

The Clay County Board of County Commissioner's Grants and Community and Social Services Divisions held an open forum for public comment on the proposed plan for the FY24-25 Community Development Block Grant Annual Action Plan at the Orange Park Public Library, 2054 Plainfield Avenue, Orange Park, FL, on Thursday, June 27, 2024.

There were four (4) attendees.

Megan Covey, Grants Director, opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. and presented an overview of the Community Development Block Grant and the proposed 2024-25 budget of \$1,000,319 broken into two proposed spending categories: Public Infrastructure and Housing Rehab.

Gabrielle Gunn, Community and Social Services Director, reviewed the agenda and facilitated the meeting's discussion.

Question: *What qualities make up a vibrant neighborhood or community?*

Public Comments:

- Sidewalks
- Safety on sidewalks
- Parks and playgrounds
- Good management of parks and playgrounds
- Neighborhood/community center
- Emergency services

Question: *What kind of neighborhood infrastructure needs to be implemented to create a safer living environment?*

Public Comments:

- Lighting
- Safety signage
- Neighborhood Watch programs
- Communication within the neighborhood/community

Question: *What types of specific projects would you like to see within the proposed funding categories?*

Public Infrastructure Category

Public Comments:

- Lighting on CR209
- Sidewalks on CR209
- Sidewalks connecting between developments on CR209
- Marketing plan for seniors to learn about CDBG
- Funding for parks projects
- Summer reading programs
- Code compliance/enforcement (junk removal and untagged vehicle removal)
- Communication about senior centers
- Transportation and meal programs
- Fully funded Meals on Wheels program

Housing Rehab

Public Comments:

- There were no comments related to this category.

The attendees were asked to anonymously rank the two proposed funding categories. Unanimously public infrastructure was ranked highest.

Megan Covey reviewed the date and location for the remaining public comment meeting (see below) and closed the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

The public comment period is open from June 11 through July 10, 2024. Copies of the draft 2024-2025 Annual Action Plan are available online at claycountygov.com on the Economic and Development page or at the following locations through July 10, 2024:

- Fleming Island Library – 1895 Town Center Blvd. Fleming Island, FL
- Green Cove Springs Library – 403 Ferris St., Green Cove Springs, FL
- Keystone Heights Library – 175 Oriole Ave., Keystone Heights, FL
- Middleburg-Clay Hill Library – 2245 Aster Ave., Middleburg, FL
- Orange Park Library – 2054 Plainfield Ave., Orange Park, FL

Comments can be submitted online through the close of business on July 10, 2024.