



ATHENS CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING AGENDA

Tuesday, January 21, 2025, 5:00pm

Athens Municipal Building
Burkett L. Witt Council Chambers

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

III. OPEN PUBLIC HEARING

2025 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program

- Discuss possible projects the city may apply for under this program.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

V. CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING



ATHENS CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING – 5:00 P.M.

Tuesday, January 21, 2025

Agenda Item

Public Hearing of Possible Projects for the 2025 CDBG Application Cycle

Overview

The application period to apply for a 2025 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) has opened and the city is eligible to apply. Previously completed city CDBG projects included sewer improvements through the Athens Utility Board. According to the attached Powerpoint presentation, national CDBG objectives are to benefit low and moderate income persons, elimination of slum and blight, and resolve immediate threat or urgent needs. Specifically, eligible grant categories include:

- Public Health & Safety
- Community Infrastructure
- Community Revitalization
- Sewer System Rehabilitation
- Water System Rehabilitation
- Water Line Extensions

Funding limits are \$420,000 for non-construction projects and \$1,000,000 for construction projects with a required 9% city match. The application deadline is March 7, 2025 but many items must be completed prior to the application deadline such as conducting a public meeting, procuring professional services, preparing an engineering/architectural report and cost estimates, and approving a resolution.

Possible city projects include constructing a new community center at Regional Park or elsewhere with indoor basketball courts for the basketball program among many other indoor and outdoor recreational amenities. A community center was one of the top five projects identified during the 2024 Strategic Summit.

Staci Willoughby of the Southeast Tennessee Development District attended the December 9, 2024 work session and conducted a quick review of the program, identified eligible projects, and answered questions.

Summary of the December 17, 2024 Regular Session

The City Council voted to approve to apply for this grant and authorized conducting the required public hearing on January 21, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. to obtain public comments. This public hearing was properly advertised on Jan. 4 and 11, 2025.

Action to Consider

Conduct a public hearing to obtain citizen comments regarding possible projects.

Affected Departments

City Manager



Department of
**Economic &
Community Development**

CDBG Public Meeting

2025 Program Year

October 1, 2024

CDBG Overview

- Primary Objective is to develop viable communities by providing for decent housing and a suitable living environment and expanding economic opportunities principally for persons of low- and moderate-income
- Created by Title 1 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. § 69)

<https://uscode.house.gov/view.xhtml?path=/prelim@title42/chapter69&edition=prelim>

National Objective

All CDBG activities must address one of the following National Objectives:

- Benefit to low and moderate income (LMI) persons
 - Must benefit a minimum of 51% LMI persons
- Elimination of slum and blight
- Imminent threat or urgent need

2024 Breakdown

- 71 eligible applications submitted
- \$48,486,047 total requested (\$682,902 average)
- 31% in Community Infrastructure and Revitalization
- 34% in Water and Sewer Systems

<u>Category</u>	<u>Applications</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Public Health and Safety (Small)	10	14%
Public Health and Safety (Large)	14	20%
Community Infrastructure	5	7%
Community Revitalization	17	24%
Sewer Systems	10	14%
Water Systems	14	20%
Water Line Extensions	1	1%

Budget Outlook

- Funding from HUD of approximately \$28M last year
 - Expect the level funding in FY25

Program	House FY25	Senate FY25	FY24 enacted
Homeless Assistance	\$4.06B	\$4.3B	\$4.051B
CDBG	\$3.3B	\$3.3B	\$3.3B
HOME	\$500m	\$1.4B	\$1.25B
RHP	\$30m	\$30m	\$30m
Econ Dev Initiative (earmarks)	\$2.176B	\$1.187B	\$3.29B
Section 108	\$400m	\$400m	\$400m
Preservation and Reinvestment Initiative for Community Enhancement (PRICE)	\$10m	\$10m	\$10m

Existing Eligible Activity Categories

- Public Health and Safety (small and large population)
- Community Infrastructure
- Community Revitalization
- Sewer System Rehabilitation (small system only)
- Water System Rehabilitation (small system only)
- Water Line Extensions

