

To Grants Committee Meeting

September 10, 2025

MINUTES

Members Present:

Steve Reeb, Chairman
Scott Greenwald
Courtney Moore
Ken Sharkey
Matt Smallheer

Members Excused:

Susan Gruberman, Asst. Chairman
Richie Meile

Staff Present:

Rick Stubblefield, Executive Director
Becky Rose, Executive Assistant

Others Present:

May Brown
Stephanie Smallheer

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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. Moore and a second by Mr. Greenwald, the minutes from the August 13, 2025 Grants Committee meeting were approved unanimously.

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

Upon a motion by Mr. Sharkey, and a second by Mr. Moore, the Check Register Summaries for the pay periods in August, 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. Greenwald, and a second by Mr. Moore, the Community Services, Community Development, and Workforce Development Group reports were approved unanimously and placed on file.

Resolutions

None.

Old Business

None.

New Business

A. Director's Report

Mr. Rick Stubblefield stated that the Community Development Block Grant is continuing targeting efforts in areas aligned with ongoing Disaster Recovery projects. While initial community response was lower than anticipated, engagement is beginning to improve. The expanded outreach is for Belleville, East St. Louis, and Cahokia Heights. The Five-Year Consolidated Plan has completed the first round of review and is currently awaiting final approval. The Consolidated Plan is a required strategic planning document for state and local jurisdiction under HUD guidelines. It assesses affordable housing and community development needs, analyzes market conditions, and establishes data-driven, multi-year goals and investment strategies for federal funds such as CDBG and HOME. Each year, the Consolidated Plan's goals are detailed in an Annual Action Plan, and progress is reported through the Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) which we are currently preparing for the recently concluded program year. Currently, there are two Community Development Housing Organization (CDHO) projects in progress. Construction is set to begin within the next two weeks on the new Supportive Housing Project at the former Call for Help site, partially funded with COVID-related and American Rescue Plan (ARP) dollars. Both Sinai Village and Vivian's Village are complete, with two units in each development ready for leasing. Environmental reviews are ongoing for the 2022 CDBG-DR grants. The Action Plan for the 2024 disaster recovery funds has undergone an initial review by our TA provider, and a few revisions are currently underway.

Mr. Stubblefield stated that all Continuum of Care (CoC) grants are currently active. A new notice of funding opportunity is expected to be released shortly. Originally planned as a two-year funding cycle, recent changes have adjusted the program structure.

Mr. Stubblefield stated that progress continues in the Weatherization program despite a challenging year. System changes have introduced delays, and our primary contractor is currently facing issues that have impacted project completion timelines. Fortunately, Bel-O and Rebel have stepped in to support final project delivery. However, we are still in urgent need of additional contractor capacity and are considering the formation of an internal construction crew.

Mr. Stubblefield stated that Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) services ended on August 15th, having provided benefits to over 6,600 households, with 92% of applications resulting in approved benefits. The program will reopen on October 1st for adults 60 years and older, individuals with a disability, families with children five and under, and households that are disconnected, have a disconnection or have less than 25% in their propane tank. All other income eligible households can start applying November 1st. Notably, income eligibility guidelines will increase next year, potentially qualifying more families. Ameren has pledged \$2 million in energy assistance across Illinois and Missouri. From this initiative, we received \$120,000, enabling us to support approximately 800 households with \$150 energy grant. Despite initial confusion over the press release timing, the matter has been resolved, and we have served approximately 700 households to date under this grant.

Mr. Stubblefield stated that the new program year for Workforce Development has started off positively. Recent monitoring went smoothly, with only minor issues identified. \$125,000 in supplemental state funding has been secured to support program expansion and sustainability.

Mr. Stubblefield also stated that additional funding to be received this year will be \$306,000 for the Illinois Department of Human Service (DHS), \$144,000 from the Barrier Reduction Program (BRP) and \$73,000 from the Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA) for a data gathering initiative.

Mr. Smallheer made a motion to approve the Director's report and Mr. Sharkey 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 5:45 p.m.