

To Grants Committee Meeting

February 11, 2026

MINUTES

Members Present:

Steve Reeb, Chairman
Susan Gruberman, Asst. Chairman
Scott Greenwald
Ken Sharkey

Members Excused:

Richie Meile
Matt Smallheer
Courtney Moore

Staff Present:

Rick Stubblefield, Executive Director
Becky Rose, Executive Assistant

Others Present:

May Brown

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Chairman Steve Reeb called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. in the St. Clair County Annex Conference Room, 2nd Floor.

Attendees rose and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Reeb took roll call.

Chairman Reeb asked if there were comments from the public on the agenda. There were no other public comments.

Upon a motion by Mr. Sharkey and a second by Mr. Greenwald, the minutes from the January 14, 2026, Grants Committee meeting were approved unanimously.

Upon a motion by Mr. Sharkey, and a second by Ms. Gruberman, the letter from the Grants Committee Chairman to the County Board Chairman transmitting the payroll and expense claims for the month of January 2026 were approved unanimously.

Upon a motion by Ms. Gruberman, and a second by Mr. Greenwald, the Check Register Summaries for the pay periods in January 2026 were approved unanimously and placed on file.

There were no questions concerning the Community Services Group and the reports were placed on file.

There were no questions concerning the Community Development Group and the report was placed on file.

There were no questions concerning the Workforce Development Group and the report was placed on file.

Upon a motion by Mr. Greenwald, and a second by Mr. Sharkey, the Community Services, Community Development, and Workforce Development Group reports were approved unanimously and placed on file.

Resolutions

- A. Mr. Stubblefield proposed a Resolution approving a Community Development Block Grant Cooperation Agreement and/or any amendments and authorizing the Chairman to execute the agreement and/or any amendments between the city of East St. Louis, Illinois, City of Belleville, Illinois and St. Clair County, Illinois.

Chairman Reeb called for a vote to approve; the motion was approved unanimously.

- B. Mr. Stubblefield proposed a Resolution approving a Home Investment Partnership (HOME) Consortium Agreement and/or any amendments and authorizing the Chairman to execute the agreement and/or any amendments between St. Clair County, Illinois and the City of Belleville, Illinois and the City of East St. Louis, Illinois.

Chairman Reeb called for a vote to approve; the motion was approved unanimously.

Mr. Stubblefield proposed a Resolution authorizing the St. Clair County Board Chairman to accept a Grant for the Illinois Housing Development Authority's rental housing support program Round 1 2027 renewals. To Authorize the St. Clair County Intergovernmental Grants Department (IGD) to administer the rental Housing Support Program utilizing these funds; to authorize the Director of the Intergovernmental Grants Department to execute necessary agreements with IHDA.

Chairman Reeb called for a vote to approve; the motion was approved unanimously.

- C. Mr. Stubblefield proposed and Resolution declaring April 26 to May 2, 2026, as National Apprenticeship Week.

Chairman Reeb called for a vote to approve; the motion was approved unanimously.

Old Business

None.

New Business

- A. Discover Downstate Illinois Tourism Letter

Mr. Rick Stubblefield introduced a letter recognizing Downstate Illinois Tourism as one of the Certified Tourism Bureaus within the State of Illinois. Mr. Stubblefield stated each year the Grants Committee submits a letter to the Chairman for approval to indicate the St. Clair County Board will continue to recognize Downstate Illinois Tourism as one of the certified tourism bureaus within the State of Illinois. He noted the bureau does a great job promoting the county.

Chairman Reeb called for a vote to approve; the motion was approved unanimously.

- B. Director's Report

Mr. Stubblefield stated that the Pital Center project is approximately 10-20 percent complete and progressing as anticipated. All 2025 Public Facilities contracts have been finalized with the exception of Sugarloaf Township. There are currently two Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO) projects underway. A third CHDO project has been completed and recently sold. Both Vivian's Village and Sinai Housing are fully constructed and operational, with one unit available in each development. We recently closed the third round of rehabilitation

notices; however, only one application was received. Given the limited response, we may need to reassess our approach to deploying the remaining rehabilitation funds to ensure effective utilization.

Under the Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery program for Dupon and Caseyville PY22, environmental reviews have been approved. East St. Louis and Cahokia Heights activities have also been approved and are currently in the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) portal awaiting completion of the required thirty-day public comment period. Once that period concludes, those projects will be able to move forward. The 2024 grant agreement has been signed, and staff are actively developing the necessary policies and procedures. Because this award includes both housing and economic development components, additional policies will be required to support implementation.

The Housing Resource Center (HRC) Continuum of Care (COC) application has been submitted, and we are currently awaiting execution of the grant agreements. A new Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) is expected in June, and we anticipate there may be changes to eligible program activities. It is also expected that funding guarantees may be capped at approximately 60 percent of current funding levels.

Weatherization continues to face challenges by securing reliable contractors. The contractor previously identified as a strong prospect is experiencing difficulties, creating uncertainty regarding participation. Staff are meeting with additional contractors in an effort to secure needed support. In the meantime, staff are advancing a multi-family project. Although this process differs from previous efforts, it would significantly improve expenditure rates and help ensure timely use of funds.

The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) has received 3,410 applications, which is slightly lower than last year. This decrease is likely attributable to the implementation of the Low-Income Discount Rate provided by Ameren. Applications are currently taking approximately 45 days to process. To date, 94 percent of applicants have received a benefit, and funding is projected to last through August.

The Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) funding remains available. All sub-grantees have been monitored, and new agreements are in place. The CSBG annual report is currently in progress. Given the depth and complexity of the report, implementation of new software is expected to improve efficiency and streamline reporting moving forward.

The Workforce Development staff is updating the required local and regional plans, which are revised every two years. Staff are getting the partner Memorandum of Understandings (MOU) and the One Stop budget finalized for Workforce board approval. Additionally, efforts are being refocused to strengthen work-based learning initiatives and expand employer engagement opportunities.

Mr. Greenwald made a motion to approve the Director's report and Ms. Gruberman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Other Comments

None.

Adjournment

Chairman Steve Reeb entertained a motion to adjourn. On a motion by Mr. Sharkey, and a second by Mr. Greenwald, motion passed, and Chairman Reeb adjourned the meeting at 5:51 p.m.