



# **CDBG-Infrastructure Update: Policy Shift, Trainings, and Outreach**

**Agenda Item G**

**State Water Infrastructure Authority Meeting**

**March 20, 2014**

# Outline

- I. Policy Shift on Public Hearings
- II. How to Apply Training Sessions
- III. Presentation at Environmental Finance Center
- IV. Presentation at Community Development Academy
- V. Substantial Amendment to Annual Action Plan

# Public Hearing Policy Change

- At the last SWIA meeting, we announced that only one public hearing was required before a unit of local government submitted an application to the state.
- That policy came from an email from the HUD Greensboro office, copied to me, from a consultant who had asked the question.

# Public Hearing Policy Change

- The email stated that only one public hearing was required, and was then further clarified by the regional office:

“And for further clarification of my comments below, each unit of local government participating in the state CDBG program must hold two additional public hearings at different stages of the program (planning and execution, perhaps) – see 24 CFR Part 570.486(a)(5).”

# Public Hearing Policy Change

- We proceeded to broadcast this new allowance to participants in our public hearing, the working group, attendees in trainings that we held.
- Then, we received another email.

# Public Hearing Policy Change

- On February 20, we received another email from the HUD Regional Office in Greensboro:

“HUD headquarters has opined that 24 CFR Part 570.486(a)(5) requires local governments to conduct two public hearings before submitting a plan to the state for CDBG funding. This is a definitive requirement. I regret any confusion I may have caused with my previous opinion.”

# Public Hearing Policy Change

- We then corrected our policy, and planned on having a split application date:
  - April 1, 2014
  - May 1, 2014
- Applicants should then have an adequate amount of time to get both public hearings advertised and completed, in time for the May 1, 2014 deadline.

# CDBG-I Training Sessions

- We have had three trainings since our last meeting.
- Training sessions held in Raleigh, Spindale, and Kinston.
- Attendance was good; each training took one and one-half hours to complete.



# CDBG-I Training Sessions

Date	Location	Attendance
2/28/2014	Raleigh	75
3/5/2014	Spindale	45
3/17/2014	Kinston	12
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>132</b>

# UNC – Environmental Finance Center Presentation

- Each year the Environmental Finance Center at UNC-Chapel Hill hosts a course on infrastructure finance for local governments.
- On March 12, 2014, Drinking Water Programs and Clean Water Programs presented, along with USDA-Rural Development, and the CDBG-Infrastructure Program.
- There were about 30 to 35 participants in the class.

# Community Development Academy

- On March 13, 2014, the CDBG-Infrastructure Program was presented to the Community Development Academy, another annual course offered by the School of Government at UNC-Chapel Hill.
- The CDBG-Economic Development Program and the Commerce State Grants programs also presented.
- There were around 50 participants.

# Application Deadline Soon

- We continue to get calls and emails asking questions, and continue to update our website as information evolves. Applicants seem to understand we are learning, too, and have been patient.
- We have already received tips on making the process better, and plan on implementing those tips in the September grant round.

# Substantial Amendment to Annual Action Plan

- Draft Plan posted at

**<http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/wi/cdbg>**



# Questions