



Using CDBG for ConnectHome



Agenda

WebEx Instructions

Introductions

James Höemann, HUD

Using CDBG Funds for Broadband

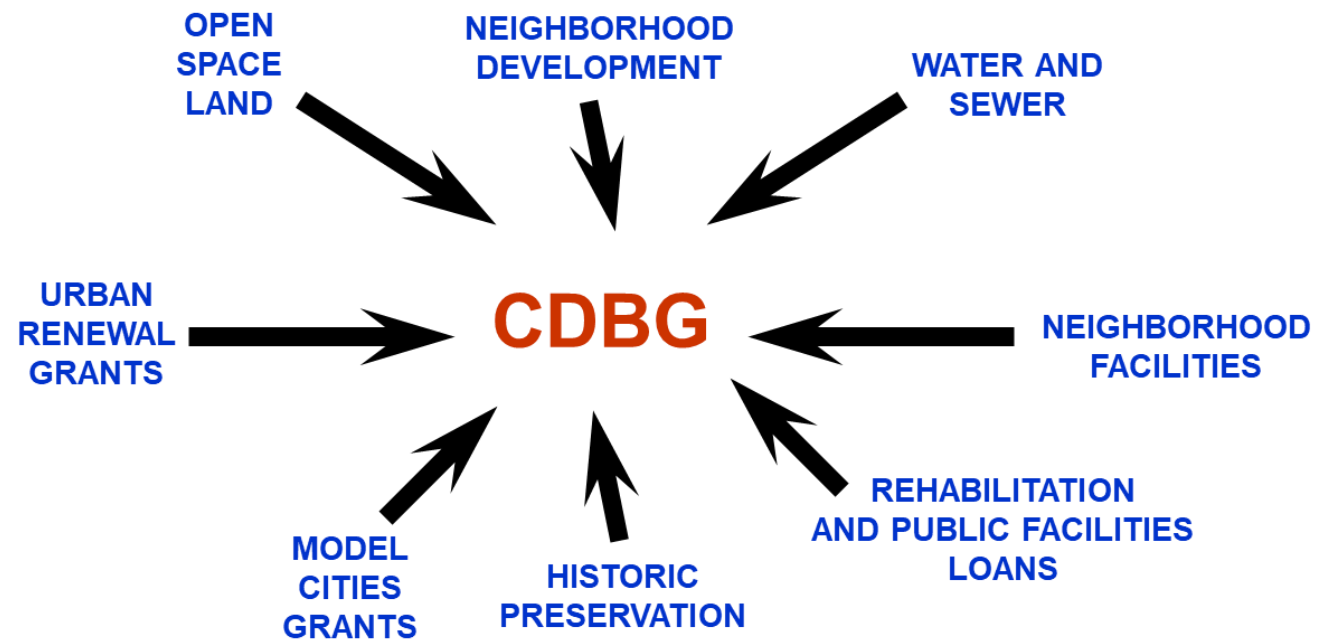
Bill Callahan, Connect Your Community

**Using CDBG funds to support ConnectHome training
and Internet adoption support**

Q & A

A Brief History of CDBG

