

On Monday, August 25, 2008, the Kane County Community Development Block Grant Staff held a public hearing on the consolidated annual performance and evaluation report. This report describes the housing and community development activities Kane County and the Kane-Elgin Consortium undertook in the Program Year 2007 with funds received under two programs administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The Leagues of Women Voters of Kane County made two public comments during this public hearing. The first part of our testimony addresses the inadequate funding from this consortium for persons with serious mental illness and developmental disabilities. Although the consortium spent 2 million dollars during fiscal year 2007, only \$50,000 was committed to long-term housing for persons with developmental disabilities, and this money was actually committed in fiscal year 2005. During fiscal year 2007, no money was committed to long term housing for persons with mental illness or developmental disabilities.

The second part of our testimony concerns the access to public records. The draft report was given out at the meeting on Monday, the 25th, with all testimony due by Thursday, the 28th. This allows poor public oversight to the use of public funds. The CDBG reform act of 2006 requires the CDGB program to be fully transparent and make available on a public website every grant application, public expenditure and standardized performance measure. We request that the CDBG consortium meet these transparency requirements. For full text of the testimonies, go to www.lwvgenstc.org/News.html. To read the two-year study regarding the services in Kane County for person with developmental delay or serious mental illness, go to www.lwvgenstc.org/MHDD_study.html

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