

To Grants Committee Meeting

July 8, 2026

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

Others Present:

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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. Greenwald and a second by Mr. Moore, the minutes from the June 10, 2026, 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 2026 were approved unanimously.

Upon a motion by Mr. Moore, and a second by Mr. Greenwald, the Check Register Summaries for the pay periods in June 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 Ms. Gruberman, 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 reported that all state grant applications for the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), Prevention, and Home Illinois have been submitted to the state for review. The Continuum of Care (CoC) Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) has been released by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), with applications due on August 26th. Staff are currently preparing and completing the required application materials. A match waiver request letter for the Health Department project match requirement has also been submitted to HUD. Approval of the waiver request is pending.

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Action Plan is currently underway, and a draft has been submitted to HUD for review. The finalized plan is due mid-August. Home Rehabilitation lottery drawing was conducted on July 7, 2026. All contracts are currently being processed for Public Facilities. Applications for the 2026 funding cycle have been evaluated, recommendations have been approved, and award letters have been issued.

Workforce Development is transitioning to a new state reporting system. To date, the state has been proactive in providing training and keeping the workforce network informed throughout the implementation process. The new system was originally scheduled to go live last Wednesday; however, the launch was postponed until today. While there are some initial technical issues, we do not anticipate they will be as significant as those experienced with Weatherization's system. We are also considering applying for additional funding to help offset a portion of the reductions in our formula funding. One potential opportunity is approximately \$300,000 in supplemental Dislocated Worker funding.

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) application submissions have slowed significantly this month. We have seen several instances of customers who received assistance during the 2025 program year reapplying, likely because they believe they are eligible due to the start of a new program year rather than the calendar year. As application volume has decreased, processing times have improved. 6,297 applications have been entered with 5,873 receiving a benefit. As we approach the summer months, we continue to encourage eligible households that have not yet received assistance to apply. We are also entering the Percentage of Income Payment Plan (PIPP) recertification period, during which participating households must submit updated information regarding household income and composition.

Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) continues to accept requests for rental, dental, prescription, mortgage, water, and sewer assistance. Our staff receive numerous calls per day. Funding is still available.

Weatherization has been actively working on the Pearl Street multifamily project for the St. Clair County Housing Authority properties. All contractors- Geissler, Beloman, and Pointe Pest Control- have completed work on the first two buildings. Final inspections have been completed, and staff are currently finalizing project costs and preparing the buildings for payment. In addition, contractors have completed work for four single-family homes. Staff are

completing the cost reconciliation process and preparing those projects for payment as well. Notices to proceed have been sent out for the three remaining Pearl Street buildings. The HVAC contractors have begun their work, and Geissler is expected to start in late July or early August. We have also issued notices to proceed for 13 single-family homes. The remaining 3 multifamily buildings and the 13 single-family homes will be funded using carryover funds. We have spent a significant amount of time reallocating funds due to ongoing challenges with the IWx system. We have also received an updated market analysis and are reviewing it in comparison to last year's pricing. The analysis reflects lower allowable construction costs, based on the state's assumption that market prices have declined. However, this does not appear to align with current conditions in the construction industry. One of our contractors has already indicated they are unable to continue performing work at the current reimbursement rates. This concern is based on the existing labor rates and does not yet reflect the predominantly lower rates proposed for next year. These developments raise concerns about the long-term sustainability of the Weatherization Program under the pricing structure.

The Fiscal Department is nearing completion of the Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25) audit. Fieldwork conducted by Wipfli was completed during the week of June 1st. The auditors reported that the audit progressed smoothly and did not identify any significant issues. We anticipate the audit will be finalized once the remaining review procedures are completed.

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 5:53 p.m.