

## 2016 Municipal Grant Program Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Is there a reason the low mod area [in my community] has decreased in size. The street, was formerly in the low-mod area of the Urban County map but is not under the new map.

A: Low-moderate areas change based on household incomes reported by residents to the U.S. Census bureau. These changes are beyond the control of Cuyahoga County. The ITA areas also changed due to the re-evaluation conducted in 2015.

Approximately once every ten years, HUD contracts with the Census Bureau to conduct a special data analysis and update all of the low/moderate income eligible block groups. For an Urban County HUD entitlement, here is how the process works: First, the percent of low/mod income persons is calculated for all Urban County block groups. Second, the block groups are placed in order, from the highest percentage of low/moderate income persons to the lowest, and the First Quartile (highest 25%) is determined. In round numbers, there are about 400 block groups in the Urban County. So, the First Quartile is about 100 block groups (25% of 400). In HUD's current calculation, the First Quartile ended at 38.68%. All block groups with a percentage of low/moderate income persons at or above 38.68% are the current list of Urban County eligible block groups. Link to American Fact Finder a resource of the U.S. Census bureau: <http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml###>.

Q: [Does eligibility change if] the proposed activity is no longer in a low-mod income area but still is located the Improvement Target Area?

A: An eligible activity meets the national objective requirement as long as it is in an Improvement Target Area (ITA), a Low-Moderate Income (LMI) area or an area designated as blighted by the community with evidence that the designated area meets HUD's blighted area definition. If the activity is located in an ITA or a community-designated blighted area then the proposed activity must correct the condition that contributed to the blighting conditions.

Q: Will CDBG pay for the demolition of blighted buildings that received a condemnation order using the appropriate legal process?

A: Yes, eligible demolition activities are detailed in [24CFR570.201\(d\)](#) Clearance and remediation activities.

Q: Would the county fund a CDBG project that already has designated demolition funds to remove the blight?

A: The activity would be considered an eligible project. All applications are welcome that meet the HUD national objectives and propose an eligible activity.

- Q: Would the county fund a CDBG project that demolished properties condemned, using the appropriate legal process that did NOT receive demolition funds? Properties that are current on taxes but the owner refuses to repair?
- A: The activity would be considered an eligible project. All applications are welcome that meet the HUD national objectives and propose an eligible activity.
- Q: Does the creation of a public park on small corner lot that is owned by the City, and located entirely in an ITA, eligible for CDBG funding?
- A: Creating a public park is an eligible activity. CDBG funds may be used for the acquisition, construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation or installation of such improvements or facilities and meet the national objective for slum and blight. In an ITA you must correct the condition that contributed to the blight.
- Q: [Improving] a senior center, not in an LMI area, but a targeted population, would this be an eligible project?
- A: Yes, improvements to a senior center are eligible for CDBG funding.  
Activities that serve specific limited clientele such as seniors are not required to be in a low mod area or ITA. Limited Clientele activities provide benefit to a specific group of persons presumed to be principally LMI. This presumption covers abused children, battered spouses, elderly persons, severely disabled adults, homeless persons, illiterate persons, persons living with AIDS and migrant farm workers. For additional guidance on limited clientele requirements go to 24CFR570.208 or <http://www.huduser.org/portal/oup/files/cdbgGuide.pdf>.
- Q: Is the creation of city pocket parks outside of a targeted area or low-mod area but open to the community an eligible activity?
- A: An eligible activity meets the national objective requirement as long as it is in an Improvement Target Area (ITA), or a Low-Moderate Income (LMI) area or an area Designated as blighted by the community with evidence that the designated area meets HUD's blighted area definition.