1, 2021 – JUNE 30, 2022)

The request before the City Council is to conduct a public hearing to consider approval of Resolution No. 21-1967, approving Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Programs and Projects for the 47th Program Year (July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022).

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds are allocated on an annual basis to municipalities by the Federal Housing and Urban Development Department (HUD) and administered through the Los Angeles County Development Authority (LACDA). Funding for participating cities of the Los Angeles Urban County CDBG Program is based upon the total number of participating cities and on the cities' needs to provide housing, economic, and social service, and community development opportunities that principally benefit seniors and persons of low to moderate income levels, aid in the prevention of neighborhood blight, and meet other urgent community development needs due to natural disasters or other emergencies. The City of Agoura Hills ("City") has participated in the CDBG Program since 1984.

While the City Council has flexibility in selecting programs and projects that best suit the City's needs, these programs and projects must also comply with the specific federal qualification criteria of benefiting persons of low to moderate income, including seniors, and certain public projects for compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Most recently, the City Council allocated CDBG funds for this past fiscal year towards the Forest Cove Park Rehabilitation and Maintenance Project that was just recently completed, in addition to the annual allotment for senior social services classes being offered through the Community Services Department. These classes, which include various topics such as caregiver support, health care and finances, are provided by Senior Concerns and have been provided via virtual meetings due to the COVID-19 restrictions.

The City's estimated CDBG allocation for the 2021-2022 Program Fiscal Year total approximately \$75,134. Staff wishes to emphasize that this is a planning estimate only. LACDA will not release final appropriations from HUD until later this spring.

This year, all CDBG participating Cities will be able to utilize up to twenty percent (20%) of their annual CDBG allocation for public service activities. This is an increase from the previous years which was set at fifteen percent (15%). Staff is requesting the City Council approve designating twenty percent (20%) of the funds (\$15,026) toward the Senior Social Services Program, which is the maximum amount the City may allocate toward public service programs.

The City is assuming that restrictions related to the COVID-19 Pandemic will be eased by summer of 2021 which will allow for in person services. We may need to continue with offering virtual meetings as well, depending on the current health guidelines.

The remaining \$60,108 will be available after July 1, 2021. These funds may be combined with the City's current-year unallocated balance of \$62,300 in CDBG funds that would provide a total of \$122,408 available to fund new fiscal year projects.

Staff reviewed the current needs and presented recommendations to the Community Services Sub Committee on January 11th, 2021 for the 47th CDBG Program Year.

The Community Services Sub Committee expressed support for the following project and directed staff to pursue the possibility of making Accessibility Improvements at the Recreation & Event Center facility. The improvements would consist of designing and installing two (2) ADA Accessible pathways leading into the grass courtyard and back patio deck area, including installing truncated domes along the pathway from the parking lot. These improvements provide access for all participants utilizing outdoor events at the Recreation & Event Center.

Should the City Council approve Resolution No. 21-1967, the next step would be to get final approval from the LACDA. Following the required approvals, staff anticipates the bidding process to begin in spring of 2021. Construction is estimated to be completed in approximately four months.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff respectfully recommends the City Council conduct a public hearing and adopt Resolution No. 21-1967, approving Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Programs and Projects for the 47th Program Year (July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022).

Attachment: Resolution No. 21-1967

RESOLUTION NO. 21-1967

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
AGOURA HILLS, CALIFORNIA, APPROVING
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG)
PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS FOR THE 47th PROGRAM
YEAR (JULY 1, 2021 – JUNE 30, 2022)**

WHEREAS, on August 22, 1974, the President of the United States signed into law the Housing and Community Development Act (Act) of 1974; and,

WHEREAS, the primary goals of Title I of the Act are the development of viable urban communities by providing decent housing and a suitable living environment and expanding economic opportunities, principally for persons of low and moderate income, and certain public projects for compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA); and,

WHEREAS, the City of Agoura Hills estimates receiving \$75,134 of allocated funds and in addition to the unallocated funds estimated at \$62,300 (\$137,434 total) in federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to further the attainment of these goals during Fiscal Year 2021-2022; and,

WHEREAS, the City Council has published information regarding eligible activities under the Act and has conducted a duly-noticed public hearing on February 10, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 30001 Ladyface Court, Agoura Hills, California; and,

WHEREAS, the notice of the public hearing was posted and advertised pursuant to applicable federal, state and local laws; and,

WHEREAS, both oral and written testimony was presented to the City Council at the public hearing.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Agoura Hills as follows:

Section 1. That the City of Agoura Hills desires to fund eligible CDBG projects with the 47th Program Year funds.

Section 2. That City staff is hereby directed to submit to the Los Angeles County Development Authority, through this document, the City's intent to approve and fund CDBG projects.

Section 3. That City staff is hereby directed to prepare and submit documentation required for the approval and implementation of the 47th Program Year CDBG projects.

Section 4. That for planning purposes, the City's estimated annual allocation for the upcoming 2021-2022 Program Year is estimated at \$75,134, with approximately \$62,300 of unallocated funds (\$137,434 total) and those funds will be utilized for: 1) eligible senior social service programs, not to exceed twenty percent (20%) of the Program Year allocation, including senior advocates information and resources, support groups for senior caregivers and care-giving spouses, and legal and financial services to seniors; and 2) allocating the remaining balance of funds towards the Recreation and Event Center Outdoor Accessibility Project. The project will consist of installing truncated domes along the pathway from the parking lot, and installing two (2) ADA compliant pathways and or two (2) ADA compliant ramps leading into the grass courtyard and back patio deck area.

Section 5. That City staff is authorized to perform modifications to the approved projects, as required, to conform to CDBG requirements, and to provide for the expedient expenditure of funds.

Section 6. That the Mayor and/or City Manager are authorized to execute the contractual and related documents to be prepared by the County of Los Angeles that are required for the implementation of projects set forth herein.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED this 10th day of February, 2021, by the following vote to wit:

AYES: ()
NOES: ()
ABSTAIN: ()
ABSENT: ()

Denis Weber, Mayor

ATTEST:

Kimberly M. Rodrigues, MMC, City Clerk