

# Using CDBG Funds to Pay for Subscriptions and Newsletters

October 1, 1993

Mr. David Kittross  
Editorial Director  
CD Publications  
8204 Fenton Street  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Mr. Kittross:

Thank you for your letter of August 24, 1993, in which you requested confirmation that grantees under the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program may use block grant funds to pay for subscriptions to newsletters such as the Housing Affairs Letter, Community Development Digest, and the Community Development Housing Register.

Costs charged to the CDBG Program must be both allowable under Office of Management and Budget Circular A-87, Cost Principals for State and Local Governments, and eligible under the program. Paragraph 19b. of Section B of Attachment B of that Circular states that "the cost of books, and subscriptions to civic, business, professional, and technical periodicals is allowable when related to the grant program." Therefore, the costs of subscriptions to newsletters covering community development and housing type activities are allowable under general Federal cost guidelines. Such costs, furthermore, are eligible under 24 CFR 570.206(a) of the CDBG regulations as program administrative costs for general management, oversight and coordination of the program. Accordingly, since both requirements have been met, CDBG grantees may use block grant funds to pay for subscriptions to professional periodicals related to the block grant program. It should be noted, however, that such costs are subject to the 20 percent cap on planning and administrative costs pursuant to Section 570.200(g).

Very sincerely yours,

James R. Broughman  
Director  
Entitlement Communities Division