



CITY OF MOORE CDBG COMMITTEE MEETING – MINUTES
THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2026

**MINUTES OF THE
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG)
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2026 – 5:30 P.M.**

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Advisory Committee of the City of Moore, Oklahoma held a meeting on May 14, 2026 in the City of Moore Council Chambers, Moore City Hall, 301 North Broadway, Moore, Oklahoma beginning at 5:30 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM I: ROLL CALL

Chairman Louie Williams asks for roll to be called for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Advisory Committee. The following members were reported:

*Evans, Sean
Advisory Committee Member*

*Garrity, Kathy
Advisory Committee Member*

*Gilbert, Kahley
City of Moore, Project-Grants Manager
Capital Planning and Resiliency*

*Hunt, Melissa
Advisory Committee Member*

*Larson, Sky
City of Moore, Administrative Assistant
Capital Planning and Resiliency*

*Mattocks, Kelley
Advisory Committee Member*

*Milum, Janie
Vice Chairman*

*VanWinkle, Rodney
Advisory Committee Member*

*Williams, Louie
Chairman*

PRESENT:	EVANS	WILLIAMS	VANWINKLE	GARRITY
ABSENT:	HUNT	MATTOCKS	MILUM	
STAFF:	GILBERT	LARSON		

AGENDA ITEM II: PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Williams led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA ITEM III: APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE NOVEMBER 13, 2025 CDBG ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Chairman Williams called for approval of the minutes from the November 13, 2025 CDBG Advisory Committee Meeting.

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Committee Member Evans. The motion was seconded by Committee Member VanWinkle.

YEAS:	GARRITY	VANWINKLE	EVANS	WILLIAMS
NAYS:				
ABSTAIN:				

Motion carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM IV: PUBLIC SERVICE APPLICANT PRESENTATIONS



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Chairman Williams announced that Public Service Applicant presentations would begin. Due to the number of applicants scheduled to present, presentations were limited to five minutes each.

Note that Vice Chairman Milum arrived at the meeting at 5:35 p.m.

Chairman Williams called upon **The Virtue Center** to present.

Amber Prewitt, Chief Operating Officer of The Virtue Center, presented the agency's request for funding assistance. Prewitt stated that when individuals seek help for addiction or mental health concerns, there is often only a brief window of opportunity to access treatment, and barriers such as cost can prevent individuals from receiving care. Prewitt explained that The Virtue Center has designed its services to eliminate barriers at the initial point of contact by offering same-day access to licensed professionals.

Prewitt stated that screenings serve as the entry point into treatment and are provided at no cost to clients. Individuals in crisis are able to meet with a licensed clinician to assess their needs, which may include risk assessment, crisis management, intervention for suicidal ideation, or connections to housing, food, clothing, and other supportive services. Prewitt stated that immediate access to care is especially important for uninsured or underinsured individuals who may otherwise not seek treatment.

Prewitt further stated that The Virtue Center is experiencing increased strain due to reductions in State funding and limited financial assistance resources, while the demand for services continues to grow. Medicaid reimbursement does not fully cover the cost of services, and the agency's sliding scale fee structure remains underfunded. Prewitt requested \$10,000.00 from the City of Moore to support screening services for Moore residents and reaffirmed The Virtue Center's commitment to serving the community.

The presentation concluded, and Chairman Williams opened the floor for questions.

Committee Member Evans inquired about the process used to identify individuals as Moore residents and determine eligibility for services. Prewitt stated that The Virtue Center conducts an intake process during which staff gather identifying information, including names and addresses. Individuals also complete a triage process with a licensed professional or case manager during the initial intake.

Committee Member Evans asked whether the reported 271 Moore residents served in 2025 represented an increase or decrease from the previous year. Prewitt stated that the number represented an increase from the prior year. Reductions in State and Federal subsidies have resulted in more individuals losing access to care, increasing the demand for services.

Chairman Williams called upon **Rose Rock Habitat for Humanity** to present.

Kendra Martin, Development Director at Rose Rock Habitat for Humanity, presented on the organization's mission and services. The mission was stated as putting God's love into action by bringing people together to build homes, community, and hope, with a vision that everyone has a decent place to live.

It was reported that in addition to new home construction, the organization operates an emergency home repair program and an "aging in place" initiative. These services may include installation of wheelchair ramps, grab bars, and other modifications intended to allow individuals to remain safely in their homes. Emergency repair determinations are made on a case-by-case basis, based on safety, security, and health considerations. Examples were provided distinguishing non-emergency requests, such as cosmetic carpet replacement, from safety-related hazards that would qualify for assistance.

It was noted that work is completed in partnership with the community, utilizing licensed contractors for specialized repairs such as plumbing, roofing, and leak-related issues, while volunteer labor is used for appropriate projects such as wheelchair ramp construction. Materials are often donated or provided at a reduced cost through local suppliers. New home construction utilizes all new materials.



