

Community Developer

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Meeting Scheduled to Discuss Community Based Development Organizations

In response to requests from several interested organizations, the Office of Community Development (OCD) has scheduled an information gathering meeting to discuss Community Based Development Organizations (CBDO).

The meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 11, 2002, in the Lecture Hall of the Health Careers Center at Metro Tech, 1720 Springlake Drive, Oklahoma City, beginning at 1:30 p.m. Anyone interested in attending should contact Pat Schallenberg at (405) 815-5351.

A CBDO is defined as an association or corporation organized under state or local law to engage in community development activities primarily within an identified geographic area of operation. The primary purpose of a CBDO is the improvement of the physical, economic or social environment of its area by addressing one or more critical problems of the area, with particular attention to the needs of persons of low and moderate income.

A CBDO may be either non-profit or for-profit and must maintain at least 51 percent of its governing body's membership for low and moderate income residents of its geographic area.

In announcing the meeting, ODOC Deputy Director Brenda Williams, pointed out that the purpose will be

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Mid-Del Technology Center receives EV1

In September, the Mid-Del Technology Center accepted the donation of one of the world's premier electric vehicles, the General Motor's EV1, to its Electric Vehicle program.

According to GM, the company is donating approximately 40 EV1 vehicles nationwide to key engineering institutions and museums. The key objective in donating the EV1 vehicles is to encourage continued research and development of advancing technology and environmentally sustainable transportation systems. The EV1 is regarded as one of the most significant automobiles of the 20th century and is the most energy-efficient vehicle in the world.

The EV1 was produced with a host of innovations and was awarded 23 patents for its advanced features. The EV1 marked the first-ever application of a heat pump for cabin cooling and heating, and a computer-controlled regenerative and hydraulic braking system. "This knowledge has proved invaluable to us both in our current model, high-volume cars and trucks and in our continuing work to develop advanced electrical, electric hybrid and fuel cell propulsion systems" stated a GM representative. "We are pleased to be able to share these technologies with our educational and historical partners through this donation."

The EV1 donation to Mid-Del Tech Center's Electric Vehicle program is an example of the continuation and strengthening of the ties between business and the state's career tech system. The vehicle will be used as a demonstrator of innovations and technology and for designing and developing component technology with technicians and high school students and used as an experimental test bed.

The Electric Vehicle Center is the only certified Continuing Automotive Service Education (CASE) EV training facility in the nation. EVCT trains automotive technicians and emergency responders at the Del City location.

The Office of Community Development has been supportive of the Mid-Del Technical Center Electric Vehicle program with funding through the State Energy Plan.



Lt. Governor Mary Fallin pictured with the staff of Mid-Del Technical Center in front of the Electric Vehicle



Focus on Community Development Projects

Forty-Five Communities Vie for Recognition

Communities throughout rural Oklahoma are busy making improvements or building new area parks. The Community Development Project 2002-Parks program encourages activities ranging from clean up to entire playgrounds.

During November, a group of community development specialists, art enthusiasts and governing body officials will convene at the Department of Commerce to review documentation submitted by program participants. Emerging from the review will be the projects that best exemplify excellence in parks improvement.

The Oklahoma communities opting to participate in this year's project are: Achille, Altus, Ardmore, Braman, Buffalo, Butler, Checotah, Cherokee, Chouteau, Colcord, Coweta, Cushing, Davenport, Drumright, Durant, Elmore City, El Reno, Grayson, Guymon, Hobart, Hulbert, Kingfisher, Langston, Leedey, McAlester, McLoud, Madill, Mangum, Medford, Okarche, Okmulgee, Owasso, Pawnee, Seiling, Sentinel, Shattuck, Stigler, Stringtown, Taloga, Velma, Vinita, Walters, Wilson, Woodward and Yukon.

2003 CDBG Application Workshops

- Water/Wastewater Program
- Community Revitalization Program
- CDBG/Rural Economic Action Plan (REAP)

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Workshops on the above listed programs will be held at Francis Tuttle, 12777 N. Rockwell, Oklahoma City, in the Main Building (facing Rockwell), Seminar Room, at the following dates and times:

THURSDAY December 5
9:30 am – 3:00pm

and

WEDNESDAY December 18
9:30 am – 3:00pm

The afternoon portion of the workshop will be used to review specific application forms, and to answer questions regarding any of the programs discussed as well as Economic Development program questions.

To request an application and to register for one of the workshops please call Judy Barnato at 405/815-5378 or 800/879-6552 extension 378.

