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Economic stimulus funds jumpstart community improvement

Arapahoe County accepting applications for supplemental Community Development Block Grants to benefit projects serving low to moderate income residents

Littleton, Colo. --- Thanks to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, Arapahoe County and the City of Centennial will receive more than \$350,000 in Community Development Block Grant funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development that will be available to entities for local projects.

"These funds serve a double purpose," said Arapahoe County Commissioner Jim Dyer. "Approved projects will create jobs and work for local businesses while their finished product will serve the needs of our low-income residents."

All projects applying for Arapahoe County's \$274,862 grant must assist low or moderate income residents of Arapahoe County, excluding the City of Aurora. All projects applying for Centennial's \$81,560 grant must assist low or moderate income Centennial residents.

Priority will be given to projects:

- That fall into the following categories:
 - Activities for infrastructure investments or related projects
 - Activities that create jobs
 - Activities that promote energy efficiency
- Are larger in scope (above \$50,000)
- That award contracts based on bids within 120 days of the grant agreement

Projects must demonstrate the ability to maximize job creation and economic benefit (ex., number of construction days and workers needed, creation of green jobs, utility cost savings, a reduction in carbon emissions, etc.)

Earlier this year, Arapahoe County awarded more than \$1 million in CDBG funds for public facilities, services and housing. Award recipients included the Rebuilding Together, House of Hope, Senior Hub, Project Angel Heart, Eastern Plains Women's Resource Center, Arapahoe/Douglas Mental Health Network, Wellspring Anglican Church Food Pantry and Doctors Care.

Applications will be available May 4 and must be returned by May 22, 2009. Applicants must be non-profit community organizations or governments that provide assistance for low to moderate income citizens, and are required to attend a pre-application meeting during the application period.

Applications may be picked up at 1690 W. Littleton Blvd., 3rd floor, in Littleton between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. or at 13133 East Arapahoe Road in Centennial between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. For more information or to obtain an application electronically, please contact Signy Mikita at smikita@co.arapahoe.co.us or call (303) 738-8063.

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