

FEBRUARY 15, 2016 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

5:15 p.m. Council Chamber. Members present: K. Brown, A. Hraban, J. Pearson. Others present: A. Christianson 1, A. Christianson 2, B. Morgan, D. Parker, M. Reynolds, B. Stoneberg.

Call to Order:

Committee Chair Pearson called the meeting to order at 5:15, although business was delayed until conclusion of the simultaneous All Committee meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Housing

It was noted that some 600 workers are estimated to drive 50 or miles each way to work here and another 5000 to drive from 20 to 50 miles. While they no doubt have many and varied reasons some of them might be consider moving into the City if there were more or better housing options.

Mrs. Pearson advocated development of service enhanced housing for seniors to attract more in that age range. She also advocated for development of facilities and activities to attract and retain younger adults.

Adm. Christianson mentioned that a new program, referred to as READI (Wisconsin's Rural Economic and Area Development Initiative), shares features with a long gone program called the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Comprehensive Program. CDBG is still around, but not its Comprehensive Program subset. It was the CDBG Public Facilities (PF) Program that helped finance last year's W. 8th and Roesler project. In any case, a READI grant could, perhaps, assist both a street rebuild and a new or rejuvenated housing project that street serves. It may or may not also assist a recreational facility serving residents of the same housing project.

Adjourn:

The meeting adjourned at 7 p.m.

- This proposal is subject to HUD's approval -

READI

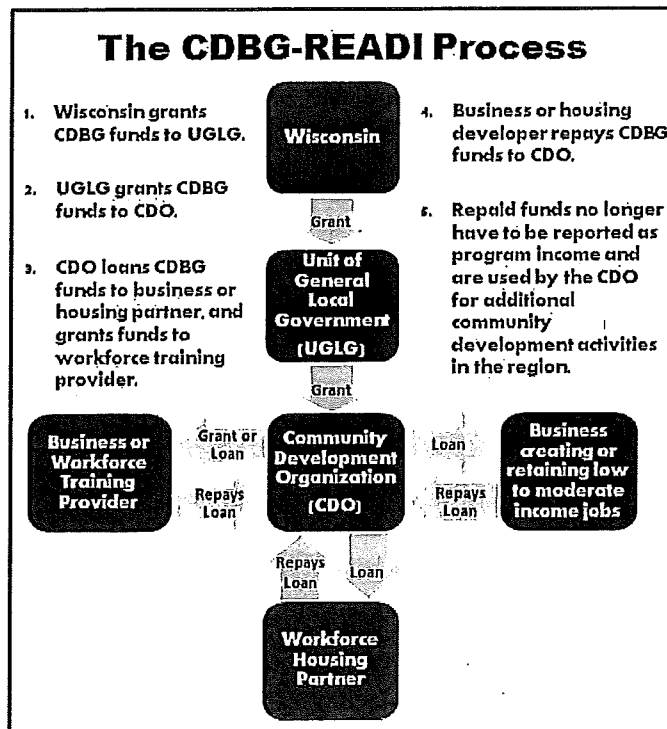
Wisconsin's Rural Economic and Area Development Initiative

VISION: ALL-ENCOMPASSING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES.

The proposed READI grant is a new comprehensive category of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds. DOA's Division of Energy, Housing, and Community Resources would make these funds available through an application process to non-entitlement municipalities (referred to as Units of General Local Government or UGLGs). READI would initially use \$10M in unallocated CDBG funds. Traditional CDBG Economic Development, Housing, Public Infrastructure, and Planning grants are still available. The READI program would be an additional grant opportunity.

The new proposed comprehensive grant application must include:

- **Economic Development:** The cornerstone of a READI proposal would be an application to create or expand a business. Loans of up to \$500,000 would be available in exchange for low- and moderate-income job creation.
- **Workforce Housing:** To attract new workers to rural areas, loans or grants of up to \$300,000 would be available to rehabilitate or create workforce housing near the economic development project.
- **Workforce Training:** Workforce training grants of up to \$200,000 would be available to train workers to step into new jobs at the economic development project.



Pursuant to section 105(a)(15) of the Housing and Community Development Act, the funds repaid to the CDO are no longer considered "program income." Reuse of funds is limited to the CDO. The UGLG cannot insert themselves into the loan process. All future activities are limited to neighborhood revitalization, community economic development, or energy conservation.

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