



**LAKE WORTH**  
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**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Chair, Vice Chair and Members of the Board

**FROM:** Rachel A. Bach, Executive Director

**DATE:** September 12, 2006

**SUBJECT: Façade and Development Regions Grant Program**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Discuss and reach consensus on:

1. Tracking the Façade and Development Regions Grant application cycles concurrently.
2. Providing the CRA match for the Development Regions Grant through the Façade Grant Program.

**EXPLANATION:**

In the past, the CRA has offered both of these programs independent of one another. The Development Regions Grant application cycle is set by Palm Beach County and always occurs January to March. The Façade Grant Program application cycle has varied with applications accepted anywhere from February to May.

The Development Regions Grant (DRG) Program is geared toward creating jobs. The program will fund up to \$75,000 for property acquisition, construction costs, site development fees, impact fees, machinery and equipment and public improvements. Of the \$75,000 a \$25,000 match is required from the municipality or CRA.

Over the past 3 years the CRA has approved 5 applications and funded 2. Based on the CRA's previous practices, if an application was approved by the CRA and not approved by the County, the application was void and the applicant received nothing. Staff is proposing that the Development Regions Program be rolled in with the CRA's Façade Grant Program so that applicants can apply for both through the Development Regions

Application and the CRA match would be awarded under the Façade Grant Program. This would make applicants not approved by the County still be eligible for the CRA match through the Façade Grant Program. While the Façade Grant Program only funds façade and site related improvements, the CRA could design the program so that if an applicant were applying for DRG the eligibility requirements for that program would apply.

As a benefit of combining these programs, administration of both grants would be simplified since application cycles, paperwork and grantee coordination would be simultaneous. Furthermore, this would leverage existing CRA funds by either rolling the annual earmark for the DRG, which this year is \$50,000, into the Façade Grant Program increasing that funding or using currently budgeted Façade Grant funds for the match and earmarking the DRG funds for other economic development activities.

**PROGRAM IMPACT:**

This will improve administrative efficiency.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

This would require an amendment to the proposed FY 06/07 Budget.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

None.

Recommended by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Rachel A. Bach, Executive Director