



CDBG & HOME Participation 2026-27 CDBG Advisory Committee Meeting #2 Minutes

March 4, 2026 10:00 AM

**Hybrid Meeting; Independence Municipal Commons, 20201 E Jackson Drive, Conference Room 149-Santa Fe
and [Virtual](#)**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:08 a.m.

INTRODUCTIONS

Advisory Committee Members Present

Nicole Sequeira
Laurie Dean Wiley
Patti Simcoski
Paul Post
Teri Gulick

City Staff Present

Chris Ballinger
Jodi Baker

Presenters / Applicants

Lexi Wright, CAPA (online)
Kristina Jones, CAPA (online)
Sarah Tilbury, CSL (in person)
Brandi Blair, Hope House (in person)
Joe Gall, Independence Meals on Wheels (in person)
Howard Penrod, Independence Meals on Wheels (in person)

Becky Poitras, Metro Lutheran Ministries (online)
Kelsi Green, Mother's Refuge (online)
Catherine "Jo" Chappell, Palmer Center (in person)
Erika Geering, Independence P&R / Palmer Center (in person)
Kim Bloss, Salvation Army - Crossroads (in person)
Luisa Stutler, Salvation Army - Emergency Assistance (in person)

APPLICANT PRESENTATION GUIDELINES

1. Time per applicant (7-minute presentation, 3 minutes for questions from the Committee)
2. Summary of what the applicant should cover: Program overview, alignment with CDBG homelessness priorities, service delivery and access for Independence residents, anticipated outcomes, and community impact.

APPLICANT PRESENTATIONS

1. 10:15 AM Child Abuse Prevention Association

Representatives presented the Healthy Families Jackson County home-visiting program, which supports families with young children through parenting education, child development resources, and case management. The program works with parents of children prenatal through age three, with services focused on strengthening family relationships, reducing parental stress, and improving long-term stability.

CAPA noted that child abuse and neglect remain prevalent in the region and highlighted the importance of prevention services. The program serves many families within Independence and primarily supports low-income and single-parent households.

Committee Discussion

A committee member asked about the long-term sustainability of the program if CDBG funding were no longer available. CAPA representatives explained they pursue additional funding sources through partnerships and advocacy efforts with other home-visiting programs and statewide collaborative funding initiatives.

2. 10:25 AM Community Services League

Community Services League presented its housing stabilization and homelessness prevention services. The program provides emergency assistance, case management, housing placement support, and wrap-around services including employment coaching, income support, and financial education.

The housing team conducts vulnerability assessments to determine appropriate housing placements and works with clients to address barriers such as unemployment, lack of transportation, childcare needs, and financial instability. CSL also reported providing over 5,300 nights of emergency shelter through motel vouchers in 2025, with additional support services offered through its drop-in center.

No questions were asked following the presentation.

3. 10:35 AM Hope House

Hope House presented its domestic violence services, which include emergency shelter, crisis hotline services, legal advocacy, therapy, housing support, and financial assistance. The organization has served individuals in eastern Jackson County since 1983.

Representatives emphasized the high demand for domestic violence services and shelter in the region, noting that Jackson County consistently reports among the highest domestic violence rates in Missouri. Funding requested would support food services for individuals staying in shelter or accessing services.

Committee Discussion

A committee member asked what gaps exist related to homelessness services. Hope House representatives indicated that the primary barrier is limited affordable housing availability and rising housing costs, which make it difficult to transition survivors from shelter to stable housing.

4. 10:45 AM Independence Meals on Wheels

Independence Meals on Wheels presented its program providing daily hot meals to homebound residents, primarily older adults. The program celebrated 50 years of service in 2025 and operates largely through volunteer support.

In 2025, the organization delivered over 37,000 meals to residents. Meals are subsidized based on income to ensure accessibility, and volunteer drivers provide social interaction that helps reduce isolation among participants. Most recipients are over age 62 and many live alone.

No questions were asked following the presentation.

5. 10:55 AM Metro Lutheran Ministries

Metro Lutheran Ministry presented its housing stabilization and financial assistance program. The organization provides support such as rent and utility assistance, childcare support, food assistance, case management, and help accessing mainstream benefits.

Funding requested would provide direct financial assistance to Independence households at risk of losing housing or currently experiencing homelessness. The organization reported serving over 200 households in Independence during the current program year through various funding sources.

No questions were asked following the presentation.

6. 11:05 AM Mother's Refuge

Mother's Refuge presented its program supporting homeless pregnant and parenting young women through maternity housing, transitional living apartments, and comprehensive support services.

Services include case management, therapy, education programs, parenting support, transportation assistance, and life-skills training. The organization reported serving over 80 individuals in housing programs in 2025 and more than 300 individuals through aftercare services.

Committee Discussion

A committee member asked which staff position would be most critical if funding could only support one position. The organization explained that both the House Parent Supervisor and Education Coordinator roles are essential to maintaining program operations and ensuring residents receive required supervision and education.

7. 11:15 AM Palmer Center

The Palmer Center presented its Nutrition Site Program, which provides congregate meals, home-delivered meals, and nutrition education for older adults and individuals with disabilities.

During the previous fiscal year, the program served over 25,000 meals to 441 individuals, with approximately 77% of participants classified as low- to moderate-income. Additional services include wellness programming, health screenings, and educational programs to help seniors remain healthy and independent.

Committee Discussion

A committee member asked about potential duplication with Meals on Wheels. Staff explained that home-delivered meals through the Palmer Center are provided through a partnership with Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) and referrals for those services typically originate through that partnership.

8. 11:25 AM Salvation Army - Crossroads

The Salvation Army presented its Crossroads Family Shelter, the only emergency family shelter in eastern Jackson County. The shelter provides temporary housing, case management, and supportive services designed to address barriers to housing stability.

In 2025 the program served 73 families, providing over 18,000 bed nights and helping 51 families secure permanent housing. The shelter recently expanded capacity from 9 to 15 family units following renovations.

No questions were asked following the presentation.

9. 11:35 AM Salvation Army - Emergency Services

The Salvation Army Emergency Assistance program provides support such as rent and utility assistance, childcare items, clothing, food pantry services, and holiday assistance programs.

During 2025, the program served over 4,000 clients and distributed thousands of meals, food boxes, hygiene items, and seasonal assistance services.

No questions were asked following the presentation.

NEXT STEPS & TIMELINE

Staff informed attendees that the CDBG Advisory Committee will review the applications and presentations before making funding recommendations at the next meeting scheduled for March 23, 2026. Additional questions may be submitted to the City through the CDBG program email.

1. Next Meeting date - March 23rd
2. How follow-up questions will be handled (if any)

ADJOURN

Staff thanked all organizations and committee members for their participation and contributions to the community. The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.