

STATE OF WISCONSIN

Division of Energy, Housing and Community Resources (DEHCR)

Streamlining Your CDBG Grant Process



1

WHERE WE CAME FROM

- The Wisconsin Department of Administration began to administer the CDBG program in 2011
- The program had been administered by two different state agencies in the preceding two years
- We continued using established programs and methods of distribution
- Had Robert Peterson join our HUD Field Office for a monitoring

2

2

UNDERSTANDING THE ISSUES

- As we started to learn more our supervisors shared the CDBG expenditure naughty list
- At our lowest, Wisconsin was the 4th slowest spending State on the list
- We did a deep dive into our program policies to determine the cause and find solutions

3

3

THE ISSUES

- 1) Capacity
- 2) Program income
- 3) Method of distribution
- 4) Shovel ready projects

4

4

CAPACITY

- Doing too much with too little
- Revolving loan funds required too much staff time
- Finding ways to be more efficient
 - Beefing up manuals/program policy info
 - Recording trainings and posting online
 - Centralized fiscal and contracting

5

5

PROGRAM INCOME

- Generating millions of program income dollars per year
- PI returned to the State at random, causing lots of busy work
- Made the decision to close our Economic Development RLF
 - Over 125 UGLGs held ED RLF funds
 - State recaptured over \$100 Million in cash on hand
 - Let the UGLGs that returned the funds apply for any eligible CDBG project to utilize funds

6

6

METHOD OF DISTRIBUTION

- PF program was largest CDBG allocation but only made awards annually
- PI received after annual PF awards was causing us not to expend our annual allocation
- Increased max PF award from \$500k to \$1 million
- More aggressive in award amounts

7

7

WHERE WE ARE

- From 4th slowest spender to 4th fastest. Consistently in top ten
- Understand our capacity and look for efficiency improvements on current program
- Create policies to prevent PI
- May increase max award amounts again

8

8

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