

Public Hearing  
*NYS CDBG Microenterprise Grant Application*  
February 22, 2024

The Public Hearing on New York State Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Microenterprise Grant Application was called to order by the Chair at 10:05 A.M. Eight Legislative members were present with Legislator Weston being absent.

There were seven people in attendance.

The Clerk read the legal notice as published in the official newspapers.

Megan Schnabl, Economic Development Specialist, of the Economic Development & Planning Department spoke. "Tioga County Economic Development & Planning is working with Thoma Development to prepare an application to the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Microenterprise Program. We will be applying for \$215,000 of which \$170,000 will be available to microenterprises and \$45,000 will be for administration fees. We tend to work with Thoma Development to administer the program. To provide a little more about the program, a microenterprise is a small business with less than five employees. Fifty percent (50%) of the grant funds must be awarded to startup businesses and the maximum award per business is \$35,000. We receive requests all the time from small businesses looking for grant funds and we do not really have anything available to them, so that is why we are pursuing this. The applications are on a rolling basis, so this is the first step in the application process."

Legislative Chair Sauerbrey spoke. "To be clear, this is a grant that comes from the Federal government through the State to local municipalities. Can anyone apply for this grant and administer this type of program?"

Megan Schnabl, Economic Development Specialist spoke. "A municipality has to apply for the grant and then the funds can be disbursed to microenterprise businesses through the local governmental municipality. There will be a selection committee with established criteria that businesses will need to meet as well as submitting a business plan for consideration. Only "for profit" businesses will be eligible to receive the grant funding."

County Attorney DeWind spoke. "I would like to say for the record that as the County's Fair Housing Officer, one of the hats that I wear, anything that is Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) implicates some of the fair housing programs, so we remain committed to following the principles of fair housing

including my role in helping to assist people to submit to the correct authority any fair housing complaints. This does not really implicate any housing per se, but we do make sure that we are compliant with that part of it and just want to put it on the record as part of our outreach we also have a section on our website that addresses fair housing."

Legislator Standinger spoke. "How did you select Thoma Development? Is this considered a professional service?"

Megan Schnabl, Economic Development Specialist spoke. "They have a lot of experience in working with these types of grants and they administer a lot of these grants for other counties in the region."

County Attorney DeWind spoke. "Yes, this is considered a professional service."

Elaine Jardine, County Planning Director spoke. "We have spoken with Rich Cunningham, Principal at Thoma Development, several times about this in preparation of the application."

There being no further comments, the hearing was adjourned at 10:12 A.M.