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Service coverage was identified as Cleveland and Pottawatomie Counties, including all cities and townships within those areas. The organization was established in 1993.

The funding request presented was \$70,000.00. It was noted that the prior award was \$35,000.00, with the increase attributed primarily to rising material costs. Estimated costs were cited at approximately \$7,000.00 per major project, such as ramps or roofing, while smaller modifications may cost approximately \$1,000.00, allowing for service to a greater number of individuals.

The application process was described as including verification of residency within the service area, a financial need assessment, submission of required financial documentation, and an in-person home visit. It was further noted that assessments prioritize identifying the most impactful modifications to address safety and security needs.

The presentation concluded, and Chairman Williams opened the floor for questions.

Grants Manager Gilbert inquired about the financial assessment process. Martin responded that HUD guidelines are used, along with a self-reported income certification and supporting documentation such as tax records or Social Security benefit statements, depending on what is most accessible for the applicant.

Chairman Williams called upon Legal Aid Services of Oklahoma to present.

Rochette Wurth, Deputy Director for Legal Aid Services of Oklahoma (LASO), presented on behalf of the organization.

It was stated that Legal Aid Services of Oklahoma (LASO) is the largest provider of free civil legal services in the state, serving low-income individuals across all 77 counties through 18 offices statewide. Populations served include individuals living with disabilities, elderly individuals, veterans, and families and children experiencing or surviving domestic violence.

It was reported that services to Moore residents are currently provided through the Oklahoma City and Norman offices. The organization expressed a desire to expand access by dedicating attorney services specifically to Moore, allowing residents to receive assistance locally rather than traveling to surrounding cities.

The presentation outlined several service areas, including assistance for victims of domestic violence through protective orders and enforcement of legal rights; recovery of unpaid wages; assistance with public benefits applications and appeals; defense against illegal debt collection practices; and consumer education related to scams and fraud recovery. It was also noted that the organization works to address housing instability through representation in eviction and foreclosure matters, with an emphasis on preventing wrongful actions and ensuring housing conditions meet habitability standards.

It was further stated that the proposed expansion aligns with efforts to reduce homelessness and improve housing stability by assisting individuals in maintaining safe and habitable living conditions or transitioning out of unsafe housing situations without incurring additional legal or financial harm.

The proposed funding would support the placement of a dedicated attorney to serve Moore residents directly, with the goal of improving accessibility and reducing the need for residents to travel to Oklahoma City or Norman for services.

The presentation concluded, and Chairman Williams opened the floor for questions.

Chairman Williams inquired whether there are limitations regarding the types of legal services provided. Wurth responded that services are limited to civil matters, and do not include criminal law, with assistance primarily focused on family law, consumer issues, and related civil legal matters.



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Committee Member Evans asked whether there is currently an office located in Moore. Wurth responded that there is not an office in Moore, but that services are provided through existing offices in Oklahoma City and Norman, as well as through partnerships that allow meetings to occur in accessible community locations.

Chairman Williams asked about the location of the primary office. Wurth responded that administrative offices are located in Oklahoma City, with 18 offices statewide, and that the Oklahoma City and Norman offices are the closest providers serving the Moore area.

Committee Member Evans further inquired whether the long-term goal would be to establish a permanent presence in Moore. Wurth responded that the long-term goal includes expanding embedded services in the community, such as those located in schools or clinics, and that establishing a dedicated presence in Moore is part of the organization's ongoing planning to improve accessibility for residents.

Chairman Williams called upon **Central Oklahoma Community Action Agency** to present.

Dr. Amy Bergseth, Community Resource Coordinator for Central Oklahoma Community Action Agency, presented on behalf of the organization.

Dr. Bergseth stated that the funding request was for the organization's emergency rental assistance program. It was noted that the organization currently operates offices in multiple locations, with the Cleveland County office located within the Moore Faith Medical Clinic. Services are provided during clinic evening hours for walk-in assistance, as well as during daytime hours.

It was reported that the organization is a nonprofit agency serving low-income individuals and families by helping prevent crisis situations through emergency assistance, case management, and partnerships intended to promote long-term family stability. The organization is part of a national network of more than 1,000 agencies, with 18 agencies located throughout Oklahoma. Central Oklahoma Community Action Agency serves Cleveland County.

The presentation outlined the agency's primary services, including utility assistance, referrals for holiday and emergency assistance programs, case management services, and coordination with community partner organizations to connect families with additional resources and support services.

Dr. Bergseth stated that the current funding request was specifically for emergency rental assistance due to increasing housing and rental costs. Data was presented indicating that nearly one-third of U.S. households in 2021 were considered cost-burdened, spending more than 30% of household income on housing costs. It was further noted that approximately 20% of Oklahoma households spend more than 50% of their income on housing. Among extremely low-income households, it was reported that 76% are considered cost-burdened.

Additional housing statistics were presented regarding the availability of affordable housing units for extremely low-income families statewide. It was also noted that, according to census data, Moore has a higher homeownership rate than the state average and a poverty rate estimated at approximately 11%, compared to approximately 15% statewide. Median monthly rent within the City of Moore was estimated at \$1,340.00.

Demographic information regarding agency services in 2025 was also presented. It was reported that approximately 50% of household members assisted were minors under the age of 18, more than 7% had a disability, approximately 50% were single-parent female households, and more than 5% were individuals aged 55 and older.

The presentation further noted that CDBG funding in 2024 assisted seven households totaling 28 individuals, while 2025 funding assisted six households totaling 17 individuals. Circumstances leading to assistance requests included medical emergencies,



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employment transitions, and eviction prevention. One example cited involved a single parent with a disabled child who required assistance to avoid eviction and maintain educational stability for the child.

It was reported that rental assistance requests continue to increase, with approximately 33% of all agency requests relating to rental assistance, and approximately 40% of requests within Moore specifically involving rental assistance. It was further noted that rental assistance resources are often more limited and depleted more quickly than utility assistance funds.

The organization requested \$10,000.00 in funding to provide one month of rental assistance for at least 10 households, with assistance amounts up to \$1,000.00 per household.

The presentation concluded, and Chairman Williams opened the floor for questions. No questions were asked.

Chairman Williams called upon **Saint Vincent de Paul** to present.

Noreen Valadez, a representative of Saint Vincent de Paul, presented on behalf of the organization.

It was stated that the organization has served the community since 2005 and primarily provides utility assistance to residents within the Moore Public School District. Information was presented regarding the expenditure of the organization's prior CDBG funding award of \$5,000.00, which was reportedly expended within 34 days. Through those funds, assistance was provided to 99 Moore residents across 34 households, averaging approximately \$50.00 per individual assisted.

Demographic information regarding the households served was also presented, including that approximately 42% of assisted households were single-parent households headed by females. It was further noted that the individuals served were categorized as low-income or extremely low-income households.

The presentation outlined how funding was distributed among utility providers, including OG&E, ONG, and the City of Moore. Additional information was provided regarding assistance to residents participating in Oxford House sober living programs. It was explained that Oxford Houses serve individuals transitioning from rehabilitation programs into sober living environments. It was noted that four Oxford Houses are located within the Moore community, consisting of both male and female residences. Assistance may include payment of initial rental costs to help individuals transition into sober living arrangements, maintain employment, and participate in required recovery support meetings.

It was further stated that the organization operates with minimal overhead costs due to its volunteer-based structure. Rather than operating from a central office, volunteers reportedly meet directly with individuals in their homes to assess needs and provide assistance on a personal basis. The organization emphasized a community-centered approach focused on individualized support and prioritization of immediate needs.

The organization requested \$10,000.00 in funding for the upcoming year and indicated that the funds would be expended quickly due to continued demand for assistance.

The presentation concluded, and Chairman Williams opened the floor for questions.

Committee Member Evans stated that there was no recollection of the organization working with Oxford Houses during the prior funding cycle and asked whether the four residences referenced were located within the community. Valadez responded that the Oxford Houses are located within the community and had been included in previous grant requests.

Committee Member Evans further inquired about the distinction between low-income and very low-income classifications. Grants Manager Gilbert responded that the classifications are determined based on household size.



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Chairman Williams called upon **Moore Youth and Family Services, Inc.** to present.

Dr. Amara Lett, Executive Director of Moore Youth and Family Services, presented on behalf of the organization.

Dr. Lett stated that the organization is celebrating 51 years of service within the community and provides behavioral health services for youth ages 6 through 18. It was noted that behavioral health services remain the organization's primary focus, while prevention education and early intervention services have continued to expand.

The presentation explained that this year's funding request focused solely on the First Time Offenders Program (FTOP), rather than including the school-based services program as in previous years. Dr. Lett stated that the organization recently expanded school-based services through alternative funding sources and hired three additional staff members for that program. It was further stated that because the expanded school-based program is new and does not yet have sufficient comparative data available, the organization determined it would not be appropriate to request additional CDBG funding for that initiative at this time.

Dr. Lett noted that the First Time Offenders Program serves predominantly Moore residents and has been operated by the organization since 1995. The program was described as one of the first programs of its kind offered by the agency.

The First Time Offenders Program was described as a 12-hour educational curriculum attended jointly by the youth participant and a parenting adult or guardian figure, which may include relatives or other caregivers responsible for the child. It was noted that both participants are required to attend all sessions together and must restart the program if any portion is missed.

