



St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners

Housing & Community Development

Public Notice

Notice of Public Hearing and Public Comment Period for St. Johns County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Pre-Application for Section 108 Loan Guarantee Hastings Community Center and Library

PURPOSE:

St. Johns County is giving notice of three public hearings which will be held to obtain citizen input necessary for a Section 108 Loan Guarantee project to be applied for as part of the 21-22 CDBG St. Johns County Entitlement funding process. The proposed project is construction of a 2 story, 17,600 square foot building located in central Hastings. The proposed site and development is serviced by public transportation, will assist the city in neighborhood revitalization, and provide ample space for social services as well as partnership opportunities with non-profit agencies. The proposed project shall be identified as the Hastings Community Center and Library. Hearing participants will be given an opportunity to ask questions and present their opinions regarding the construction and services that will be provided by the proposed project. The hearings will focus on these matters only and will not include discussions of funding for any other projects funded by St. Johns County Community Block Grant Office.

BACKGROUND:

St. Johns County receives Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Community Development (HUD) as an entitlement community. St. Johns County is eligible to apply for a loan that is guaranteed by HUD in an amount up to the equivalent of 5 years of its anticipated CDBG allocations. The funds must be used for projects that are CDBG-eligible and to allow the County to complete costly infrastructure and facility projects. The County will be obligated to repay the loan over a 20-year period using a portion of the City's annual CDBG allocation. The present plan is to repay the loan over a 10-year period.

PUBLIC MEETING DETAILS:

The County invites all interested persons to two (2) Public Hearings to provide input and discuss the Section 108 Loan Program as a way to finance costly infrastructure and facility projects. The public hearings are part of the required 30-day public comment period for the pre-application process. Copies of the draft pre-application document will be available at the hearings, at the County's Health & Human Services Building (Kingfisher Conference Room) and Hastings Branch St. Johns County Public Library System for review. An electronic copy may be emailed upon request. The Housing and Community Development staff will make every effort to accommodate those with limited English proficiency and visual impairment who wish to review the document.



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Schedule of 2021 CDBG Community Meetings:

Hastings Community Center Project

Thursday, June 3, 2021

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Hastings Branch

St. Johns County Public Library System

6195 Main St,

Hastings, FL 32145

Hastings Community Center Project

Friday, June 11, 2021

1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

St. Johns County

Health & Human Services

Kingfisher Conference Room (2nd Floor)

200 San Sebastian View

St. Augustine, Florida 32084

Hastings Community Center Project

Friday, June 18, 2021

3:00 PM – 4:00 PM

St. Johns County

Health & Human Services

Kingfisher Conference Room (2nd Floor)

200 San Sebastian View

St. Augustine, Florida 32084

Residents may also send comments to Kym D. Johnson, CDBG Housing Specialist at 200 San Sebastian View, Suite 2300, St. Augustine, FL 32084. Residents can also email comments to housing@sjcfl.us.

CDBG PROGRAM BACKGROUND:



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The national objective of the CDBG program and Section 108 loan funds is to develop viable urban and rural communities by providing decent housing, a suitable living environment, and expanding economic opportunities and services, principally for low and moderate income persons. CDBG goals include:

- Eliminating blighting influences and the deterioration of property, neighborhoods, and public facilities in low and moderate income areas.
- Ensuring decent, safe, sanitary housing for low and moderate-income residents.

Eligible activities include, but are not limited to: public facilities construction and improvements; handicapped accessibility; operational funding for non-profit agencies servicing primarily low income persons; rehabilitation of owner-occupied housing; energy efficient improvements in owner-occupied homes; enforcement of county codes; clearance and demolition; infrastructure improvements; business development and job creation activities.

Currently, the proposed activities to be carried out in part or entirely with Section 108 Loan funds include the construction of a Community Center and Library that will service Hastings and surrounding Low to Moderate Income (LMI) communities. The proposed project area is concentrated southwest of St. Johns County near Flagler County boundaries.

NOTICE TO PERSONS NEEDING SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS AND TO ALL DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING PERSONS

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in these proceedings should contact the ADA Coordinator at (904) 209-0650, or at the County Administration Building at 500 San Sebastian View, St. Augustine, Florida 32084. For deaf and/or hard of hearing individuals: Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD): (904) 209-0650, or the Florida Relay Service: (800) 955-8770.

The current Citizens Action Plan is available for review Monday – Friday, 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM at the Health and Human Services Department at 200 San Sebastian View, Suite 2300. The documents can also be viewed on the St. Johns County website: <http://www.sicfl.us/Housing/CDBG.aspx>. Once finalized, the 2021-2025 Consolidated Plan and the 2021-2022 Annual Action Plan will be posted as well.



Equal Housing Opportunity