



# Community Redevelopment Authority (CRA)

**Wednesday, February 10, 2010  
Regular Meeting**

## **Item G1**

### **Grant**

Staff Contact: Chad Nabity

February 2, 2010

From: Chad Nabity, AICP Director

To: CRA Board

Re: Complete Count Committee Grant Funding

### **Overview**

The CRA has received a request for \$20,000 to assist the local complete count committee in their efforts to promote the 2010 Census. The advertising campaign is designed to reach all residents of Grand Island. It will however, concentrate on those people living in 4 census tracts defined as hard to count by the U.S. Census and on persons 60 years old and above, also a population defined as hard to count. The total budget for the advertising campaign is estimated at \$90,000 the funds would be granted to the Grand Island Chamber of Commerce Foundation and restricted to pay for production of advertising materials to be used in the campaign. The remaining funds are being raised through private donations.

The members of the complete count committee are:

This group represents a variety of government, not-for-profit and business interests from across Grand Island that feel that it is important to get as accurate a count of our population as possible. The decennial census is the one shot we (as a community) have every 10 years to establish good base data for the community that is universally accepted and useable for a wide variety of statistical purposes.

Census data from the decennial census provides the basis for comprehensive plans, economic development studies, housing studies and even studies to determine if an area qualifies as blighted and substandard. Federal and state grant dollars are awarded based on census information as well. This Census is particularly important for Grand Island as we are likely to break the 50,000 population mark within the urbanized area of the city. Reaching this population level should open doors to additional federal funding in the form of Community Development Block Grants (funds that can be used in areas that have been declared blighted and substandard to compliment and enhance CRA programs) and transportation funds. Reaching this population will also let the federal government declare Grand Island to be a Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). Communities that have been declared MSAs get more frequent and better data on economic indicators in the region. They also show up on the list of MSAs that companies consider when looking for potential locations. It does not guarantee that a company will locate here but it does mean they will at least consider the community.

Enclosed you will find maps of the 4 census tracts that have been identified as hard to count. Much of the area in these tracts is also in areas that have been declared blighted and substandard by the Grand Island City Council.

One potential area of concern would be whether the CRA can finance this activity. In response to that question I asked Duane Burns to research the issue. He identified the following statutory reference.

**18-2107. Authority; powers and duties.**

An authority shall constitute a public body corporate and politic, exercising public and essential governmental functions and having all the powers necessary or convenient to carry out and effectuate the purposes and provisions of the Community Development Law and sections [18-2147](#) to [18-2151](#), including the power:

8) Within its area of operation, to make or have made all surveys, appraisals, studies, and plans, but not including the preparation of a general plan for the community, necessary to the carrying out of the purposes of the Community Development Law and to **contract or cooperate with any and all persons or agencies, public or private, in the making and carrying out of such surveys, appraisals, studies, and plans;**

Nebraska State Statutes give authority to the CRA to fund this type of activity. The excerpt below makes it clear that the CRA can spend money to contract or cooperate with any and all persons or agencies, public or private, in the making and carrying out of such surveys, appraisals, studies, and plans. This is the same authority that the CRA has used in partnering in the production of Housing Studies for the City of Grand Island.