

Chapter 1: Overview

Introduction

The Idaho Community Development Block Grant program is a **competitive** grant program administered by the Idaho Department of Commerce. Each year the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development allocates Idaho's share of the States and Small Cities Community Development Block Program as determined by the funding formula contained in the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 as amended. The formula is based on Idaho's population, poverty, and age of housing.

The department distributes the federal funding to counties and non-entitlement cities through a **competitive** grant process. The grant application process generally consists of the application submission, review and ranking by department staff and Economic Advisory Council members and submission of the addendum where required. The final award is made by the Governor. The most significant competitive factors are matching funds, need, and readiness to proceed.

Idaho's counties and non-entitlement cities have divergent needs. Each community determines its own priority needs by committing local resources to find a solution to meet its greatest need. The grant program is designed to assist communities willing to help themselves. In this way, the project funded is more likely to be sustained.

The information contained within this handbook is critical to your efforts in developing a competitive application. This handbook, forms, administrative rules and the grant administration manual can be found on our Web site at www.commerce.idaho.gov or you can call our office to receive a copy. The application is based on the rules that guide the program. Use this handbook to assist your community with the application process.

Funding Categories & Thresholds:

- I. There are four funding categories or set-asides. Each funding category has a maximum amount that can be requested. These categories and their corresponding request limits are:
 - A. Public Facility (public infrastructure, community facilities, and public utilities) – Maximum Award = \$500,000
 - B. Economic Development
 1. Infrastructure for Jobs – Maximum Award = \$30,000 per job, up to \$500,000
 2. Downtown Revitalization – Maximum Award = \$500,000
 - C. Community/Senior Centers – \$150,000
 - D. Imminent Threat – \$100,000

Examples of recently funded ICDBG projects:

City of Kuna – senior center improvements

ICDBG award = \$72,000
Project total cost = \$94,572

City of Grangeville – wastewater treatment plant improvements

(ICDBG used for design professional and grant administration only) ICDBG award = \$500,000
Project total cost = \$6,300,000

Bannock County /

Downey Fire District (sub-recipient) – new fire station construction

ICDBG award = \$300,000
Project total cost = \$657,000

City of Spirit Lake – downtown revitalization

ICDBG award = \$500,000
Project total cost = \$750,000

City of Payette /

Rose Advocates (sub-recipient) – new domestic violence shelter

ICDBG award = \$500,000
Project total cost = \$764,000

City of Craigmont – infrastructure for city's business park

ICDBG award = \$500,000
Project total cost = \$1,520,000

- ICDBG can be the primary funding source then on other projects it's secondary. Remember, however, other federal programs allow CDBG to be counted as local match (unique)
- Variety of needs
- Project sizes range from \$72,000 to \$6,300,000
- Population of communities range from 430 to 36,000
- New construction or rehab / land acquisition / design professional / grant administration

Statewide Goals and Strategies:

The Idaho Community Development Block Grant program has set two non-housing statewide priority goals for the coming program year. Each has three strategies. Each project must meet at least one strategy and its corresponding goal. The three goals, corresponding strategies and types of activities that meet these are listed below.

- I. Increased access to decent affordable housing
 - A. Sustain and increase homeownership
 - B. Sustain and increase affordable rental housing
 - C. Support equal access to a continuum of housing services

- II. Preserve and enhance suitable living environments
 - A. Improve safety and livability of communities:
Activities under this strategy include bringing water and sewer systems into compliance with environmental standards, improving medical and fire safety facilities and eliminating slum and blight from downtowns or neighborhoods and other public facility projects.
 - B. Increase access to quality facilities and services:
Activities include installing a water or sewer system where none exists, building new fire safety and medical facilities, rehabilitation or building senior and community centers, improving or building assisted living facilities and other public facility projects.
 - C. Improve affordability and sustainability of quality facilities and services:
Activities include construction or rehabilitation of water, sewer, fire, medical and assisted living facilities, streets and other public facilities for the purpose of making them more affordable and sustainable.

