

Salt Lake Urban County

43+ years of experience administering HUD dollars

Mission Statement

We aim to strengthen families and neighborhoods by helping fund organizations that provide essential programs and services to individuals and areas of the county that need them most.

CDBG Facility Improvement Project: Columbus Community Center Air Filtration System

One of the goals of the CDBG program is to provide benefits to low and moderate income residents. The National Objective for this activity is to provide a "Low/Moderate Income Benefit for a Limited Clientele". The requirement is that the public facility or improvement will benefit particular persons without regard to the area in which they reside or it may be an activity which provides benefit on an area basis but only to a specific group of persons who reside in the area. To qualify under this subcategory, a limited clientele activity must meet one of the following tests:

- ❖ Exclusively benefit a clientele who are generally *presumed by HUD to be principally L/M income persons*. The following groups are currently presumed by HUD to be made up principally of L/M income persons: In this case the clientele are individuals with severe disabilities which meets "adults meeting Bureau of Census' definition of severely disabled persons".

Brief Description of the Project

The "Columbus Community Center Upgrades" CDBG project allowed the agency to install a large air filtration system in its secure document shredding facility. CDBG funding allowed Columbus to complete an expensive facility improvement that in turn provided an improved work environment for individuals with severe developmental and physical disabilities. For the last fifteen years, Columbus has operated Columbus Secure Document Destruction Solutions, which currently employs 60 individuals with severe disabilities and serves approximately 400 commercial business customers. It is unlikely that these individuals with disabilities would be employed in the community due to the severity of their disabilities, which requires a high level of support and accommodation. Because of increased growth in the shredding business, Columbus needed to install a costly air filtration system to remove the paper dust particles from the facility. This project allowed Columbus to increase business capacity, increase number of individuals with disabilities served, provide a safe and healthy work environment, and reduce maintenance costs.

Program Beneficiaries

Beneficiaries of the project are individuals with severe developmental and physical disabilities who face a 65% unemployment rate, the highest of any demographic. Individuals with developmental disabilities face the highest unemployment rate, the highest rate of poverty, and the greatest isolation of any demographic group, so they value meaningful work, a safe environment, a paycheck, and the dignity that comes from a job well done.

Please feel free to contact: Karen Wiley, Community Development Manager, PO Box 144575, Salt Lake City, UT 84114-4575, 385-468-4870

Total Project Cost – Leveraged Funds

CDBG investment in project:	\$ 45,000
Section 108 funds:	\$
Other non-CDBG (private/public) funds:	\$ 55,000
Total project costs	\$ 100,000

Justification of program and measurable outcomes “Decreased dependence on other services”

The Columbus campus was built in 2000 in South Salt Lake, a mixed-use, low income community centrally located in Salt Lake County situated near major roads and public transportation lines. The new construction and central location was ideal for launching a secure document shredding business in 2004, when Columbus retrofitted part of the campus with shredding equipment, a dock, and space to employ about 20 individuals. Because of the central location, public transportation, and building accessibility, it has been an ideal location to further expand our shredding facility and continue to create new jobs for individuals with the most severe disabilities. Currently, Columbus employs 60 individuals at this facility.

If this money was not available what would this mean to your client and community?

The agency has a fifty-year history of creating employment opportunities for individuals with the most severe developmental and physical disabilities. Individuals who want to work but need extra support know they have meaningful work and a paycheck that would otherwise be unavailable to them. Families have peace of mind knowing that their loved ones are in a safe, welcome environment that promotes independence and self-worth.

Columbus operates a total of five business lines that generate earned income that in turn is used to build capacity and pay wages to individuals with disabilities. These business lines complement the social services, vocational training, and employment support that Columbus provides to its clients to ensure they can work in the community. We strategically plan for capital expenses, knowing that we must invest through a combination of business revenue and grants. Salt Lake County has been an ongoing, integral partner that has supported our capital expansions through CDBG grants, which in turn has allowed us to increase capacity and employ more individuals with disabilities.

