

To Grants Committee Meeting

**March 11, 2026**

**MINUTES**

Members Present:

Steve Reeb, Chairman  
Susan Gruberman, Asst. Chairman  
Scott Greenwald  
Courtney Moore  
Ken Sharkey  
Matt Smallheer

Members Excused:

Richie Meile

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, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 February 11, 2026, Grants Committee meeting were approved unanimously.

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

Upon a motion by Mr. Sharkey, and a second by Mr. Greenwald, the Check Register Summaries for the pay periods in February 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 proclaiming the month of April 2026 as "Fair Housing Month" in St. Clair County.

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

- B. Mr. Stubblefield proposed a Resolution proclaiming April 6 through April 10, 2026, as "St. Clair County Community Development Week".

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

## **Old Business**

None.

## **New Business**

- A. Director's Report

Mr. Stubblefield stated that construction of the Pisal Center is approximately 25% complete. All Program Year 2025 (PY25) Public Facilities contracts have been returned. Applications for PY26 projects were due on the 10<sup>th</sup> and are currently under review. At this time, very few home rehabilitation applications have been received. Historically, we allocate approximately \$500,000-\$600,000 for rehabilitation activities. Given the lack of applications, we are evaluating alternative eligible uses of these funds, including new affordable housing construction, homebuyer assistance, or rental support, all of which must support affordable housing objectives. While returning to a rehabilitation lottery process is not preferred, it remains a potential option.

All of the Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) 2022 funded projects are processing. The East Carondelet project is the final one to advance, following recent project modifications, and is currently undergoing environmental review. The grant agreement for the 2024 DR allocation has been fully executed, and we now have additional funds available in our Housing and Urban Development (HUD) line of credit. Staff are continuing to develop policies and procedures for this phase, which will include both economic development and housing activities. It is anticipated that we will pursue new affordable housing development activities. We have also received requests for federal matching funds to support other grant opportunities and are exploring the feasibility of providing such assistance. Additionally, we have initiated our HUD requalification process, which occurs every three years. As part of this process, each community is formally notified and given the option to opt in or opt out of participating in the County's CDBG Program. Communities that opt out become eligible to participate in the State CDBG program; however, their residents are no longer eligible to receive CDBG-funded services from the County, as their population is no longer included in our program allocation.

We remain concerned about Continuum of Care (CoC) funding, particularly the availability of funds for the third and fourth quarters. The Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the next program year is expected to be released in June. Based on current indications, we anticipate significant changes, including the potential elimination of Permanent Supportive Housing and a substantial reduction in overall CoC funding. We are currently in the process of renewing our rental support program with the Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA). This program has the capacity to support 40 units; however, we are currently utilizing 22. We continue to seek additional landlord participation to expand program capacity.

As of last Friday, 3,918 Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) applications have been processed, with 93% of applicants having received benefits. Application processing times remain approximately 45 days. The Ameren Illinois winter moratorium is scheduled to end March 31<sup>st</sup>, and we anticipate an increased demand for services in the coming weeks as households seek assistance. We are nearing the exhaustion of furnace assistance funds. Although this program was originally scheduled to run through May, current projections indicate funds will be depleted by the end of this month.

The Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) program is designed to assist individuals and families experiencing eligible hardship who also demonstrate a viable path forward. Its primary purpose is to help households overcome temporary barriers or unexpected expenses. Staff continue to take calls and screen clients for eligibility. As part of our annual program evaluation, we assess current community needs and adjust our work plan to ensure a broad range of responsive services. At present, we are exploring the potential inclusion of assistance related to bed bug remediation, as we have seen an increase in related inquiries. The CSBG Scholarship Program is currently underway. Applications are available on our website, and copies are available upon request.

Weatherization has recently obtained two new contractors who are expected to begin work next week. Currently, 24 homes are ready to proceed. The multifamily project continues to move forward. While multifamily developments are complex and require additional coordination, we are encouraged by the progress and look forward to continued advancement.

Workforce Development continues to move forward; however, several funding streams are nearing depletion. Adult funding and dislocated worker funding is expected to be exhausted soon. As a result, we anticipate implementing waitlists for both categories. Youth funding remains available at this time.

The Fiscal Department is in the process of updating the procedures manual, an annual effort that requires significant coordination. In addition, with monitoring season approaching, fiscal staff are preparing documentation and ensuring compliance requirements are met.

Mr. Smallheer made a motion to approve the Director's report and Mr. Moore 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.