

March 13, 2011

Dear Mayors, Judges and Community Leaders:

This letter contains important information regarding the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, Home Partnership Investment (HOME) Program, Emergency Shelter Grants (ESG) Program and the Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) Program. All of these programs are funded by grants from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Each year we conduct public hearings to obtain citizen comments to determine the priorities for use of grant funds during the upcoming program year. This year five sites at various locations around the state have been selected to conduct these hearings. Attached is the list of public hearing locations, dates and times.

During these hearings state agencies will obtain public comments regarding the allocation of approximately \$36,712,573 in CDBG, HOME, ESG and HOPWA funds for the next fiscal year beginning in July 2011.

If you are not able to attend a public hearing, written comments can be mailed or delivered to the Arkansas Economic Development Commission, Grants Management Division, 900 W. Capitol, Suite 400, Little Rock 72201. The deadline to receive comments is 4:30 p.m. on April 13, 2011.

Copies of the Annual Update are available and may be reviewed at the County Judge's office in the county courthouse and at the library of each two-year and four-year college. You may also access the Consolidated Plan at the Arkansas Economic Development Commission web site: <http://www.arkansasedc.com>.

CDBG grants are targeted to Arkansas' smaller rural communities and have traditionally been used for senior citizen centers, public health facilities, childcare centers, fire protection, community facilities, economic development projects and water/wastewater projects.

HOME grants are used for tenant-based rental assistance (TBRA), rehabilitation and new housing construction.

Mayor, Judges and Community Leaders  
March 13, 2011  
Page 2

ESG awards are used to provide funding for homeless shelters. Funds can be used for rehabilitation, homelessness prevention, essential services, maintenance, and operating costs.

HOPWA funds are used for tenant-based rental assistance, emergency rental assistance, utility assistance and supportive services for low-income HIV positive individuals and their families.

Please encourage citizens of your community interested in obtaining more information concerning these grant programs, to attend a public hearing convenient to their location. You may contact me at 501-682-1211 or by e-mail at [bjulian@arkansasedc.com](mailto:bjulian@arkansasedc.com) for more information on any of these programs.

We look forward to your participation in the public hearing process and working with you and your community. Thanks to each of you for your cooperation and support as we work to address the needs of our citizens throughout our state.

Sincerely,



Basil Julian  
Grants Division Director

BJ:dh

Enclosures

cc: Mac Dodson, ADFA  
Dr. Paul Halverson, ADH  
John Selig, DHS  
Maria Luisa M. Haley, AEDC

## 5-Year Consolidated Plan Public Hearings

The Arkansas Consolidated Plan Committee will have focus meetings on the 5-Year Consolidated Plan 2010-2015 at the following locations.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Time</b>
April 7, 2011	<b>McGehee</b> City Hall 901 Holly	11:00
April 8, 2011	<b>Magnolia</b> Southwest Arkansas Planning and Development District 101 Business Park Dr.	11:00
April 12, 2011	<b>Pocahontas</b> Community Center 205 Geneva Dr.	11:00
April 13, 2011	<b>Jacksonville</b> Jacksonville Community Center #5 Municipal Drive	11:00
April 14, 2011	<b>Harrison</b> Northwest AR Economic Development District 818 Hwy. 62-65 412 N.	11:00

All meeting locations are wheelchair accessible. Persons needing interpreters or other accommodations are requested to telephone the Economic Development Commission at 501-682-1211 or 1-800-ARKANSAS and speak to Basil Julian so that arrangements can be made in advance.