

2006 – 2007 CDBG/HOME APPLICANT QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES

Name of Organization: **Pine Tree Gardens, Inc.**
Project Title: **Pine Tree**

1. Describe in detail how your CDBG RFP differs from other CDBG RFP's.

The population Pine Tree Gardens serves is chronically mentally ill adults, ages 18-59. There are two main goals of the program for which we are requesting grants funds. 1) To help our younger, more independent clients learn and practice skills which will assist their transition back into the community. 2) To help our older clients; who in many cases were once employed had their employment disrupted by mental illness, remain at their current level of functioning, and provide ways for them to earn money. This will provide them with self worth and in turn helps to reduce hospitalizations. The key to this program is the appropriate level of supervision which can be anything from one-on-one to a small group. One of the most important benefits of this program is that our clients get the satisfaction of contributing to their community. They receive benefits and are able to give back at the same time.

2. Describe in detail how your CDBG RFP supplements other CDBG RFP's.

One of the most common causes of homelessness is the onset of mental illness. Many of our clients were once homeless. Now that they are off the streets, they must be assisted in getting and using proper medications. Once this has been accomplished, their greatest needs are for the tools and support to live independently again. We are one link in a chain of support and a chance for this population. In order to fully integrate back into their community, basic skills must be learned, practiced, and maintained. The SEP program helps to provide this chance.

3. Describe in detail your efforts to coordinate with other CDBG agencies similar resources.

The SEP rates charged on many of our landscaping accounts are greatly discounted to allow older customers on fixed incomes access to this service. We are involved in Yolo Best. The Executive Director of YCCC and the Executive Director of Pine Tree Gardens have on-going dialogues to see how they can better pool their resources.

4. Describe how you can lower the percentage of CDBG funding attributed to personnel and increase funding attributed to services to your CDBG beneficiaries. In your response, describe how increasing the percentage of any CDBG funding toward services would affect all other funding sources for your CDBG project.

As stated on our proposal, Pine Tree Gardens (PTG) pays for all personnel and administrative costs attributed to this program. The grant money goes directly to the support of our clients participating in the program. Having these funds will allow us (PTG) to channel funds currently supporting this program into other areas of our main program. Some of these areas include community reintegration, support for clients returning to school and independent living skills.

5. **Do you seek to have the clients employed through a local business? Example: clerical duties at Davis Lumber, The Enterprise, any number of Insurance agencies. Same with outdoor jobs. Would doing this reduce the number of clients needing pay through Pine Tree? Does R&R pay?**

We already work with a number of local businesses to employ our clients. The list includes Right & Relevant Thrift Store, Carousel Stationary, Davis Food Co-op, and the Dept of Education thru tutoring and support thru the AVID programs. Some of our participants in the SEP program have gained real employment with businesses and become their employees. R & R does pay, for services we provide but there are a limited of positions available due to the large need for these types of positions in our community. We are constantly trying to find additional resources for employment. Our program is set up to prepare our clients for jobs such as those listed above. As clients move on from our program, more clients come in to fill in the openings.