



**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING  
JANUARY 20, 2015, 7 P.M.  
ROBERT E. HIBBITTS MEETING ROOM  
1924 COURTHOUSE, NEWTON**



The Board held a first public hearing to receive citizen comments on the submission by Catawba County of a 2015 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Infrastructure application. All North Carolina counties, except the HUD-designated urban counties of Cumberland, Mecklenburg, and Wake, are eligible to apply.

A second public hearing would be held before the County submitted applications for specific, identified projects. No one spoke to the Board with regard to these applications.

Infrastructure grants are designed to improve the quality of life in target residential areas or area wide jurisdictions by installing or replacing public water and sewer systems. The maximum grant is \$3 million over a three-year period. Priority is given to communities with critical water/wastewater system needs and very low income. The application deadlines anticipated are the first of March and September, 2015.

The primary statutory objective of the CDBG program is to develop viable communities by providing decent housing and a suitable living environment and expanding economic opportunities, primarily for persons of low- and moderate-income (LMI). The State must ensure that at least 70% of CDBG funds are spent for activities benefitting LMI persons. Program design must meet one of three national objectives: 1) LMI benefit; 2) to prevent or eliminate slum and blight; or 3) to address an urgent need. Grants are expected to be awarded on a competitive basis. In 2014, the State received approximately \$42.1 million. Approximately \$26.1 million is available for infrastructure funding and \$15.9 million is available for economic development funding. Similar amounts are expected for 2015. Under the current program, CDBGs could fund 100% of a project if awarded.

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