

FY 2009 RECOVERY ACT (ARRA) PROJECT RANKING CRITERIA

DuPage County Neighborhood Infrastructure Improvements

For projects that are determined as eligible, points will be assigned by CDC staff based on the system described below, and this assignment of points will be reviewed with each applicant. It will then be the Executive Committee's responsibility to review the projects and the staff's point assignment, recommending modifications of points assigned for specific components where appropriate. Applicants will also have the opportunity to meet with the Committee to discuss their project. A summary of the criteria is shown in Figure One.

Figure One: Summary of the Point System	
Category	Explanation
<u>PART 1: Minimum Requirements</u>	All applicants must meet the minimum requirements of: (a) eligibility; (b) capacity; and (c) implementing fair housing actions.
<u>PART 2: Point Category One - Meeting National Objectives</u>	All applications must benefit low and moderate income persons per CDBG regulations. If two projects score the same, the project with the higher concentration of low and moderate income persons will be selected. Preference will be given to projects that serve at least 50% low and moderate income persons.
<u>PART 3: Point Category Two - Project Impact</u>	There are a number of possible components to the project impact category which are described below.
Neighborhood Infrastructure	Points are available for: (a) flood management; (b) water mains and sanitary sewers; (c) street improvements, sidewalks, street lighting, and other miscellaneous neighborhood infrastructure. Applicants can receive points in only one of these three categories. 15 points are possible.
Other CDBG Objectives	Points are provided for environmental protection and/or energy conservation. 2 points are possible.
<u>PART 4: Point Category Three - Project Readiness</u>	Points are awarded for: (a) completion of project engineering; and (b) absence of obstacles to completion of the project. 10 points are possible.
<u>PART 5: Point Category Four - Fair Housing Actions</u>	A fair housing action plan is a minimum requirement.

PART 1: MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

The following criteria are minimum thresholds for consideration of an application. No points are awarded, but all of these basic requirements must be met.

Eligibility: First, the applicant must be eligible to receive funds in this category. Only DuPage County and municipal members of the CDC are eligible to apply. Second, the proposed activity must be eligible for funding in accordance with applicable regulations and policies. These would include federal regulations as well as the policies of the County and CDC governing the use of the funds. Although there are many regulations and policies applicable to ARRA applications, there are two that are particularly noted below.

1.1 Governing Body Authorization: The governing body (i.e., County Board, City Council, or Village Board) must, by resolution, authorize the submittal of the application, as well as authorizing the signing of an Agreement if funding is granted.

1.2 Timeliness: The project must have engineering complete, bid specifications prepared and submitted to CDC for review within 60 days; publicly bid and under contract within the following 60 days.

We recommend you discuss eligibility with the CDC staff before preparing the application.

1.3 Capacity to Carry Out the Project: In some cases it may be necessary to evaluate the applicant's capacity to implement the project. If it is determined that the applicant does not have adequate capacity, the application will not be considered. Evidence of the background of persons responsible for implementing the project may be requested.

1.4 Fair Housing Actions: There are two components of this requirement.

a. Fair Housing Action Plan: This plan must be in place before the applicant submits an application for ARRA funding.

b. Enactment of Zoning Amendments The applicant must submit an attorney's opinion that its zoning ordinance is consistent with the Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1988. This act added familial status and handicap to the list of protected classes and affects how local regulations treat group homes. This opinion must be submitted before the applicant is eligible to receive funding from the DuPage County ARRA program. This only needs to be done once. If it was submitted for a past CDBG application, simply copy and attach what was previously submitted.

1.5 Location Map: Supply a map of the location.

1.6 Budget

PART 2: MEETING NATIONAL OBJECTIVES

The use of Recovery Act funds will be limited to only fund projects that meet the primary objective of benefit to low and moderate income persons. Infrastructure projects must benefit areas that are primarily residential and at least 34% low and moderate income. Go to the County's CDC web site found at <http://www.dupageco.org/cdc> and click on "Municipal Low-Mod Income Maps" to view the eligible areas within each municipality.

