

RESOLUTION 26 - 17

A RESOLUTION OF JEFFERSON COUNTY, FLORIDA, BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF AN URGENT NEED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT APPLICATION, FINDING THE APPLICATION CONSISTENT WITH THE LOCAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AND DESIGNATING THE LOCAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AS THE LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN, AUTHORIZING THE BOARD CHAIRMAN AND CLERK OF COURT TO EXECUTE CERTAIN DOCUMENTS PERTAINING TO THE GRANT, AND PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Jefferson County Board of County Commissioners (hereafter referred to as the County), desires to improve the welfare of its citizens by providing adequate and safe emergency sheltering and disaster recovery facilities; and

WHEREAS, Jefferson County is designated by the State of Florida as a Rural Area of Opportunity (RAO), reflecting systemic economic challenges and underscoring the critical need to support and protect the County's Low-to-Moderate Income (LMI) populations during crisis events; and

WHEREAS, the County desires to apply for a Federal Fiscal Year 2025 Small Cities Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) in the Neighborhood Revitalization category, under the Urgent Need National Objective, for a total amount of approximately \$2,307,100; and

WHEREAS, the County has decided to apply for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) to fund the "Community Resiliency and Safety Project," which involves the partial demolition and asbestos abatement of a blighted 1940s-era gymnasium, shoring up the remaining portions to provide a covered recreational and emergency distribution space, and the new construction of a 2,500-square-foot, 140 MPH wind-rated Emergency Shelter; and

WHEREAS, a serious and immediate threat to the health and welfare of the community exists due to the blighted, hazardous conditions of the existing gymnasium structure and a severe lack of adequate emergency sheltering to support LMI individuals, a vulnerability most recently exacerbated by the impacts of Hurricane Helene (Major Disaster Declaration FEMA-4828-DR) in 2024 and the life-threatening cold-weather conditions during the January 2026 Winter Storm, which highlighted the County's complete lack of 140 MPH-rated sheltering and centralized emergency heating facilities; and

WHEREAS, addressing this Urgent Need is entirely consistent with the Jefferson County Comprehensive Plan, as the adaptive reuse and replacement of the Old Gym Site is specifically identified in the adopted Capital Improvements Element (CIE Project 29-02); and

WHEREAS, the project is supported by the Intergovernmental Coordination Element of the Comprehensive Plan and a July 2024 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) designating the adjacent Jefferson County Public Library as the official Point of Distribution (POD) for Jefferson County; and

WHEREAS, this 2024 Emergency Management MOU further dictates that the County and Sheriff will provide staff for the site in accordance with the Jefferson County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP), the Sheriff will manage POD reporting responsibilities, and the site will serve as the Department of Health's Point of Dispensing Site for Strategic National Stockpile medications and/or immunizations during a public health emergency.

WHEREAS, Federal CDBG regulations for the Urgent Need National Objective require the County to certify that the proposed activity is designed to alleviate existing conditions which pose a serious and immediate threat to the health or welfare of the community and that other financial resources are not available to meet such needs; and the County has formally determined that no other local, state, or federal financial resources are currently available to meet these immediate needs; and

WHEREAS, the County has complied with the Citizen Participation requirements of the CDBG program, having held a first public hearing on April 16, 2026, following a published advertisement in the newspaper of record on April 8, 2026; and

WHEREAS, the Citizen Advisory Task Force (CATF) met on April 16, 2026, following a published advertisement on April 8, 2026, and provided a unanimous recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners to pursue the Community Resiliency and Safety Project; and

WHEREAS, a second public hearing was held on April 28, 2026, following a published advertisement on April 22, 2026, to provide citizens with the opportunity to comment on the final application prior to its submission to FloridaCommerce.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF JEFFERSON COUNTY THAT:

1. A Neighborhood Revitalization Community Development Block Grant application, under HUD's Urgent Need National Objective, will be submitted to FloridaCommerce on or before May 5, 2026.
2. The CDBG application is consistent with the Jefferson County 2045 Comprehensive Plan (Ordinance 2026-01), which shall serve as the Community Development Plan.
3. The Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners and the Clerk of Court are authorized to execute documents pertaining to the grant, including the application, financial certifications attesting to the lack of available local funding, environmental and other certifications, grant award agreement, grant modifications (if any), grant completion/close out documents, and other responses and reports to FloridaCommerce, subject to appropriate action by the County and public participation, if applicable..
4. If any portion of this Resolution is found to be invalid, the remainder shall continue to be in full force and effect.

RESOLVED and EFFECTIVE on the 28th day of April, 2026.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

OF JEFFERSON COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: Jessica Gramling
~~Ben White, Chairman~~
Jessica Gramling CoChairman

ATTEST:

Trey Hightower
Trey Hightower, Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Evan Rosenthal
Evan Rosenthal, Esq.
County Attorney