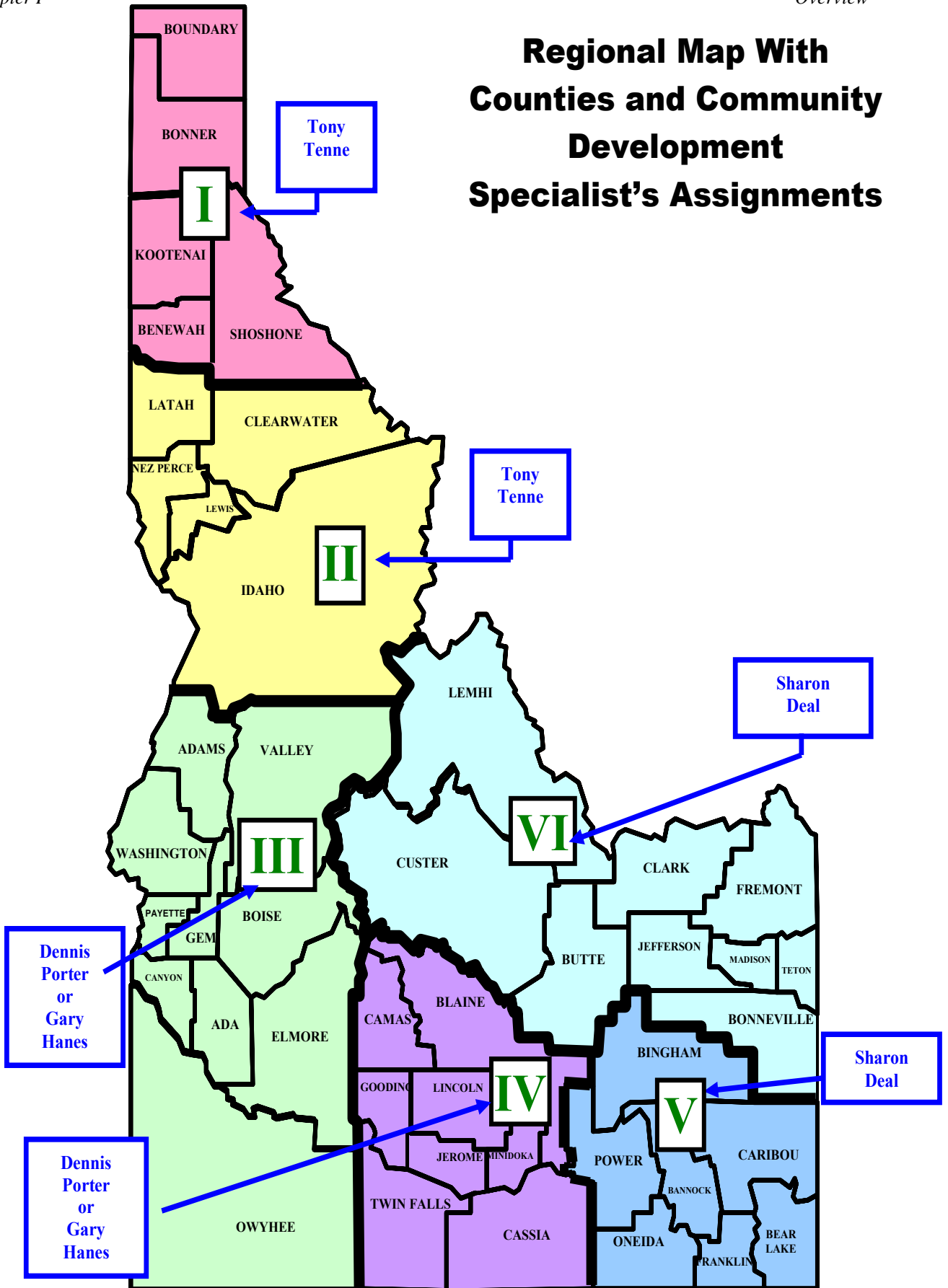
- III. Expanding economic opportunities
 - D. Create jobs primarily for low-and-moderate-income persons:
Activities include installation, upgrade, construction and acquisition of public facilities such as water, sewer, power, gas, streets, and buildings to assist in the public cost to promote expansion of an existing business or location of a new business.
 - E. Revitalize downtown business districts:
Activities include elimination of slum and blight in downtowns through façade improvements, infrastructure improvements, acquisition and demolition of dilapidated properties.

If you have any questions regarding the application process or the rules that guide this process please contact the Idaho Department of Commerce project specialist assigned to your region.

Idaho Economic Advisory Council

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Vacant	At-Large	

Regional Map With Counties and Community Development Specialist's Assignments



Estimated Allocation

\$8,000,000	
\$260,000	Department Administration
\$80,000	Technical Assistance
\$300,000 Reserved	Imminent Threat (*\$100,000)
\$480,000 Reserved	Community/Senior Center (*\$150,000)
\$3,440,000 Reserved	Public Facilities (*\$500,000)
\$3,440,000 Reserved	Public Improvement for Job Creation/ Retention and Downtown Revitalization Grant (*\$500,000)

*Maximum Grant Amount

Note: ICDBG amounts may change based on statewide needs.

Application Schedule

November 18, 2011	Public Facilities and Downtown Revitalization applications due.*
December 19, 2011	Job Creation / Retention applications due****
Mid January 2012	Economic Advisory Council meeting. - Review of all applications; invite for addenda
March 2, 2012	Senior Citizen/Community Center grant applications due***
March 2, 2012	Public Facilities and Downtown Revitalization addenda due**
March 19, 2012	Job Creation / Retention applications due****
Mid April 2012	Economic Advisory Council meeting - Public Facilities addenda reviewed - Senior Citizen/Community Center applications reviewed - Downtown Revitalization addenda reviewed - Job Creation / Retention applications for job creation reviewed
June 18, 2012	Job Creation / Retention applications due****
Mid July 2012	Economic Advisory Council meeting - Job Creation / Retention applications reviewed
September 17, 2012	Job Creation / Retention applications due****
Mid October 2012	Economic Advisory Council meeting - Job Creation / Retention applications reviewed submit addenda

* Public Facilities and Downtown Revitalization grant applications are due in November, the Friday before Thanksgiving.

** Public Facilities and Downtown Revitalization grant addendums are due the first Friday of March.

*** Senior/Community Center grant applications are due the first Friday of March.

**** Job Creation / Retention applications are due the third Monday of December, March, June, and September.