

2012SEP28



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To: All Town Boards of Selectmen
Cc: All Town Affordable Housing Committees,
Alice Boyd, Bailey Boyd Associates, Melissa Vincent, The
Resource Inc. (TRI), Community Development
Advisory Committee (CDAC), MVC
From: Christine Flynn, Economic Development & Affordable
Housing Planner
Date: June 22, 2012
RE: **FY 2013 Community Development Block Grant -
Community Development Strategies**

Last week Governor Patrick announced that Martha's Vineyard towns will be awarded just over \$2,000,000 dollars in grant funding for the Housing Rehabilitation and Child Care Subsidy Programs under the Department of Housing and Community Development's (DHCD) FY 2012 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). These funds are channeled through the Towns of Oak Bluffs and Edgartown, the lead communities for DHCD's CDBG program, to other Vineyard towns. As a follow up to that great news, I am writing in regards to the application requirements and public hearing deadlines for the next round of CDBG grants for FY 2013.

As part of the CDBG application each participating community is required to submit a six-page Community Development Strategy (CDS) outlining the town's community development goals and objectives in four topic areas including Economic Development, Affordable Housing, Transportation, and Open Space. The CDS is not a planning document. The town is not bound or committed to any projects or initiatives that are referenced in the CDS. The Community Development Strategy must be formerly updated every three years but the CDS can be updated or modified at anytime during the interim years. Preparing the Community Development Strategy provides a great opportunity for the Boards of Selectmen and Affordable Housing Committees to review the town's affordable housing goals and objectives primarily because the CDS must be approved by the town's Chief Elected Official, after a duly noticed public hearing, each year.

For the past several years, the Martha's Vineyard Commission has assisted Alice Boyd of Bailey Boyd Associates with various components of the CDBG applications. The MVC will continue to work directly with the Boards of Selectmen and Town Affordable Housing Committees to update the Community Development Strategies over the summer as well as assist the towns in preparing for the CDS public hearing process in September. MVC Staff will solicit input from the town housing committees to update the Housing Section. It would be helpful if the town also solicited input regarding the CDS document from other boards such as the Planning Board or Conservation Commission. Once the CDS' have been updated, the documents will be presented to the Boards of Selectmen for approval by the end of September. We want to ensure that all CDS's are approved at least 60 days prior to December's FY 2013 CDBG Application deadline.

The MVC will be requesting to meet with the six towns' housing committees (including West Tisbury even though it is not eligible to participate in the FY 13 CDBG Program) during June, July, and August. Enclosed is a copy of last year's Community Development Strategy for your review.

I would like to thank you in advance for your continued cooperation and I look forward to working with the town boards. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me at (508) 693-3453 or email at flynn@mvcommission.org.

Encl: