

## House Bill No. 951

An act relating to the Florida Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program; amending s. 290.0411, F.S.; revising legislative intent; amending s. 290.044, F.S.; revising grant program categories; eliminating the requirement for distribution of certain categorical funds to be established by the Legislature; authorizing the Department of Community Affairs to allocate funds for emergency and natural disaster related activities; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Section 290.0411, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

290.0411 Legislative intent and purpose of ss. 290.0401-290.049.—It is the intent of the Legislature to provide the necessary means to develop, preserve, redevelop, and revitalize Florida communities exhibiting signs of decline or distress by enabling local governments to undertake the necessary community development programs. The overall objective is to create viable communities by eliminating slum and blight, fortifying communities in urgent need, providing decent housing and suitable living environments and expanding economic opportunities, principally for persons of low or moderate income. The purpose of ss. 290.0401-290.049 is to assist local governments in carrying out effective community development and project planning and design activities to arrest and reverse community decline and restore community vitality. Community development and project planning activities to maintain viable communities, revitalize existing communities, expand economic development and employment opportunities, and improve housing conditions and expand housing opportunities, providing direct benefit to persons of low or moderate income, are the primary purposes of ss. 290.0401-290.049. The Legislature, therefore, declares that the development, redevelopment, preservation, and revitalization of communities in this state and all the purposes of ss. 290.0401-290.049 are public purposes for which public money may be borrowed, expended, loaned, pledged to guarantee loans, and granted.

Section 2. Subsections (3) and (4) of section 290.044, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

290.044 Florida Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program Fund; administration; distribution.—

(3) The department shall define the broad community development objective to be achieved by the activities in each of the following grant program categories, and require applicants for grants to compete against each other in these grant program categories:

- (a) Housing.
- (b) Economic development.

- (c) Neighborhood revitalization.
- (d) Commercial revitalization.
- (e) Project planning and design.

(4) ~~The percentage of funds distributed in each of the grant program categories from federal funds for federal fiscal year 1985 shall be established by the Legislature in the appropriation process for the 1984 regular session and shall be established annually thereafter in the same manner. The department shall submit its recommendation on the distribution percentages to the Governor and Legislature as part of its regular budget proposals. The department may shall provide for the set-aside of an amount of up to 5 10 percent of the funds annually allocated to the neighborhood revitalization category in its distribution percentages for use in any eligible local government jurisdiction for which an emergency or natural disaster has been declared by executive order. Such funds may only be provided to a local government to fund eligible emergency-related activities for which no other source of federal, state, or local disaster funds is available. The department may shall provide for such set-aside by rule. In the last quarter of the state fiscal year, any funds not allocated under the emergency-related set-aside shall be used to fully fund any applications which were partially funded due to inadequate funds in the most recently completed neighborhood revitalization category funding cycle, and then any remaining funds shall be distributed to the next unfunded applications.~~

Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2005.

Approved by the Governor May 26, 2005.

Filed in Office Secretary of State May 26, 2005.