**Authorized under Title I of the Housing and
Community Development Act of 1974**



Using CDBG

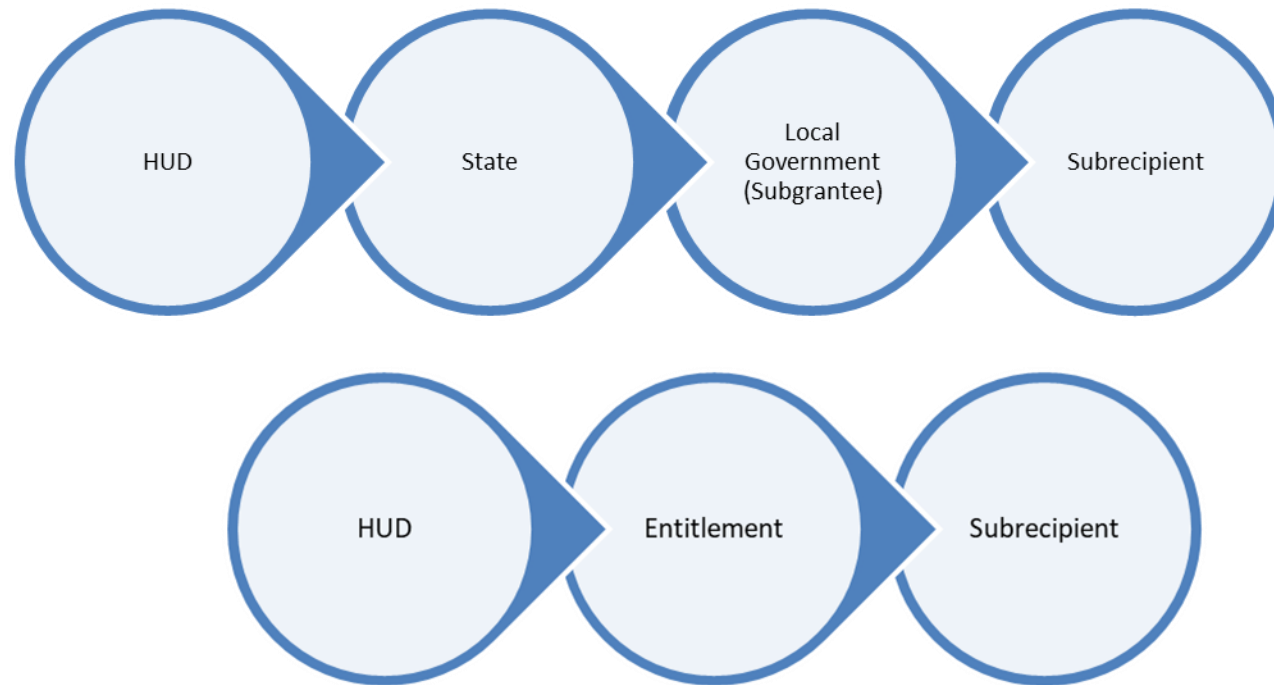
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Q&A

CDBG Grant Relationships



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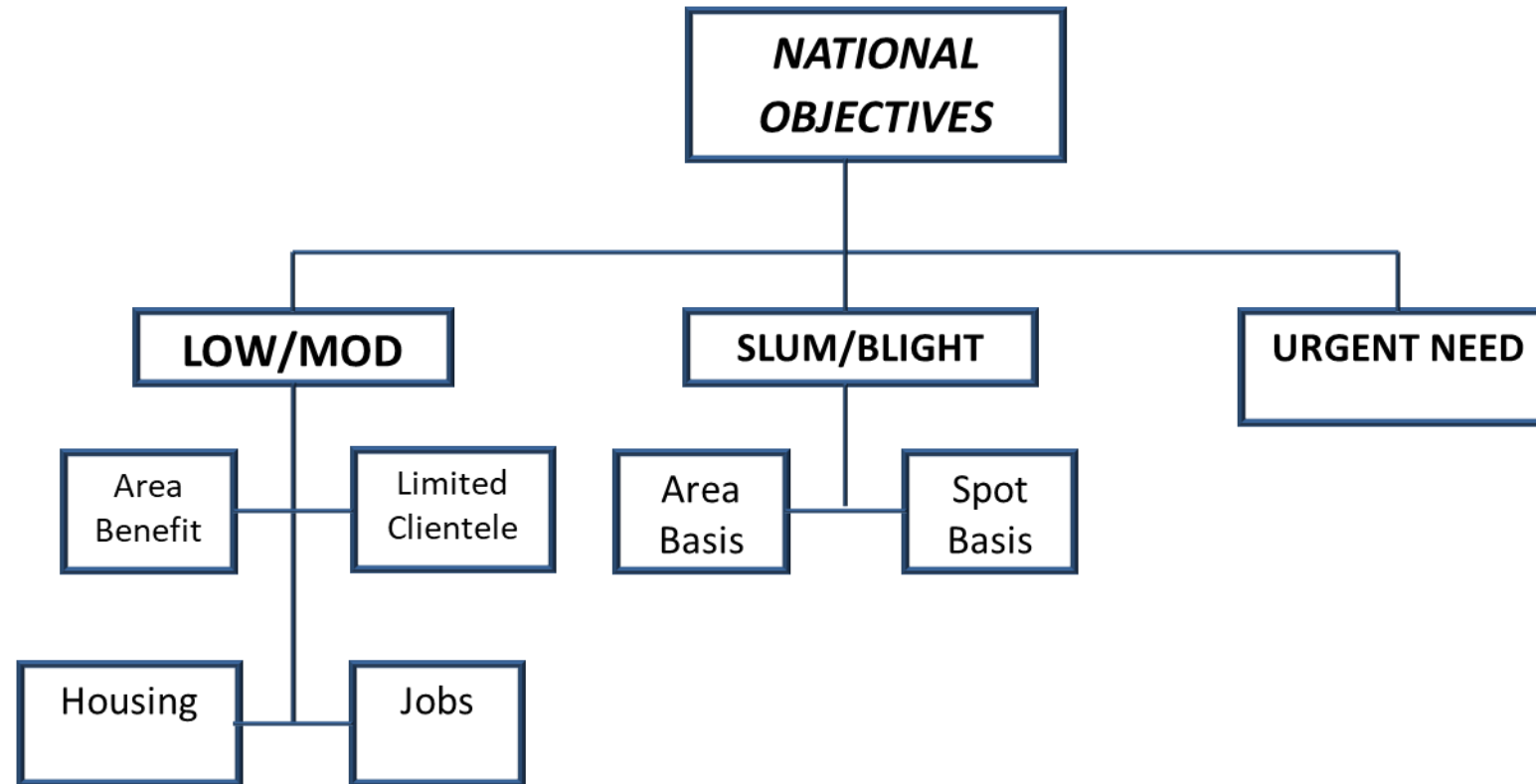
Bill Callahan
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Q&A