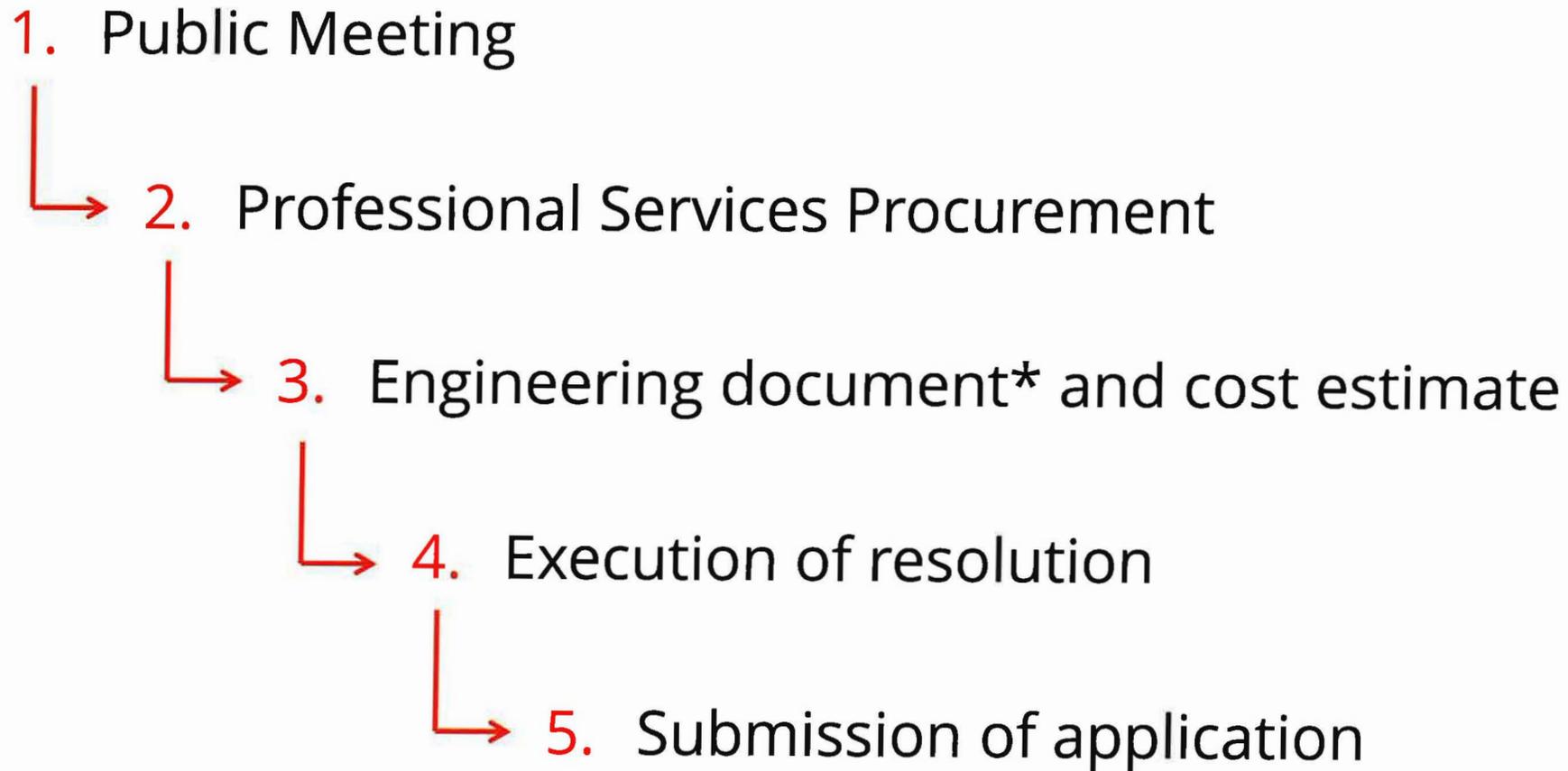
- Funding Limits
 - Non-Construction: \$420,000
 - Construction: \$1,000,000

Schedule for 2025 Applications

- Public Meetings held by January 17, 2025
- Final change orders due February 7, 2025
- Final RFPs due February 28, 2025
- Closeouts due February 28, 2025

- **Applications March 7, 2025**

Application Process Flow

1. Public Meeting
 2. Professional Services Procurement
 3. Engineering document* and cost estimate
 4. Execution of resolution
 5. Submission of application
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graph TD; 1[1. Public Meeting] --> 2[2. Professional Services Procurement]; 2 --> 3[3. Engineering document* and cost estimate]; 3 --> 4[4. Execution of resolution]; 4 --> 5[5. Submission of application];
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\* Or architectural report