The program was described as focusing on communication, behavioral health, and early prevention education. It was further noted that many participating youth are referred for minor first-time offenses, including school-related incidents such as vaping or vandalism. The presentation emphasized the program's goal of reducing repeat offenses and improving family communication and accountability.

Dr. Lett stated that referrals are also received through the Client At Risk Services (CARS) program and other juvenile services programs. It was reported that the organization experiences low recidivism rates among participants in the program. Program data presented indicated that 110 clients had been served during the current fiscal year, with more than 1,100 instructional hours delivered through the program to date.

It was further stated that participation in the First Time Offenders Program often leads to additional services, including individual counseling, family therapy, and enrollment in the organization's Ulysses Youth Learning Lab and Service Center program, which provides structured classroom and support services Monday through Thursday.

Dr. Lett emphasized the importance of continued city block grant funding to maintain access to behavioral health and prevention services for youth and families within the community, particularly for individuals who may not otherwise be aware that such services are available locally.

The presentation concluded, and Chairman Williams opened the floor for questions.

Committee Member Garrity asked how youth are referred to the program. Dr. Lett responded that referrals are received through municipal court, the juvenile services unit, and, in some cases, directly from law enforcement officers.

Chairman Williams called upon **The Salvation Army** to present.

Corey Doggett, Lieutenant Corps Officer, and Mandy Doggett, Lieutenant Pastor/CEO of The Salvation Army, presented the agency's request for funding assistance.



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Corey Doggett stated that while The Salvation Army is recognized nationally as a major charitable organization, funding for local services is generated at the community level, with funds raised locally remaining within the community served. The Salvation Army has operated in Cleveland and McClain Counties since 1892, prior to Oklahoma statehood, and statistics indicate that approximately one in seven households live in poverty, including an estimated 11.4 percent of the population in Moore, Oklahoma.

Mandy Doggett provided an overview of services currently offered within the community. The organization operates three buildings at its North Porter Avenue location in Norman and is preparing to construct a fourth facility. The social services center houses the agency's food pantry, which operates weekly by appointment and now utilizes a client-choice model allowing individuals to select food items based on their household needs.

Utility assistance is currently available for both Cleveland and McClain Counties, although available funding presently limits Cleveland County assistance to utility support only. The organization hopes to expand services to include rental assistance for Cleveland County residents, particularly residents of Moore. Individuals requesting assistance complete an intake process and must demonstrate financial hardship, which may include medical expenses, job loss, or other unforeseen circumstances.

The Salvation Army also provides identification recovery assistance and clothing vouchers for individuals experiencing homelessness, each valued at \$25.00. In addition, the agency maintains an on-site clothing closet to address immediate clothing needs.

Information was also presented regarding the agency's emergency shelter located adjacent to the social services center. The shelter contains 36 beds, including separate dormitories for men and women and three family units serving Cleveland County residents. Shelter services include two daily meals, laundry access, shower facilities, hygiene supplies, and on-site case management services. The Moore Police Department frequently coordinates with the shelter when assistance is needed for individuals experiencing homelessness within Moore.

Shelter guests are initially permitted to stay up to 60 days, with extensions available for individuals demonstrating progress toward employment or permanent housing placement. The facility also provides a community dinner seven days per week, 365 days per year, for any individual in need of a hot meal. Additionally, the organization is preparing to construct a new dining hall facility capable of seating 144 individuals.

Service statistics for 2025 reflected that more than 5,000 individuals were served in Cleveland and McClain Counties, including the distribution of more than 26,000 meals, 1,300 food boxes, over 10,000 nights of shelter, financial assistance to 476 individuals, and distribution of more than 5,900 clothing items. Additionally, 59 shelter guests successfully obtained housing placement. The presentation concluded, and Chairman Williams opened the floor for questions.

Committee Member Evans inquired whether shelter stays were limited to 60 days. Mandy Doggett explained that guests are initially permitted a 60-day stay; however, extensions may be granted for individuals actively participating in case management or making progress toward employment or housing placement.

Committee Member Evans asked whether the shelter beds remain consistently occupied. Mandy Doggett stated that the shelter is typically near capacity, particularly the family units, which are frequently fully occupied. The organization remains grateful for the opportunity to provide assistance and support to families and individuals in need within the community.

Chairman Williams called upon **Bethesda, Inc.** to present.

Julia Sisler, Executive Director of Bethesda, presented the agency's request for funding assistance.

Sisler explained that Bethesda is Oklahoma's only nonprofit organization dedicated exclusively to addressing childhood sexual abuse and provides free trauma-informed therapy services to survivors and their non-offending caregivers and family members.



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Services are designed to support not only the child, but the family unit as a whole, with an emphasis on long-term healing and healthy household behaviors.

