

To Grants Committee Meeting

July 9, 2025

MINUTES

Members Present:

Steve Reeb, Chairman
Susan Gruberman, Asst. Chairman
Scott Greenwald
Courtney Moore
Ken Sharkey

Members Excused:

Richie Meile
Matt Smallheer

Staff Present:

Rick Stubblefield, Executive Director
Becky Rose, Executive Assistant

Others Present:

May Brown

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Chairman Steve Reeb called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. in the St. Clair County Annex Conference Room, 2nd Floor.

Attendees rose and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Reeb took roll call.

Chairman Reeb asked if there were comments from the public on the agenda. There were no other public comments.

Upon a motion by Mr. Sharkey and a second by Mr. Moore, the minutes from the June 11, 2025 Grants Committee meeting were approved unanimously.

Upon a motion by Mr. Moore, and a second by Ms. Gruberman, the letter from the Grants Committee Chairman to the County Board Chairman transmitting the payroll and expense claims for the month of June, 2025 was approved unanimously.

Upon a motion by Mr. Greenwald, and a second by Mr. Moore, the Check Register Summaries for the pay periods in June, 2025 were approved unanimously and placed on file.

There were no questions concerning the Community Services Group and the reports were placed on file.

There were no questions concerning the Community Development Group and the report was placed on file.

There were no questions concerning the Workforce Development Group and the report was placed on file.

Upon a motion by Mr. Moore, and a second by Mr. Greenwald, the Community Services, Community Development, and Workforce Development Group reports were approved unanimously and placed on file.

Resolutions

- A. Mr. Rick Stubblefield presented a resolution accepting a Rehab Grant under the Home Repair and Accessibility Program – Round 2 (HRAP). Ms. Gruberman offered a motion to approve and Mr. Greenwald seconded the motion.

Chairman Reeb called for a vote to approve; the motion was approved unanimously.

Old Business

None.

New Business

- A. Director's Report

Mr. Rick Stubblefield stated that Community Development continues to make significant progress. As of this week, round 1 of the Housing Rehabilitation Program has officially closed, and Round 2 has commenced. Following a successful negotiation with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the County has been granted approval to use rehabilitation funds to repair homes in neighborhoods where federal Disaster Recovery (DR) grants are being used to improve infrastructure. While HUD initially encouraged allocating a portion of DR funds directly towards housing repairs, the County's alternative proposal was to fix infrastructure and then repair the homes. To identify eligible participants, outreach letters were sent out to homeowners in targeted areas. Unfortunately, the initial response was minimal. In response, the department is expanding its target area to generate greater engagement. Environmental reviews are currently underway for all public facility projects. All contracts associated with the 2022 Disaster Recovery funding have been returned, executed and are now active. CDBG is also in the process of drafting the 2024 Action Plan. To ensure transparency and encourage public input, two public hearings are scheduled for Monday, July 29, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

Mr. Stubblefield stated that all Continuum of Care (COC) grant agreements have been finalized for the current cycle. IGD is the collaborative applicant for all HUD funded homeless funding that comes through the county. The County's efforts in addressing homelessness continue to yield meaningful results. St. Clair County was one of only two counties in the State of Illinois to experience a reduction in homelessness this year.

Mr. Stubblefield stated that Weatherization has undergone a leadership transition following the retirement of Lial Field. Mike Shoemaker, who has been with the department for four years, has assumed the role of Weatherization Coordinator. To support this transition, the Illinois Association of Community Action Agencies (IACAA) has provided a weatherization specialist at a cost to assist Mr. Shoemaker with navigating the program's technical and administrative demands. Despite challenges statewide related to the WeatherWorks software, which have resulted in a decline in production output, the County remains on track. It is anticipated that completion of an additional six to eight units will be sufficient to fully expend the Program Year 2025 grant allocation.

Mr. Stubblefield stated that the Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) received seven applications for the Scholarship program which is a relatively strong response. There still remains concern for Community Service as it has not been reauthorized.

Mr. Stubblefield stated that the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) continues to operate, though application volumes have slowed down in recent weeks. To date, LIHEAP has received 6,024 applications with an approval rate of 92%. The program

remains open through August 15, or until funds are exhausted. In addition, \$130,000 in program dollars was contributed directly to client assistance. This allocation reflects the ability to operate the LIHEAP program below the overhead cost projected by the State for a program of its size, thus allowing surplus funds to be redirected to benefit clients directly. Preparations are underway for the upcoming recertification process for the Percentage of Income Payment Plan (PIPP).

Mr. Stubblefield stated that the new allocations for Workforce Development have been released and reflect an increase, which is a positive development. However, there is concern that these funds could be pulled back. The program continues to work with a number of new businesses to meet growing work-based learning needs. There remains concern as the program also has not been reauthorized.

Mr. Greenwald made a motion to approve the Director's report and Ms. Gruberman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Other Comments

None.

Adjournment

Chairman Steve Reeb entertained a motion to adjourn. On a motion by Mr. Moore, and a second by Mr. Greenwald, motion passed, and Chairman Reeb adjourned the meeting at 5:47 p.m.