

MENDOCINO COUNTY GRANTS UNIT SUMMARY - FEBRUARY 2023

- **GRANT APPLICATIONS.** The Grants Unit prepared two applications for \$717,608 during this period.
 - **Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)**
 - Staff presented to the Board on February 27th to request final direction and approval on the project to be submitted to HCD for the 2023 NOFA and to fulfill HCD's requirement of a posted public hearing and resolutions authorizing the use of PI funds.
 - The 2023 Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) Amendment #1 was released on January 31, 2024. The NOFA has \$19 million in 2023 CDBG funds for new over-the-counter housing, community development, or economic development shovel-ready projects. Jurisdictions are limited to one application and a total award limit of \$3.25 million. Applications for new projects opened on March 1, and applications will be accepted by HCD for sixty days or until funds are exhausted, whichever comes first.
 - Due to this sudden shift in the size and scope of the January NOFA, staff was forced to rethink their approach to the NOFA as plans were in place to prepare two applications, one planning and one OTC project. After much research and discussion between staff, project sponsors, and HCD regarding the list of possible projects, it was determined that there was one eligible project. During technical assistance sessions, HCD felt that the Mill Creek Park ADA bathroom upgrade was the only eligible project as it had an eligible activity that met a national objective (LMC) and, most importantly, was a shovel-ready project.
 - The Mill Creek Park ADA bathroom upgrade project currently has primary funding through a grant from the California Department of Parks and Recreation. However, due to cost increases between the time of grant submission, award, and project bid, costs have increased over the original budgeted amount, and the parks grant can now only cover the cost of one of the planned two ADA bathroom remodels. CDBG funds would be used for phase two of this project, which would be the replacement of one of the existing portable plastic toilets located at the northwest end of Mill Creek Park and the establishment of an ADA-accessible parking space at the restroom. The proposed replacement toilet would be an accessible 96 sq. ft., self-contained vault toilet that provides an estimated 4,500 uses between services. The structure would utilize solar power to power the LED lights inside and out and control door locks to mitigate vandalism. The vault includes concrete holding tanks with wastewater and flush water indicators to minimize the risk of contamination of area ecosystems. With board direction provided February 27th, staff is developing and plans to submit the County's application to HCD for \$317,608 for the 2023 NOFA by HCD deadlines.
- **STAFF TRAINING**
 - The Executive Office encourages a culture of collaboration and a knowledge-sharing environment. It enables staff to share their expertise with coworkers. During this period, the Grants Unit held the following seminars for staff:
 - Amplifund Phase One Trainings: 2/2, 2/9, 2/16
 - Amplifund Phase Two Trainings: 2/21, 2/28