

HUD Funding for a 911 Emergency Numbering System

April 25, 1991

Mr. David C. Yandell
Assistant Administrator
Communications--911 Program
Oregon Emergency Management
595 Cottage Street, N.E.
Salem, Oregon 97310

Dear Mr. Yandell:

Thank you for your letter dated February 19, 1991 regarding the National Emergency Number Association's Annual National 911 Conference to be held in Dallas, Texas the week of June 9-13, 1991. You asked for my attendance at the conference, information on applicants, and the status of HUD funding for a 911 emergency numbering system.

I regret that neither I nor a member of my staff will be able to attend the conference due to our preparing for a CDBG training course for HUD staff to be conducted the following week. Under the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, entitlement communities annually receive funds which can be used for a wide variety of eligible activities. Each community determines its own priorities for the use of these funds. HUD's current policy already permits the use of CDBG funds to support emergency telephone number systems as eligible public service activities where 51 percent of the residents in the service area are low- and moderate-income persons. At this time there are no consolidated statistics that I can provide you on those entitlement communities that are currently utilizing their CDBG funds for 911 systems.

Even though a 911 system is currently an eligible CDBG funded activity, the current policy does not provide for those areas that do not have a majority of low- and moderate-income persons. The Department published a proposed ruled dated March 28, 1990, which would permit the use of CDBG funds for a period not to exceed two years for the development, establishment, and operation of a 911 system serving areas where less than 51 percent of the persons are low- and moderate-income persons. With this new provision, it must be determined that 1) the system will contribute substantially to the safety of the residents of the area served by the system; 2) at least 51 percent of the users will be of low and moderate income; and 3) no other Federal funds are available for the development, establishment, and operation of the system due to insufficiency, restrictions, or prior commitments of funds. A copy of the proposed rule is enclosed. Based on comments from interested parties, we are preparing a final rule which we believe will be published this summer.

Enclosed also is a FACT sheet on the CDBG program. I hope this information is useful to you in preparing for your presentation.

Very sincerely yours,

James R. Broughman
Director
Entitlement Communities Division

Enclosures

CGBE:Thompson:ldt:4-9-91 Disk 4-LDT911.WP

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