To Grants Committee Meeting

October 14, 2026

# MINUTES

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

Members Excused:
Richie Meile
Matt Smallheer

Staff Present:
Rick Stubblefield, Executive Director
Becky Rose, Executive Assistant

Others Present:
May Brown
Catina Gates
Johnissia Stevenson

---

Chairman Steve Reeb called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. in the St. Clair County Annex Conference Room, 1st 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. Greenwald, the minutes from the September 9, 2026, Grants Committee meeting were approved unanimously.

Upon a motion by Mr. Sharkey, 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 September 2026 were approved unanimously.

Upon a motion by Mr. Greenwald, and a second by Mr. Sharkey, the Check Register Summaries for the pay periods in September 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. Greenwald, 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. 2027 Grants Committee Schedule

Mr. Moore made a motion to approve the 2027 Schedule, and Mr. Sharkey seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Director's Report

Mr. Stubblefield reported that Weatherization is making steady progress, although we continue to experience a significant level of frustration with the state. After careful consideration, we have decided to withdraw from the Belle Plaza One multifamily high-rise project. While this is disappointing, the associated risks have become too great to justify moving forward. Fortunately, we have numerous other multifamily units available to work on that do not carry the same level of regulatory complexity as high-rise projects. On a positive note, the Weatherization team successfully recruited three new contractors, and we are hopeful that these partnerships will prove successful. Additionally, all our existing contractors have renewed their contracts, providing continued stability to the program. Overall, Weatherization is moving in a positive direction, and we are encouraged by the progress being made and the opportunities ahead.

Continuum of Care (CoC) funding remains uncertain, while the need for services appears to be increasing each month. The Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA) recently contacted us to determine whether we would be willing to serve an individual from another area who has significant and specialized needs. We worked with IHDA to negotiate the addition of several units to our portfolio, and our staff successfully identified a property owner willing to partner with us. This collaboration resulted in a positive outcome and demonstrated our continued commitment to meeting the needs of vulnerable individuals.

The annual Point-in-Time Count is scheduled for January, and preparations will be forthcoming. This initiative focuses on conducting outreach to identify and obtain an accurate count of individual experiencing homelessness. We partner with local municipalities to bring essential services directly into the community, including barber services, showers, and food. These outreach efforts provide opportunities to connect with individuals experiencing homelessness, increase awareness of available resources, and encourage engagement with supportive services.

Additionally, we have remaining HOME-ARP funds available and have issued a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) to solicit project applications. Interested applicants have until the end of November to submit their proposals for consideration.

Our Program Year 2026 (PY26) Action Plan has been approved by Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Additionally, our Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) requalification has been approved. Environmental reviews for all PY26 Public Facilities projects are currently underway.

We anticipate beginning to mail applications for the 2024 Disaster Recovery program within the next few weeks. Our policies and procedures have been finalized, positioning us to move forward with implementation. This program includes a substantially larger funding allocation and is expected to attract larger-scale projects.

The new system for Workforce Development, IWDS 2.0 is now operational. There are some technical issues that remain to be resolved. Our staff have adapted well to the transition, and I believe we are establishing a strong example in staff training and competency as the new system rolls out. The system's self-service component, which allows customers to access services independently, also appears to be working well.

The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) priority application period opened on October 1. During this period, applications were accepted from households with individuals age 60 or older, children aged five or younger, households whose utilities have been disconnected or that have received a disconnection notice, and households with less than 25% of their propane supply remaining. All other eligible households may begin applying on November 1. The furnace program has also launched, allowing eligible households to receive assistance with furnace repairs or replacement. LIHEAP is experiencing a very busy start to the season. We have received thousands of applications to date, with approximately 659 applications entered in the system since October 1. Staff continue to work diligently to manage the high volume of applications and meet the needs of households seeking assistance.

The 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. We are continually exploring new ways to strengthen our services and better serve more clients. Funding is still available.

There were no further comments or questions.

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

Other Comments

Ms. Catina Gates requested additional information regarding the communities that will be receiving assistance as a result of the 2024 flooding, as well as clarification on how the allocated funding will be distributed.

Mr. Stubblefield responded that several communities were declared disaster areas due to the severity of the damage. The communities submitted applications for projects that demonstrate how inadequate or aging infrastructure contributed to additional flooding or worsened the impact of the 2024 flood. These projects are intended to address existing infrastructure challenges and help reduce the risk of future flooding. We have also been working the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to coordinate these efforts and ensure that the various projects complement one another and work toward a shared goal. The funding is not distributed directly to the individual municipalities. Instead, we oversee the projects to ensure the approved work is completed as intended. Payments are made directly to the contractors or developers responsible for completing the work, helping ensure that the funds are used for their designated purposes.

There were no further comments or questions.

## Adjournment

Chairman Steve Reeb entertained a motion to adjourn. On a motion by Mr. Moore, and a second by Mr. Sharkey, motion passed, and Chairman Reeb adjourned the meeting at 5:54 p.m.