

Headlines



\$50k in Gaming Funds to Support Non-City Social Service Agencies

12/13/2006

This year the City is allocating \$50,000 in gaming funds to support non-City social service agencies providing services to Rock Island residents. Mayor Schwiebert stated, "The \$50,000 in gaming funds is in response to the continuing reduction in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding and is to support non-City social service agencies." The City of Rock Island has seen an annual allocation decline from nearly \$1.6 million in fiscal year 2000-01 to \$1.135 million expected in FY 2007-08.

By way of response to the Council's interest in meeting social service needs, the following are Council's policies and procedures:

- \$50,000 annual allocation of Gaming funds, with Council approval of the budgeted amount in July for the following fiscal year.
- Maximum request – an organization may request as much as \$10,000, with each application being evaluated on its merits according to the process described below.
- Eligible applicants – Non-City, 501(c)3 or non-profit organizations that provide services to City of Rock Island residents.
- Eligible activities – social service activities as defined by the CDBG regulations, that include, but are not limited to those concerned with employment, crime prevention / public safety, child care, health, drug abuse counseling and treatment, education, energy conservation, welfare or recreation programs, job training (including training a qualified pool of candidates for unspecified jobs), fair housing activities, services for senior citizens or homeless persons, energy conservation counseling and testing, homebuyer down payment assistance and emergency assistance payments (for example, to keep tenants from losing housing).
- Review Process – The Citizens Advisory Committee, responsible for allocating CDBG funds, would be charged with reviewing applications and making funding recommendations to the City Council.
- Agencies that provide services to youth shall receive a priority for funding, but not to the exclusion of other services.
- The CAC and Council will use the following in determining if an agency should receive funding:
 1. Does this activity meet a defined need in the community?
 2. Is this need a priority in the community?
 3. Who will benefit from this activity?
 4. Is there a reasonable cost / benefit ratio for this activity?

5. What is the past record of the program? Or, if this is a new program, what are the performance expectations?
6. Does the agency have the capacity to deliver the services?
7. Are other funds being leveraged by the City's participation or otherwise committed to the activity?
8. Is there a satisfactory return on the investment in the program?
9. Are there other resources more appropriate to support this activity?

The City of Rock Island will make available applications for Gaming funds on Monday, January 8, 2007. Agencies interested in applying for funds should complete an application and return it to the City of Rock Island Planning and Redevelopment Division by **5:00 pm. Friday, February 9, 2007.** Please note that late applications will not be accepted. Applications from individual households are also not accepted.

On January 8th all Gaming-related information including applications, Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting times, and allocation policies may be obtained on the City website at www.rigov.org. Applications will be available online in WORD and PDF format. Agencies wishing to receive a hard copy of the application or those with questions about the Gaming process, may contact Trisha Taylor or Alan Carmen at 732-2900.

Completed applications should be returned to the attention of the City of Rock Island Planning and Redevelopment Division, 1528 Third Avenue, Rock Island, Illinois, 61201.