Applicants may also go to the CDC web site and click on "Forms and Documents." Click on "Census Block Maps Resource." This is where you can purchase census tract and block group maps from the Census Bureau. These maps are also available for viewing in the CDC office. Additionally, to view the actual Low-Mod Income Figures, click on "Low Income by Census Tract and Block Group."

This is a pass-fail criteria. The project must serve areas of at least 34% Low-Mod concentration. Preference will be given to projects that serve at least 50% Low-Mod income persons.

PART 3: PROJECT IMPACT

3.1 Neighborhood Infrastructure

This category includes activities that fall into three types: (a) flood management; (b) water and sanitary sewer; and (c) streets, sidewalks, street lighting, and other miscellaneous neighborhood infrastructure. Applicants can only receive points for one type of activity. However, if the proposed project includes different types of activities, the points will be pro-rated in accordance with the project budget. Points for each are described below.

A. Flood Management

Because the objective emphasizes prevention of deterioration, points will be awarded as follows.

1. Areas where a substantial number of dwelling units are flooded on a regular basis will receive 14 points if the applicant documents that the proposed project has been denied for county storm water funding. This flooding must be inside the house, thereby causing damage. Regular flooding is defined as flooding that occurs in a one hundred year storm. A "substantial number" is that number where it would be less expensive to deal with the flooding on an area wide basis rather than individually. (For example, for a project with a total cost of \$300,000, four homes valued at \$90,000 each, would be considered a substantial number. Three homes would not be substantial because only \$270,000 would be needed to buy the three homes.)
2. Areas where flooding is predominantly confined to yards and streets, with relatively minor basement seepage, but the number of residential properties affected is substantial, will receive 8 points.
3. Areas where the number of residential properties affected is not substantial will receive 4 points.

B. Water and Sanitary Sewer

1. Where documented evidence of a health or safety hazard exists affecting a substantial number of households in the affected area, the project will receive 15 points.

2. Where documented evidence, as above, exists but the number of households affected is not substantial, the project will receive 11 points.
3. Where the applicant demonstrates some need, but there is no documented evidence of a health or safety hazard, the project will receive 6 points.

C. Street Improvements, Sidewalks, Street Lighting, and Other Infrastructure

1. Where documented evidence exists that the current facilities, or lack thereof, significantly contribute to a neighborhood safety hazard, the project will receive 11 points.
2. Where need is demonstrated, but evidence of a significant safety hazard does not exist, the project will receive 5 points.

3.2 Other CDBG Objectives

A. *Benefit for environmental protection or energy conservation*

Projects that have a clear emphasis on environmental protection or energy conservation will receive an additional 2 points.

How Points are Awarded for Projects with Multiple Activities

Projects that include more than one type of activity will be awarded project benefit points for each separate activity. The overall project benefit score would be a weighted average of these individual scores using the percentage of the total CDBG funds going to each activity as the weighting factor.

PART 4: POINT CATEGORY THREE - PROJECT READINESS

Commitment and expenditure of Recovery Act funds is critical.

4.1 The points assigned in this category are designed to encourage complete project readiness.

No Significant Obstacles (10 points): The project will be considered to have no significant obstacles if the project appears to be ready for immediate start-up. Indicators of this level of readiness include, but are not limited to, the following.

1. The applicant currently owns or is in control of the land where the project will be located.
2. The project is consistent with applicable regulations and ordinances (e.g., zoning or environmental concerns).
3. All required financing is committed and available.
4. Engineering is complete.

Moderate Obstacles (2 points): These obstacles are those that would not allow immediate start-up of the project. Indicators of this level of readiness may include the following.

1. Financial arrangements of all required financing are still in progress.
2. Engineering has started, but is not complete.

Severe Obstacles (0 points, not eligible): Obstacles are considered severe if it is likely (based on past experience with similar activities) that preliminary activities will delay start-up by more than 30 days. These activities may include the following.

1. The applicant needs to acquire a large number of parcels or easements.
2. There are major legal or project set-up issues that could take a substantial amount of time to resolve.
3. There is significant uncertainty about non-ARRA financing.

PART 5: FAIR HOUSING ACTION PLAN

In order to receive funding, a fair housing action plan must be in place. Therefore, no points are awarded for meeting this CDC requirement.