



Kankakee ECDA Community Advisory Board

**March 4, 2026, 12:00 p.m.
Council Chambers, 385 E. Oak St.**

Regular Meeting Minutes

The regular meeting of the Community Advisory Board (“Board”) of the City of Kankakee’s Economic and Community Development Agency (“ECDA”) was called to order by ECDA Assistant Director Miya Petitgoue on Wednesday, March 4, 2026 at 12:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, proper notice having been given to the public and Board members. There were no public comments. The following Board members were present: Roderick Sessions (1), Pat Coy (3), Doug Young (5), Zelma Evans (6), and Nettie Williams (7). Asst. Director Miya Petitgoue recognized a quorum was present.

Assistant Director Petitgoue asked the Board to review the February 4, 2026 regular meeting minutes, which had been made available to the Board in advance of the meeting. **Upon a motion by Board Member Williams and seconded by Board Member Sessions, the Board voted on a voice vote to approve the meeting minutes from February 4, 2026.**

Assistant Director Petitgoue presented the ECDA report to the Board. ECDA Housing Rehabilitation has 25 construction projects in progress with 6 completed in the month of January (2 Lead Hazard Control and 4 Community Development Block Grant Demolitions). ECDA waitlists still remain closed and at 160 for General Waitlist and 85 for Lead Assistance Waitlist. An update was given on the Healthy Homes Production Grant Program’s 2026 wrap up. All projects must be in contract by April 2026 and construction must be completed by August 2026. At this time, HUD’s Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes (OLHCHH) is not continuing this grant program for additional funding opportunities.

Board Member Paula Robinson (4) joined the meeting.

In continuing the ECDA Report, Construction Project reporting was provided for Lead Program (8 in progress and 2 completed), Healthy Homes (9 in progress), Community Development Block Grant (7 in progress), Median Income Rehabilitation Assistance (1 in progress). Assistant Director Petitgoue communicated that the Community Advisory Board will begin receiving updates on the ARPA funded Rental Rehabilitation Program. This program is not open to applications but will be moving through the already existing waitlist from round one of the program.

CDBG’s Demolition Program completed the projects on North 5th Avenue and will be working with the City of Kankakee’s in-house legal counsel and City Administration on additional properties to put through this program. Board Member Coy asked what the process was for a property to be demolished. Assistant Director Petitgoue specified that CDBG is utilized to demolish City owned property that has gone through a full legal review process to legally be able to demolish. ECDA receives addresses from City Administration for qualification of the CDBG Demolition Program.

There is also additional reporting for the State of Illinois Community Development Block Grant Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity (CDBG – DCEO “Shelter Grant”). The bid

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for the project was issued on January 26, 2026 and is due by March 5, 2026 at 2:00 PM. There will be a public bid opening at March 5, 2026 at 2:00 PM following the due date with the intent to have a contract to present to City Council on March 16, 2026. ECDA will be responsible for monitoring the portion of the project that is going to be paid for as a part of this project. There was Board discussion around additional funding that Harbor House is receiving to fund the full scope of work for the expanded Harbor House Domestic Violence Survivor shelter.

ECDA's Business Licensing and Attraction update included data from January 2026. There were three (3) new business licenses processed. Five (5) businesses provided data through our Business Retention surveys – some also participated in on-site visits with ECDA staff and/or City Administration. As a part of ECDA's Attraction work, we are asking residents to tell us "what makes them Kankakee?" in our I Am Kankakee campaign. This is an opportunity for residents to showcase what it means to be "Kankakee" and tell the positive story of their life as a resident who lives, works, and plays in the City of Kankakee.

CDBG Public Service funds for the 2025-26 Program Year are able to draw down funds for receipts dated May 2025 through April 2026. Agencies submitted a Quarterly Report on February 13, 2026 and they are in review for approval and funding draw down. The schedule for the 2026-27 Program was reviewed. The CDBG Public Service deliberation of CDBG Public Service Allocations to submit to City Council's Community Development (CD) Committee will be happening in this meeting. Once CD Committee provides recommendation, it will go before City Council for final approval.

The Private Security Incentive Program ("PSIP") is actively accepting applications. Three (3) applications were processed in February, totaling \$579.96. There are \$4,842.00 remaining funds and City Council is discussing what funding looks like for this program. Assistant Director Petitgoue communicated that sign-ups for headshots and some questions to build CAB Member bios were sent out with the March Board Packet on February 24, 2026.

ECDA continues to promote its office's programs through social media outreach (1,544 Facebook followers, 419 Instagram followers, 179 LinkedIn followers) and electronic newsletter (652 subscribers). ECDA will be hosting a Community Conversation with Riverside on Mental Health on March 12, 2026 at 5:30 PM at the Kankakee County Museum. Upcoming Lunch n' Learn April 7th is How to Start a Business, sponsored by Essential Smoothies and Café founder & owner Denise Smith. ECDA's Annual Luncheon is the Thursday before Merchant Street Music Fest, July 23, 2026. Community meetings for March include the Kankakee County Community Outreach Leadership Team (KCCOLT) meeting, Kankakee County Continuum of Care Meeting, Central Illinois Continuum of Care Meeting, and Success by Coalition Meeting.

Under Old Business, the Board discussed the CDBG Public Service Allocation Recommendation. Assistant Director reviewed the following:

Four (4) Applicants

1. Cornerstone Services @ \$5,000.00 Requested
2. Harbor House @ \$21,600.00 Requested
3. Catholic Charities @ \$26,500.00 Requested
4. Hippocrates Medical Clinic @ \$15,000.00 Requested

Full Funding Available: \$70,000.00 – at current application amounts, all programs can be currently funded with a remaining \$1,900.

Board Member Robinson asked how the remaining \$1,900 would be allocated if it was not

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given to agencies. Assistant Director Petitgoue communicated that the funding would be moved to another activity under CDBG (housing rehabilitation, housing counseling, economic development, etc.). Discussion around the needs addressed by Hippocrates Medical Clinic and Cornerstone Services was emphasized by Board Members Evans and Coy.

Upon a motion by Board Member Coy to fund the Public Service Applicants at the full cost of their application with the remaining \$1,900 to be split evenly between Cornerstone Services and Hippocrates Medical Clinic and seconded by Board Member Evans, the Board voted via roll call vote.

Under CAB Comments, Board Member Young made note of concerns at the Pedestrian Bridge over the river by Riverside Medical Center. Board Member Young acknowledged the work done by City of Kankakee employees to address needed repairs to boards along the walkway, after the bridge was closed. There is a concern that additional boards are already needing repair and closure of this bridge hinders some residents from getting around town for work and leisure. Assistant Director Petitgoue will bring this concern back to the appropriate City departments.

Upon a motion by Board Member Evans and seconded by Board Member Robinson, the Board voted via voice vote to adjourn at 12:39 p.m.

The next meeting of the Committee will be Wednesday, April 1, 2026 at 12:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Miya Petitgoue