

The Clay County Board of County Commissioner's Grants and Community and Social Services Divisions held an open forum for public comment on the proposed plan for the FY24-25 Community Development Block Grant Annual Action Plan at the Middleburg-Clay Hill Library, 2245 Aster Ave., Middleburg, FL, on Tuesday, June 18, at 6:00 p.m.

There were seven (7) attendees.

Megan Covey, Grants Director, opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. and presented an overview of the Community Development Block Grant and the proposed 2024-25 budget of \$1,000,319 broken into two proposed spending categories: Public Infrastructure and Housing Rehab.

Gabrielle Gunn, Community and Social Services Director, reviewed the agenda and facilitated the meeting's discussion.

Question: *What qualities make up a vibrant neighborhood or community?*

Public Comments:

- Resident investment in the community
- Low vacancy rates
- Parks and/or places for recreation
- Libraries
- Sidewalks
- Quality schools
- Community center
- Restaurants
- Paved roads
- Fewer car washes and storage facilities
- Less new development

Question: *What kind of neighborhood infrastructure needs to be implemented to create a safer living environment?*

Public Comments:

- Sidewalks on CR218
- Street lights on CR218
- Bike lane and/or trails
- Safer pedestrian travel
- Law enforcement presence
- Medical facilities

Question: *What types of specific projects would you like to see within the proposed funding categories?*

Public Infrastructure Category

Public Comments:

- Redevelopment of the Middleburg Crossing business site

- Improvements to the entrance of Middleburg Crossing business site (Parson Street at the Taco Bell)
- Sidewalks and street lights in Black Creek Park N neighborhood
- Traffic light at Old Jennings Rd. and Longbay Rd.
- Street lights on CR218 from Blanding Blvd. to US301
- Sidewalks on CR218 from Blanding Blvd. to US301
- Reinstate the ad valorem tax for developers requiring them to build sidewalks and turn lanes
- Complete the sidewalks on CR218 (Omega Park to the Dollar General Store)
- Programs at Omega Park (pickleball, basketball, etc.)
- YMCA or like facility with yoga, AA, meditation, etc.
- Incorporation of Middleburg and Clay Hill
- Signage and enforcement of speed limit within the Black Creek Park N neighborhood

Housing Rehab

Public Comments:

- There were no comments related to this category.

The attendees were asked to anonymously rank the two proposed funding categories. Unanimously public infrastructure was ranked highest.

Megan Covey reviewed the date and location for the remaining public comment meeting (see below) and closed the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

The public comment period is open from June 11 through June 10, 2024. Copies of the draft 2024-2025 Annual Action Plan are available online at claycountygov.com on the Economic and Development page or at the following locations through July 10, 2024:

- Fleming Island Library – 1895 Town Center Blvd. Fleming Island, FL
- Green Cove Springs Library – 403 Ferris St., Green Cove Springs, FL
- Keystone Heights Library – 175 Oriole Ave., Keystone Heights, FL
- Middleburg-Clay Hill Library – 2245 Aster Ave., Middleburg, FL
- Orange Park Library – 2054 Plainfield Ave., Orange Park, FL

Comments can be submitted online or in person by attending the remaining meeting:

- Thursday, June 27, Orange Park Library, 2054 Plainfield Ave., Orange Park, FL at 6:00 p.m.