

Project Summary

Community Development Block Grant Funds (CDBG)
For
The Community Enterprise and Solidarity Economy Clinic (CESEC)
At
UIC John Marshall Law School

The Community Enterprise and Solidarity Economy Clinic (CESEC), a pro bono legal clinic operating under the umbrella of community legal clinics of the UIC John Marshall Law School, the 16th college of the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC), is eligible to receive Cook County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds as a “sub-recipient” of Cook County.

The focus of the CESEC is to provide high quality legal services to underserved communities where disinvestment has occurred. This law school based clinical effort reaches out to individuals, especially low- and moderate-income clients. The CESEC's Director and Staff Attorney manage a caseload of clients that are receiving pro bono business and transactional legal services. Together, the Clinical leadership supervises 2nd and 3rd year law students who provide pro bono community legal service as they participate in the CESEC and pursue a career in the law. The grant underwrites the cost of personnel providing these services.

CESEC has been a subrecipient of Cook County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding for ten (10) consecutive years. Cook County applies for, and receives CDBG funding from, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The CDBG program is authorized under Title 1 of the Housing and Community Development Act (HCDA) of 1974, as amended. CDBG grew out of the consolidation of several categorical programs under which communities competed nationally for funds.

The primary objective of Title I of the HCDA, as amended, is the development of viable urban communities. These viable communities are achieved by providing the following, principally for persons of low- and moderate-income:

- Decent housing;
- A suitable living environment; and
- Expanded economic opportunities At least seventy-percent (70%) of CDBG funds must be utilized to support activities that benefit low- and moderate-income persons.

Cook County, as a recipient of CDBG funds, sub-contracts with either Public Agencies (Municipalities/Townships) or Non-Profit Agencies as “sub-recipients” to provide CDBG eligible program activities for persons of low-and moderate-income within Cook County. The CESEC, as an entity of the University of Illinois, operating under UIC’s 501(c)3 status, EIN and DUNS, receives CDBG funds as a sub-recipient of Cook County. The CESEC provides legal services to persons of low- and moderate-income individuals residing or working within Chicago’s southern and western suburbs.