

AGENDA NOTE - HRPDC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

ITEM #5: EECBG FUNDING

SUBJECT:

Funding from the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program is being used by many of the Hampton Roads localities and various private non-profit organizations to enhance energy conservation in public activities and structures and in residential and commercial buildings.

BACKGROUND:

The Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program was initially established in 2007, although federal funding to support the program was not appropriated until 2009. During 2009 and 2010, the Cities of Chesapeake, Hampton, Newport News, Norfolk, Portsmouth, Suffolk and Virginia Beach received entitlement funding through this program. James City County received funding through the small community competitive portion of the program. The Green Jobs Alliance has also received significant funding through elements of this program.

Funding for the program remains authorized, although no funds have been included in the Obama Administration's budget for FY 2011. A number of vehicles are available to Congress to use in appropriating funds for the continuation of the program. Most are actively being considered by Congress.

Following discussion by the localities participating in the EECBG work group on June 3, 2010, the HRPDC staff has drafted the attached letter to the Congressional Delegation urging its support of renewed funding for the EECBG Program.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Authorize the Chairman to send the attached letter to the Hampton Roads Congressional Delegation requesting the members to actively work to include continuing funding for the EECBG Program during FY 2011.

Attachment



BRUCE C. GOODSON, CHAIRMAN • STAN D. CLARK, VICE CHAIRMAN • JAMES O. McREYNOLDS, TREASURER
DWIGHT L. FARMER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/SECRETARY

June 16, 2010

FORM Letter

VA Senators and Congressional Reps

Dear

At its June 16, 2010 meeting, the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission (HRPDC) discussed the current state and potential extension of funding for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) program. Based on this discussion, the HRPDC would like to express its support for continued funding for both direct and competitive grants. Funding from this program has allowed Hampton Roads localities to implement programs and projects that will decrease costs and increase operational efficiency. Projects such as building retrofits and revolving loan funds benefit citizens indirectly through more cost-effective services and directly through greater opportunities for home or business owner participation. The EECBG program provides an important source of revenue for governments to implement long-lasting and cost-effective programs and capital improvements. The HRPDC urges you to consider including funding for the EECBG program in pending legislation before Congress.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Bruce C. Goodson
Chairman