2003 CDBG Application Schedule Announced

The following table shows the proposed CDBG Application Guides, Available Date and Application Deadline for the 2003 program year:

Application Guide	Available Date	Application Deadline
<u>CDBG-Community Development:</u>		
Water & Wastewater Category:		
• Phase I Competitive Engineering Program	11/15/02	02/12/03
• Water/Wastewater Competitive Construction Program	11/15/02	02/12/03
• Water/Wastewater Pre-Application Consolidation:		
Available Date	11/15/02	
Pre-Application Deadline Date 12/20/02		
Final Consolidation Application Deadline		02/12/03
Community Revitalization Category	11/15/02	02/12/03
CDBG-REAP	11/15/02	08/01/03
<u>CDBG-Economic Development:</u>		
Economic Development Infrastructure Financing (EDIF) Program		
	02/12/03	Open Cycle
Industrial Park Program	02/12/03	08/31/03

*Water/Wastewater Pre-Applications Deadline 12/20/02

Cookson Hills CAF, Inc. Receives Donation

Cookson Hills Community Action Foundation, Inc. (CHCAF), located in Tahlequah, OK received a software donation from the Microsoft Corporation on September 27, 2002. The donation covered operating systems, office productivity, server, and educational software along with a mouse and a keyboard for all computer operating systems in the agency. Total value of the grant came to \$129,769.55.

CHCAF is a 501(c)(3) non-profit agency that serves the counties of Adair, Cherokee, and Sequoyah in Northeastern Oklahoma. The main goal of CHCAF is to help the low-income individuals and families in the communities located in each of these counties. The executive director of the agency is Helen James who has devoted over 35 years to helping those in need in these communities.

CHCAF receives funding through federal and state government grants and also through private donations. The software donations from Microsoft enables CHCAF to use current technology to better serve the people in the counties in which they operate. Without grants from companies like Microsoft, non-profits such as CHCAF would be forced to spend significant amounts of money on keeping software current.

The grant was submitted by Steven Williams who works for CHCAF as a systems administrator. According to Mr. Williams this is one of the most significant technological steps for this organization in pursuit of automating the processes of this agency. One of the greatest costs to any organization's technology team is acquiring quality software for all employees and for a non-profit agency this means that employees usually have to use out-dated software. Employees will now be able to be more productive since they will be using standardized, stable, and effective software.

Organizations Donate to State Weatherization Fund

Two state nonprofit organizations whose members work with Oklahoma's low-income families want to help make sure that home heating costs during this winter won't drain so much of these families limited funds.

The Oklahoma Association of Community Action Agencies (OKACAA) and the Oklahoma Weatherization and Housing Advisory Council (OWHAC) have each donated \$3,000 to the state Energy Conservation Assistance Fund. The fund is administered by the Oklahoma Department of Commerce and supports weatherization of low-income households.

"Low-income families, who pay 14 percent or more of their annual incomes for energy compared with 3.5 percent for other households, especially feel the impact of energy costs," said Michael E. Jones, Executive Director, OKACAA. "Families whose homes are weatherized save an average of \$300 annually on their energy bills," he added.

Weatherization includes installing storm windows, attic insulation, caulking and weather-stripping doors and windows, sealing cracks and make other repairs to reduce energy consumption.

Individuals and businesses that contribute to the Energy Conservation Assistance Fund may be entitled to a state tax credit worth 50 cents for each dollar donated. The weatherization program's primary funding comes from the U.S. Department of Energy.

The Commerce Department reports that during the program year that began in April 2001, nearly 600 homes were weatherized. However, local community action agencies still have waiting lists of 900 persons.

OKACAA provides poverty-related education, information, and technical assistance to 19 member agencies that offer programs and services to help low-income residents achieve self-sufficiency. OWHAC provides training to Community Action Agencies to promote safe, decent and affordable housing in Oklahoma.

Procurement of Professional Services

In an effort to simplify the procurement of professional services the Oklahoma Department of Commerce/Office of Community Development (ODOC/OCD) would like to remind all contractors and administrators the rules were changed effective January, 2002. When seeking the services of an engineer, architect, inspector, or other professional you can direct solicit from three firms or individuals requesting they submit proposals.

In the event only one of the three submit proposals, that firm or individual may be selected as the contractor thus ensuring full and open competition. The contractor is required to keep in the files the dates, and names with whom you spoke and the proposals submitted.

If you have any questions regarding this requirement, please contact Jeff Irons, Brent Johnson, or Gary Wesselhoft for assistance at (800) 870-6552.

Projects Selected

The Oklahoma Department of Commerce/Office of Community Development is pleased to announce the following grants awarded this month.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

CDBG funds are made available by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), through ODOC, each year to eligible towns, cities and counties in the form of both grants and loan/grants. For information or to request applications for the CDBG program, contact D. Scott Myers, Oklahoma Department of Commerce, Office of Community Development, P.O. Box 26980, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73126-0980 or telephone 1-800-879-6552 ext. 356.

Community Development Block Grant - Water and Wastewater Phase I Awards

Fifteen (15) towns, cities, and counties will receive a FY 2002 CDBG award in the Water and Wastewater Phase I Set-Aside. The Oklahoma Department of Commerce/Office of Community Development (ODOC/OCD) developed a new approach in the FY 2001 program year to fund water and wastewater projects that require more than one year to complete through a "phased approach". This Phase I of the Water and Wastewater Program will cover only engineering costs, plus an appropriate amount of administration. This will ensure the most proper technical solutions to the applicants' water and wastewater problems within the budget that is available. Additionally, it will help improve coordination among other state agencies (both permitting and financing), and improve the timeliness of CDBG expenditures.

