

The Clay County Board of County Commissioners' Grants Division held an Open forum for public comment on the proposed plan for the FY25- 26 Community Development Block Grant Annual Action Plan at the Keystone Heights Historic Beach Pavilion, 565 Lawrence Blvd. Keystone Heights, Florida, on Monday, June 9, 2025.

There were 5 attendees.

Megan Covey, Grants Director, opened the meeting at 6:03 PM. Megan Covey and Chris Curington, Grants Research and Application Manager, facilitated the meeting.

Megan Covey explained the Annual Action Plan draft and displayed the Community Development Block Grant funding for this year, the funding breakdown, and presented questions geared to encourage discussion. Citizens were provided information on how to access the Annual Action Plan draft online and send their comments to cdbg@claycountygov.com.

Official allocation: \$1,060,250.00

Infrastructure: \$760,250

Housing Rehab: \$150,000

Administration: \$150,000

The following discussion questions were presented to meeting attendees, and their responses are recorded:

What qualities make up a vibrant neighborhood or community?

Public Comments:

- Paved streets
- Street lights
- Sidewalks/Walkability of communities
- ADA accessible trails
- Bicycle paths
- Clearing of trees
- Safety improvements to trails
- Clearing vegetation from walkways/trails
- Community cleanups

- Flooding/Drainage management
- Park/amenity improvements
- Waterparks
- Road grading
- Railing along the culvert

What kind of infrastructure needs to be implemented to create a safer living environment?

Public Comments:

- Sidewalks
- Lighting along roadways and sidewalks
- Railing
- Crosswalks
- Smoother transitions between paved/unpaved roads

What types of specific projects would you like to see with the proposed funding categories?

Public Comments:

Public Infrastructure:

- Crosswalks across
- Flashing signals/signage
- Tree trimming
- Clearing vegetative overhangs along major roads and trails
- Community parks and playgrounds

Housing Rehab:

- Well replacement in Highridge neighborhood
- Skirting replacements
- Roof replacements

How would you prioritize the following funding categories?

Public Comments:

1. Public infrastructure received 2 #1 votes
2. Housing Rehab received 3 #1 votes

Open Discussion

- Neighborhood cleanup funds were addressed. Megan Covey explained that this will still follow under volunteer programs with the same Point of Contact.
- Middleburg-Clay Hill, Tanglewood, and Bellair were mentioned as neighborhoods in need of cleanup activities.
- Residents asked about what specific public infrastructure projects are planned. Megan Covey mentioned that roads and sidewalks are priorities, and target areas are to be defined shortly.

Megan Covey closed the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

The next public comments meeting will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 12, 2025 at the Middleburg-Clay Hill Public Library located at 2245 Aster Avenue, Middleburg, Florida 32065.