Sisler stated that childhood sexual abuse has been described nationally as a “silent epidemic,” citing statistics indicating that nationally one in four girls and one in six boys are affected. Additional data discussed during a recent meeting with OU Health Sciences estimated that in Oklahoma the rates may be as high as one in three girls and one in five boys. Sisler noted that the need for services is evident within local communities through Bethesda’s “Stop Go Tell” educational program, which provides presentations in elementary schools regarding personal boundaries and abuse prevention. During 2024, 40 children disclosed abuse during or immediately following those presentations.

Information was provided regarding eligibility and intake procedures for services. Children between the ages of three and eighteen may qualify for services when there has been a reported disclosure of sexual abuse to the appropriate authorities or agencies. Sisler explained that Bethesda also assists families through the reporting process when needed.

Sisler noted that referrals are received from numerous community agencies and mental health professionals, with a significant increase recently observed in referrals from other therapists, particularly involving Moore residents. This increase reflects both growing awareness of Bethesda’s specialized services and the complexity of treating childhood sexual trauma. Referrals have also increased approximately 15 percent among Moore residents.

Clients complete an intake process that includes evaluations for symptoms of PTSD, household dynamics, and support systems within the child’s environment. Individualized treatment plans are then developed based on each child and family’s needs. Sisler explained that the average treatment duration has increased from approximately nine to fifteen months to between ten and twenty-two months. Technology and increased exposure to triggering media content were identified as major factors contributing to setbacks in treatment progress and the need for extended services.

All services provided by Bethesda are centered on trauma-focused cognitive behavioral therapy. Sisler also highlighted the organization’s use of specialized therapeutic modalities, including play therapy, art therapy, and EMDR, to better serve young children who may struggle to verbally communicate trauma experiences.

Additional information was presented regarding services provided specifically to Moore residents, including individual therapy, group therapy, family therapy, and consultations with outside agencies. An increase has also been observed in family therapy participation among non-offending caregivers, many of whom are themselves survivors of childhood sexual abuse. Sisler emphasized the importance of caregiver involvement in the healing process and noted that approximately 70 percent of caregivers served by Bethesda report having experienced childhood sexual abuse themselves.

Consultation services frequently involve communication with law enforcement agencies, DHS personnel, attorneys, and other professionals regarding treatment progress and client needs. Sisler reported that Bethesda served 57 Moore residents during the previous fiscal year, with 48 individuals not funded through other entities. The agency’s current funding request reflects the loss of federal funding that previously accounted for approximately 83 percent of Bethesda’s annual budget.

Since January, Bethesda has already served 49 Moore residents. During the previous fiscal year, services to Moore residents included 470 individual therapy sessions, 24 family therapy sessions, and 61 new client intakes. More than \$35,000.00 in free services was provided to Moore residents during that period. Based on current referral trends and projected service needs, Bethesda anticipates serving approximately 65 Moore residents during the next fiscal year, including an estimated 55 family sessions and approximately 450 consultations with outside agencies and professionals.

The presentation concluded, and Chairman Williams opened the floor for questions.



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Grants Manager Gilbert inquired about the number of consultation services provided in comparison to the number of clients served and requested clarification regarding the consultation process. Sisler explained that consultations may occur multiple times per client and often involve coordination with DHS caseworkers, foster families, caregivers, attorneys, and other professionals involved in the child's care. Increased consultations are also associated with a rise in criminal court involvement among clients, additional disclosures of abuse, and situations involving separated parents requiring documentation and treatment updates related to the child's participation in services.

Committee Member Evans asked whether the increase in referrals involving Moore residents was primarily due to new referral sources or increased referrals from existing sources. Sisler explained that Bethesda has observed an increase in cases involving multiple children within the same family requiring services after abuse by the same offender. Additionally, increased awareness among mental health professionals regarding Bethesda's specialized services has contributed to a rise in referrals from therapists and other clinicians.

Chairman Williams called upon **Sparrow Project Moore** to present.

Allison Richey, Co-founder and Executive Director of Sparrow Project Moore, presented the organization's request for funding assistance.

Richey explained that Sparrow Project Moore was founded in 2016 in response to a service gap identified for individuals with disabilities transitioning out of high school. While Moore Public Schools provides extensive opportunities and support for special education students, limited options exist for individuals after graduation, particularly regarding adult day programs, employment opportunities, and continued life skills development.

Richey described the challenges families face once individuals reach the age of 22 and graduate from the public school system. Families are often required to make significant adjustments due to limited care and programming options, especially for households in which caregivers are employed full-time or are single parents. Transportation and scheduling limitations further complicate access to employment and programming opportunities for participants.

The organization was founded by four individuals with the goal of providing a safe, affordable, and engaging environment focused on life skills training, socialization, continued learning, and recreational opportunities. Safety measures include volunteer screening procedures such as national background checks, reference checks, and training requirements.

