

To Grants Committee Meeting

April 8, 2026

MINUTES

Members Present:

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

Members Excused:

Richie Meile

Staff Present:

Rick Stubblefield, Executive Director

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, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 Ms. Gruberman, the minutes from the March 11, 2026, Grants Committee meeting were approved unanimously.

Upon a motion by Mr. Sharkey, and a second by Mr. Greenwald, the letter from the Grants Committee Chairman to the County Board Chairman transmitting the payroll and expense claims for the month of March 2026 were approved unanimously.

Upon a motion by Ms. Gruberman, and a second by Mr. Moore, the Check Register Summaries for the pay periods in March 2026 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. Sharkey, 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. Stubblefield stated that the President's proposed budget eliminates funding for Community Action and Housing and Urban Development (HUD) programs. While such proposals have not historically been enacted in full, significant reductions are anticipated. Additionally, the administration has proposed eliminating childcare programs, which would substantially impact low-income families' ability to maintain employment. At the same time, Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) funding is currently delayed, and we are unable to draw funds for our new award. While this has not yet reached a critical stage, it is expected to become a concern in the near future.

Workforce Development will host its annual recognition program next Thursday. The team is also in the process of restructuring to better support work-based learning opportunities. As our non-formula grant portfolio has expanded, it has become increasingly clear that employers are eager to partner with us to provide opportunities for job seekers who face barriers to employment. Earlier today, Workforce Development hosted a Career Expo in partnership with the Gateway Grizzlies and East County Enterprises. More than thirty employers participated, offering information and job opportunities to local high school students. The Local Plan Revision and the EDR 9 Regional Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Plan Revision were submitted to the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) and KEB on March 27<sup>th</sup>. Additionally, Workforce is currently securing signatures for the annual One-Stop Budget and Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), which is due April 15<sup>th</sup> in coordination with our One-Stop partners.

Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program has processed 4,632 applications, with 4,388 households receiving benefits, representing an approval rate of approximately 92%. Application processing times remain around 45 days. Submission volume has recently increased following the end of Ameren's shut-off moratorium.

Weatherization (WTX) continues to make progress on the Multifamily project. The team has been submitting required documentation to the State for approval; the first approval has been granted, and work is underway to secure the second. In addition, WTX is collaborating with the Community and Economic Development (CEDA) expansion team by providing data needed to develop the TREAT model for the building. A meeting is scheduled this Friday with the project contractor to review potential measures and establish timelines. These timelines are particularly important to align project completion and current program year funding requirements.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Public Facilities applications have reopened and are currently being scored. CDBG and HOME allocations were released on Monday, and staff are actively working on the FY26 Action Plan. Planning is underway for the Rehab Program lottery, with application calls scheduled for June 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> and the lottery drawing set for July 7<sup>th</sup>. The re-qualification process has concluded, with all letters sent and the response deadline has now passed. The Rental Housing Support Program (RHSP) is up for renewal this year.

State applications for ESG, Prevention, and Home Illinois Permanent Supportive Housing programs are now open and the grant agreement for the Illinois Homeless Coalition Data Grant has been finalized. We remain in a holding pattern with the Continuum of Care (CoC) as we await the release of the third and fourth quarter funding. A new Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) is expected in June and is expected to include significant funding reductions and changes to eligible program types. Given ongoing legal and policy development, the structure of housing programs next year remains uncertain; however, operations are continuing as usual at this time.

Construction on the Pisel Center is approximately 25-30% complete.

Homeless funding is projected to decline by approximately 40% next year. Additionally, newly implemented regulations are expected to affect both Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and housing benefits. Certain areas, including downtown Belleville, are already experiencing elevated levels of homelessness. In the near term, an increase is anticipated as the immediate impacts of these policy changes take effect. Neighboring communities, such as Fairview Heights and O'Fallon, may also experience similar upward trends.

The Fiscal Department is currently preparing for Program Year 2027 (PY27) Weatherization and LIHEAP grant applications, all of which are due this Friday. LIHEAP PY27 total funding is \$4,497,095, representing a decrease of \$127,754 from PY26 originally allocation. Weatherization PY27 total funding is \$1,219,320, reflecting an increase of \$40,769 compared to PY26. In addition, preparations are well underway for the upcoming Wipfli audit scheduled for early summer. The staff is also preparing for an Illinois Office of Community Assistance (OCA) fiscal monitoring review scheduled for the end of this month.

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. Sharkey, and a second by Mr. Greenwald, motion passed, and Chairman Reeb adjourned the meeting at 5:50 p.m.