The Two Musts of a CDBG Activity

- Must demonstrate compliance with one of the statutory national objectives.
- Must be an eligible activity:
 - Entitlement grantees – regulations
 - State grantees – statute and the definition developed within the
 - method of distribution

CDBG National Objectives



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Eligible Activities for Broadband

- Public facilities and improvements (Buildings for the general conduct of government are not allowed)
- Reconstruction and rehabilitation (Housing)
- New construction of housing (Is it allowed?)
- Public services (15% statutory cap)
- Activity carried out through a private or public non-profit
- Economic development
- Planning only or in connection with an activity (State's Only)

Consolidated Plan & Action Plans

- Strategic planning document for the grantees program
- One-year action plan (added in subsequent years)
- Based on the needs of the community
- Citizen input and stakeholder consultations:
 - January 1, 2018 – public and private organizations, including broadband internet service providers and organizations engaged in narrowing the digital divide

What Next?

- WWW.HUDEXCHANGE.INFO
- Answer the basic questions:
 - Is this an eligible activity?
 - Can it demonstrate national objective compliance?
- Link the activity to the Consolidated Plan
- Make a case for broadband

Contact

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Using CDBG funds to support ConnectHome training and Internet adoption support

Bill Callahan, Director
Connect Your Community, Cleveland

Basic computer and Internet skills **training**
and Internet adoption **support** activities
for low and moderate income residents
clearly are **permissible uses of CDBG funds**.

Between 2004 and 2017 the City of Cleveland
allocated nearly \$500,000 in CDBG grants for community
computer training programs.

*One recent CDBG grant supports digital literacy training
for Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority residents
who've just had broadband installed in their units
as the result of a ConnectHome partnership.*

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Digital literacy training and support is eligible for CDBG support as a “**public service activity**”.

CDBG grantees (cities, states) can allocate **up to 15%** of their total CDBG resources to a wide range of public services for low and moderate income residents, including job training, education, senior citizen services and many others.

Caution! Two things for housing authorities and their partners to bear in mind when seeking local CDBG funding for ConnectHome training and support:

1. Because of the 15% “cap” on using CDBG funds for public services of all kinds, and the overall dwindling of CDBG funds over the years, **local competition for CDBG public service dollars may be stiff.**
2. CDBG funding is usually provided to community programs on a reimbursement-only basis. This means **your program may have to “capitalize” your program's costs for several months** before actual funding begins.

Because of the “15% cap” and the competition for scarce CDBG public service dollars for all kinds of uses in your community...

getting some of these dollars for ConnectHome will probably require strong support from your local officials.

In Cleveland, 100% of CDBG funding for community computer programs came from local City Council members' “ward allocations” – I.e., CDBG funds earmarked for Council members to target to programs and projects they like in the neighborhoods they represent. (This is a Cleveland thing!)



Q & A

