

## Citizen Advisory Committees Roundtable

Citizen advisory committees are useful in developing recommendations for the allocation of CDBG, HOME, ESG and other grants available to serve low and moderate-income residents and neighborhoods. In most cities and counties, these committees will be made up of individuals appointed by the elected leaders. The mission of the citizen committees may include:

- Outreach to the community requesting input on the use of funding;
- Assistance or recommendations to staff regarding the development of application procedures for the various funding sources;
- Review of applications;
- Development of funding recommendations;
- Presentation of recommendations to elected officials and citizens.

Staff may be requested to make suggestions as to which citizens would be knowledgeable regarding Community Development issues. Staff may also want to encourage the selection of citizens that currently reside in low to moderate-income neighborhoods or are low/mod income. Diversity is important and helpful. Some communities may also have other criteria for appointment to a citizen committee.

### **Examples:**

*Community Development Advisory Committee* reviews applications for funding of public works projects and housing programs/projects. Funding includes CDBG and HOME.

*Human Services Advisory Committee* reviews application for social (public) service activities. The 15% CDBG cap for public services is set aside for allocation by the Committee. The general fund budget for programs is also recommended by the Committee. Staff assists in determining which public service activities are a better “fit” with CDBG and use general funds for other services.

So, which communities currently use citizen advisory committees in their decision-making process? What has worked well? What have been the negative issues you have experienced when working with these committees? How can we improve our decision-making processes?