Applicant	Award Amount	Project
Town of Chelsea	20,250	wastewater
City of Cherokee	16,891	water
Town of Covington	6,681	water
Town of Dustin	25,850	water
Town of Keota	25,535	wastewater
City of Marietta	600	wastewater
Town of Meno	20,300	wastewater
City of Oilton	9,364	wastewater
Okfuskee County	21,200	water and wastewater
Town of Red Oak	16,309	wastewater
Town of Red Rock	18,119	water
Town of Ringling	0	water
Town of Savanna	0	wastewater
City of Tecumseh	17,337	wastewater
Town of Wellston	7,450	wastewater
TOTAL	205,886	

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) - Water and Wastewater Construction Awards

Twenty (20) towns, cities, and counties will receive a CDBG award in the Water and Wastewater Construction category. Each year the Oklahoma Department of Commerce makes CDBG funds available to eligible incorporated towns, cities, and counties. Funding is provided by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Applicant	Award Amount	Project
Town of Arapaho	131,205	water
City of Atoka	250,000	wastewater
Town of Braman	135,000	wastewater
Canadian County	174,995	water
City of Dewey	65,081	wastewater
Town of Eldorado	133,030	wastewater
Town of Gage	124,999	wastewater
City of Hominy	250,000	water
City of Idabel	250,000	water
Marshall County	250,000	water

Applicant	Award Amount	Project
City of Morris	250,000	wastewater
Town of Morrison	233,926	wastewater
City of Newkirk	250,000	water
Noble County	149,900	water
City of Okemah	250,000	wastewater
City of Okmulgee	250,000	wastewater
Pontotoc County	250,000	water
Town of Shattuck	138,286	water
City of Tahlequah	250,000	wastewater
City of Wagoner	137,720	wastewater
TOTAL	3,924,142	

Community Development Block Grant - Economic Development Infrastructure Financing City of Stroud and City of Seminole Receives Block Grant Award

Governor Frank Keating and Russell Perry, the Governor's Special Assistant for Economic Development, announced that the City of Stroud and the City of Seminole are the recipients of a Community Development Block Grant - Economic Development Infrastructure Financing (CDBG-EDIF) award. The **City of Stroud** received \$100,000 and the **City of Seminole** received \$400,000.

The **City of Stroud's** award will be used for parking lot improvements to support Extruded Plastics Company. This will allow the Company to manufacture synthetic air conditioner condensing pads at their facility in the City of Stroud. The **City of Seminole's** award will be used for construction of a building and parking lot improvements to support Rotary Airforce, Incorporated. This will allow the company to build a gyroplane manufacturing facility in the City of Seminole. "These allocations will help support Oklahoma's continuing commitment to job creation and diversification of Oklahoma's economic base" said Perry.

Additional funding for the **City of Stroud's** project will be provided by the Economic Development Administration (EDA), City of Stroud, and the Company. Additional funding for the **City of Seminole's** project will be provided by the City of Seminole and the Company.

Rotary Airforce Incorporated that will locate in the **City of Seminole** is a gyroplane manufacturing company. The CDBG-EDIF award will permit Rotary Airforce Incorporated to create a labor force of approximately 51 positions over the next 36 months.

Extruded Plastics Company that will locate in the **City of Stroud** produces synthetic air condition condensing pads for residential air conditioner units. The CDBG-EDIF award will permit Extruded Plastics Company to create a labor force of approximately 10 positions over the next 24 months.

The CDBG-EDIF program helps eligible cities, towns, and counties with the financing of infrastructure improvements for business expansions and start-ups. The purpose of the program is to stimulate long-term job creation and investment.

To request a CDBG-EDIF application, write to: D. Scott Myers, Oklahoma Department of Commerce, Office of Community Development, Post Office Box 26980, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73126-0980, or call (405) 815-5356.

Meeting Scheduled to Discuss Community Based Development Organizations Continued From Page 1.

to better understand exactly what a CBDO is and what its role in any community should be. "We need more data about CBDOs and want those attending the meeting to bring information and be prepared to talk about CBDO activities in their own communities," said Williams.

"I have received a number of comments about CBDO's being eligible for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds," added Williams, "but before we make any recommendation about that issue, we need more detailed information and an open discussion about CBDO's and their possible involvement with the CDBG program."

***The Community Developer is a product of the Office of
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Commerce.***

**Brenda Williams
Agency Deputy Director
Oklahoma Department of Commerce
Office of Community Development**

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**Office of Community Development
Oklahoma Department of Commerce
Post Office Box 26980
Oklahoma City, OK 73126-0980**

**To submit articles or address changes
for the Developer contact:**

**Christy Davis at 800-879-6552 ext 345
or by e-mail address to:
Christy_Davis@ODOC.state.ok.us**



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