Richey explained that all program participants qualify as low-income and receive government assistance; therefore, maintaining affordable program costs is a priority for the organization. Classes are offered at minimal cost, generally ranging from free to approximately \$15.00 per class, with most classes costing between \$5.00 and \$10.00. Participants may choose which classes to attend based on their interests and needs.

The organization utilizes community-based instructors and subject matter experts to provide programming, including local professionals in dance, music therapy, fitness, and other areas. Sparrow Project Moore also emphasizes volunteerism and community involvement among participants and families.

Richey stated that the organization currently rents space from the YMCA; however, the facility lacks a dedicated kitchen area. Cooking classes remain one of the organization's most popular and beneficial programs because they promote life skills, independence, and safety awareness. The Moore Library currently assists with cooking instruction and supplies ingredients, but instructors must transport all cooking equipment to the facility due to limited on-site resources.

To address this need, Sparrow Project Moore is requesting funding assistance for the purchase of a mobile kitchen unit estimated at approximately \$5,000.00. The proposed unit would include a mobile sink with hot and cold water, induction burners, a microwave, and a mini refrigerator to improve the quality and safety of cooking instruction and expand future programming opportunities.



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Richey reported that the organization began with four participants and currently maintains an overall roster of approximately 90 individuals, with 58 to 60 participants attending regularly each week. The organization plans to continue expanding program offerings, particularly in the area of cooking and life skills instruction. Outcomes would be measured through skills-based assessments and participant progress tracking related to daily living tasks and independent functioning.

The presentation concluded, and Chairman Williams opened the floor for questions.

Grants Manager Gilbert inquired whether the requested \$5,000.00 represented the total cost of the proposed mobile kitchen. Richey confirmed that approximately \$5,000.00 would cover the primary cost of the mobile kitchen unit, with the understanding that additional supplemental expenses may also be necessary.

Committee Member Evans asked about the organization's current facility capacity and whether Sparrow Project Moore is approaching the need for additional space due to continued growth. Richey explained that the current YMCA facility includes access to a swimming pool during portions of the year and has provided the organization with valuable programming space. Prior to utilizing the YMCA facility, the program operated on a school calendar and used space at Southmoore High School and Southridge High School. Richey noted that the current facility is the closest the organization has come to having a dedicated long-term space and expressed interest in eventually obtaining a permanent facility for future growth and expanded summer programming opportunities.

Chairman Williams called upon the **Metropolitan Fair Housing Council of Oklahoma, Inc.** to present.

The Executive Director of the Metropolitan Fair Housing Council of Oklahoma, Mary Daniels Dulan, presented and introduced staff members of the organization.

It was reported that the organization has six staff members serving the entire state of Oklahoma. Dulan stated that the organization was founded in 1979 by Kathy Silovsky in response to discriminatory practices in housing, including steering by real estate professionals.

Dulan directed attention to specific pages within the presentation materials. It was reported that, over a six-month period, the organization has experienced a 213% increase in individuals contacting them with complaints compared to the same period in the prior year. It was further reported that complaints involving reasonable accommodations, primarily from individuals with disabilities and often elderly individuals, have increased by 200%. The presenter also reported that cases escalated to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) after all internal efforts to mediate had been exhausted have increased by 400%.

Dulan expressed concern regarding the impact of rescinded federal guidance and regulatory changes affecting fair housing enforcement, particularly in relation to disability accommodations, service and assistance animals, and housing testing activities. It was stated that the majority of complaints received statewide relate to disability-related issues rather than race, color, religion, sex, national origin, or familial status, and that many of the individuals contacting the organization are persons with disabilities, frequently aged 50 and older. It was also reported that the organization is currently receiving approximately 40 to 50 calls per day.

Dulan requested an increase in funding. It was noted that there is uncertainty regarding the availability of HUD funding due to prior delays in contract execution and funding disbursement, including a five-month delay in the previous funding cycle.

It was stated that the organization continues to provide statewide services, including services to the City of Moore, and that all complaints are documented and duplicate funding is not received.

The presentation concluded, and Chairman Williams opened the floor for questions. No questions were asked.

Chairman Williams called upon **Abbott House Child Advocacy Center** to present.



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Rebecca Craig, representative of Abbott House Child Advocacy Center, presented the organization's request for \$25,000.00 in CDBG funding to support its forensic interview program serving children and families impacted by abuse, neglect, and violence.

Craig reported that Abbott House served 125 children from Moore during 2025, representing more than ten percent of the organization's total clients served during that year. At the time of the application, services had already been provided to 53 children residing within Moore city limits.

Craig explained that the forensic interview program is often the first step in helping children and families begin the healing process following abuse or trauma. Forensic interviews are conducted by specially trained professionals in a legally sound, trauma-informed, child-friendly environment. The purpose of the interview process is to gather accurate information while minimizing additional trauma to the child. Interviews are audio and video recorded and may later be utilized as evidence during criminal proceedings.

