



August 25, 2008

Public Hearing on Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report

The League of Women Voters in Kane County believes citizens have a right to access records and information in order to ensure transparency in government. The League also believes that the Freedom of Information Act and related state and local laws are only as good as we demand that they be; that they are fundamental to the health of our democracy; and require vigilance. The League is requesting that all CDBG/HOME minutes and other pertinent information that the public needs in order to constructively comment at public hearings be made available in a timely and accessible manner.

We request that past and future Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Reports (CAPER), Grantee Performance Reports, recipient applications and other complete/drafts of CDBG/HOME materials be distributed to all libraries in the geographical location of funding disbursements and that they be uploaded to the appropriated CDBG/HOME Kane County's government web-site. While these documents may be available in the planning and development's department during business hours, we do not consider this an accommodating way for the public to study needed materials.

The CDBG law requires jurisdictions to "provide for" and to "encourage" involvement by lower income people. Also, they are "expected to take whatever actions are appropriate" to encourage involvement by people of color, people who do not speak English, disabled people, and residents of public and assisted housing."

There must be "adequate" public notice of upcoming hearings. The regulation says, "Publishing small print notices in the newspaper a few days before the hearing is not adequate notice." Hearings must be held at times convenient to people who are likely to be affected.

Additionally, the CDBG Reform Act of 2006 drafted by the Department of Housing and Urban Development came to the conclusion that: *The public has no access to community's plan for how it will use CDBG funds missing a valuable opportunity to provide local oversight; and the CDBG program should be fully transparent as defined by making available on a public website every grant application, itemized expenditure, standardized performance measurement and other similar information.*

We request that you review your policy of providing this information as stated above to the public and make changes accordingly.

Kim Haag, Secretary
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