

Funding Infrastructure with Data-Driven Decisions

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Agenda

- ◆ Programs Overview
 - Competitive cycle
 - Water/wastewater
 - Economic development
- ◆ Scoring Processes
 - Criteria disclosure
 - Criteria types
 - Award decisions
- ◆ Future Opportunities
 - Criteria feedback
 - Self-scoring



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Programs Overview



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Competitive Cycle

- ◆ Opens once per year with 3-month application window
- ◆ Approx. 55% of annual allocation
- ◆ Funding allocated among 3 application categories
 - Community Facilities
 - General Infrastructure (excluding Drinking Water/Wastewater)
 - Demolition
- ◆ Flexibility in Action Plan goals
 - Community Improvement goal can fund any competitive cycle application type
 - Competitive application window overlaps w/ Action Plan process



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Water/Wastewater

- ◈ Original activity of Missouri CDBG program
- ◈ Open cycle, 2-step proposal and application process
- ◈ Approx. 20% of annual allocation
- ◈ Missouri Water/Wastewater Review Committee, with primary funding partners
 - ◈ USDA – Rural Development
 - ◈ Missouri Department of Natural Resources
- ◈ Threshold eligibility criteria of 2%+ MHI for user rates



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Economic Development

Industrial Infrastructure

- ◈ Funds public infrastructure improvements only
- ◈ Federal and state job creation/retention criteria
- ◈ Threshold criteria of competitive wages

Downtown Revitalization

- ◈ Funds downtown infrastructure and commercial rehabilitation
- ◈ Documented slum and blight
- ◈ Threshold criteria of private investment



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Scoring Processes



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Criteria Disclosure

- ◈ Evaluation criteria listed in each set of application guidelines
- ◈ Utilizes 100-point scoring system, including:
 - ◈ Bonus points for letters of support
 - ◈ Previously included deductions for insufficient applications
- ◈ Narrative application questions aligned to scoring criteria
- ◈ Application training includes:
 - ◈ Overview of scoring criteria
 - ◈ Highlights of more vs. less competitive narratives from past cycles
- ◈ Application revision period offered to remedy deficiencies



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Criteria Types

Quantitative

- ◈ Local Effort analysis
 - Leveraging of additional funding
 - Financial statements analysis for local cash opportunities
- ◈ Project Readiness
 - Procurement actions
 - Environmental review
- ◈ Cost per “beneficiary”

Qualitative

- ◈ Need
 - Community needs assessment
 - Local planning
 - Narratives
- ◈ Impact
 - Operations and maintenance
 - Strategy/partnerships



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Award Decisions

- ◈ Competitive cycle:
 - Screened for eligibility
 - Each application scored twice, with third score for variance 10+ pts
 - Scores averaged and ranked high to low
 - Recommended in order until funding exhausted
- ◈ Open cycle
 - Screened for eligibility
 - Each application scored by SME
 - Minimum threshold of 65 pts
 - Considered based on submission date until funding exhausted



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Future Opportunities



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Criteria Feedback

- ◆ Feedback solicited after each application submission
 - Applicants are asked to provide feedback on application process after each submission
 - Expand to include feedback on alignment of application with stated evaluation criteria
- ◆ Expand role of MIT Citizens' Advisory Committee
 - Feedback on evaluation criteria and narrative questions
 - Consider realignment of quantitative vs. qualitative criteria
- ◆ Greater focus in future Action Plan process
 - Stakeholder feedback for evaluation criteria revisions
 - Analysis of award methodology



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Self-Scoring

- Provide full scoring rubric as part of application guidelines
- Require applicant completion to self-score application
- Analyze after application cycles:
 - Where were self-scores significantly different than staff scores?
 - Was there an expected bell curve distribution in the cycle?
 - Did narrative question structure create responses that scored well?



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THANK YOU!

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