Prior to the establishment of child advocacy centers, children were often required to repeatedly recount traumatic experiences to multiple individuals, including teachers, school administrators, law enforcement officers, DHS personnel, medical providers, and attorneys. Craig explained that the multidisciplinary team approach utilized by Abbott House allows professionals involved in the investigation to coordinate services and obtain necessary information through a single forensic interview, reducing trauma and improving consistency for investigative and prosecutorial purposes.

When children and families arrive at Abbott House, they are welcomed into a safe and supportive environment. While the child participates in the forensic interview process, non-offending caregivers meet with a family advocate who assists with support services and resources throughout the investigation. Craig noted that the organization has experienced a 42 percent increase in requests for services since 2022. In Cleveland County alone, more than 800 confirmed cases of child abuse and neglect were reported during the previous year.

Craig stated that Abbott House does not collect income information from clients because child abuse impacts families across all socioeconomic backgrounds. However, low-income families often face additional barriers related to transportation, childcare, insurance, and access to specialized services. Through community partnerships and funding support, all services provided by Abbott House remain free of charge to families.

Additional information was presented regarding Abbott House's accreditation through the National Children's Alliance and the organization's upcoming 30th anniversary. Craig noted that national studies have demonstrated that children served through Child Advocacy Centers are less likely to experience additional trauma and are more likely to receive necessary medical and mental health services.

Requested funding from the City of Moore would assist with maintaining forensic interview services, family advocacy programs, specialized equipment, reporting technology, and coordination efforts with law enforcement, DHS, prosecutors, and medical professionals. Craig emphasized that the organization provides rapid response services, typically within 24 to 72 hours, and remains available on-call 24 hours per day, 365 days per year.

Craig also referenced research regarding Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE), noting that childhood trauma is strongly associated with long-term health issues, mental illness, substance abuse, and economic instability later in life. Early intervention and coordinated support services were identified as critical factors in improving long-term outcomes for affected children and families.

The presentation concluded, and Chairman Williams opened the floor for questions.

Chairman Williams asked whether Abbott House provides additional services to families following completion of the investigative process. Craig explained that, as part of the organization's accreditation standards through the National Children's Alliance, family



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advocates maintain contact with families throughout the life of a case. Support services may continue through case closure, court proceedings, or other stages of the process, while also respecting the wishes of families who choose to discontinue services. Craig emphasized that families are encouraged to remain in contact with Abbott House whenever support or assistance is needed.

Chairman Williams called upon **Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City** to present.

Sheila McPherson, Director of the Norman Sanctuary, presented information regarding the organization's services and funding request.

McPherson explained that the Women's Sanctuary operates as a daytime shelter serving low-income and unhoused individuals and families by providing case management services and a safe daytime environment. The Norman Sanctuary opened in 2014 following the success of similar services established in Oklahoma City in 2009.

The shelter operates Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and offers a variety of supportive services, including showers, laundry facilities, computer and phone access, snacks, lunches, clothing assistance, and hygiene items. Additional assistance is provided to individuals transitioning into housing, including household items such as dishes and other essential supplies.

McPherson also outlined several educational and supportive programs available through the shelter, including GED classes, life skills classes, employment assistance, and case management services. Employment assistance includes weekly support from a workforce specialist who works directly with employers to help connect individuals with job opportunities.

The organization also provides financial assistance for rental deposits, identification documents, birth certificates, and other items necessary to help individuals achieve housing stability or apply for housing programs such as Section 8 assistance. Referrals are also made to other Catholic Charities programs, including counseling, immigration services, and additional financial assistance programs, as well as to community partner agencies to address needs beyond the organization's direct services.

McPherson stated that the requested funding would be utilized to provide rental deposit and rental assistance for Moore residents. Existing partnerships with the City of Moore and Moore Public Schools assist the organization in continuing to provide resources and case management services to members of the Moore community.

The presentation concluded, and Chairman Williams opened the floor for questions. No questions were asked.

Chairman Williams called upon **Aging Services, Inc.** to present.

Hayley Garcia, representative of Aging Services, presented on behalf of the organization.

Garcia stated that Aging Services has partnered with the City of Moore for 51 years and has provided home-delivered meals and supportive services to older adults since 1975. The organization's mission was described as providing nutritional support and social connectivity while helping seniors remain safely and independently in their homes.

The presentation included demographic information from the Oklahoma Department of Commerce and the Oklahoma Department of Human Services State Unit on Aging, indicating that by 2034, Oklahoma is projected to have more residents over the age of 65 than residents under the age of 18 for the first time in state history. It was further noted that Oklahoma currently has approximately 875,000 seniors.

Garcia stated that the home-delivered meal program is intended to address the growing needs of Oklahoma's aging population by helping seniors remain active, healthy, and independent within the City of Moore. Information was presented comparing the annual



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cost of institutional care, estimated at more than \$100,000.00 per year, with the annual cost of the home-delivered meal program, estimated at \$1,820.00 per participant.

In addition to nutritional support, it was noted that volunteer drivers and staff provide regular wellness checks during meal deliveries. An example was shared in which a meal delivery volunteer discovered a homebound senior in need of emergency assistance and contacted emergency services, demonstrating the program's role as a safety net for isolated individuals.

The presentation emphasized the importance of allowing seniors to age in place and maintain independence within their own homes. It was further stated that the program helps reduce demands on emergency services, supports chronic disease management through improved nutrition, and may delay the need for more costly institutional care. Garcia also noted that diabetic meal options are now available to meet specific dietary needs.

Program components were described as including home-delivered meals, in-home assessments, social connectivity, and nutrition education. It was reported that all participants receive monthly nutrition education materials developed by a registered dietitian, including those who are unable to attend congregate meal sites.

Cost comparisons presented during the meeting estimated institutional care at more than \$270.00 per day, home health care services at approximately \$140.00 per day, and Aging Services' meal program at approximately \$7.00 per meal.

The organization requested \$30,000.00 in funding for Fiscal Year 2027 to provide one nutrient-dense meal per day to homebound seniors residing in Moore. It was reported that the requested funding would support approximately 14,300 meals for 55 seniors identified as having the greatest need. The total program cost was estimated at \$36,036.00, with the remaining \$6,036.00 to be provided through other funding sources.

Garcia noted that increased food, supply, and fuel costs have resulted in higher program expenses and may necessitate future cost adjustments. It was also reported that during Fiscal Year 2026, Aging Services significantly reduced the number of seniors on its waiting list for home-delivered meals. The organization stated that its ongoing goal, in partnership with the CDBG program, is to eliminate the waiting list entirely.

The presentation concluded, and Chairman Williams opened the floor for questions. No questions were asked.

AGENDA ITEM V: EXECUTIVE SESSION

Following the Public Service Applicant presentations, Chairman Williams announced that the Committee would enter Executive Session to discuss funding recommendations. Chairman Williams advised attendees that they were not required to remain and that applicants would be notified of the funding recommendations the following day. Chairman Williams then called for a motion to enter Executive Session.

Vice Chairman Milum made a motion to enter Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Committee Member Evans.

YEAS:	WILLIAMS	GARRITY	EVANS	MILUM	VANWINKLE
NAYS:					
ABSTAIN:					

Motion carried. The Committee entered Executive Session.

AGENDA ITEM VI: FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Committee reconvened in Open Session.



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Committee Member Evans made a motion to recommend the following funding allocations for the 2026-2027 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Public Service Program:

AGENCY NAME	FUNDING AWARDED	
Central Oklahoma Community Action Agency	\$6,000.00	
Saint Vincent de Paul	\$6,000.00	
Moore Youth and Family Services, Inc.	\$5,895.00	
The Virtue Center	\$5,000.00	
Bethesda, Inc.	\$5,000.00	
Sparrow Project Moore	\$2,150.00	
Rose Rock Habitat for Humanity	*\$10,000.00	<i>*from Public Improvement budget</i>
Metropolitan Fair Housing Council of Oklahoma, Inc.	*\$6,921.00	<i>*from Administration budget</i>

Vice Chairman Milum seconded the motion.

YEAS: WILLIAMS EVANS GARRITY VANWINKLE MILUM
NAYS:
ABSTAIN:

Motion carried.

Vice Chairman Milum disclosed a conflict of interest related to Aging Services, Inc., abstained from discussion, and voting on the funding recommendation for that agency.

Committee Member Evans made a motion to recommend funding Aging Services, Inc. the following amount:

AGENCY NAME	FUNDING AWARDED
Aging Services, Inc.	\$25,000.00

The motion was seconded by Committee Member Garrity.

YEAS: VANWINKLE GARRITY EVANS WILLIAMS
NAYS:
ABSTAIN: MILUM

Motion carried.

AGENDA ITEM VII: CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Chairman Williams called for citizens to be heard. No citizens were in attendance.

AGENDA ITEM VIII: MEMBERS TO BE HEARD

Chairman Williams called for members to be heard. No additional comments or concerns were expressed by Committee Members.

AGENDA ITEM IX: ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Williams called for adjournment.



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Vice Chairman Milum made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Committee Member VanWinkle.

YEAS: **MILUM** **VANWINKLE** **EVANS** **GARRITY** **WILLIAMS**
NAYS:
ABSTAIN:

Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned.

Minutes recorded and prepared by:

Sky Larson

Sky Larson, Administrative Assistant
Capital Planning and Resiliency
City of Moore, Oklahoma