

Nicole Gillespie

From: Bill Bilyeu
Sent: Monday, September 30, 2013 1:37 PM
To: Nicole Gillespie
Subject: Fwd: AirCheck Funding Update for Collin County
Attachments: image007.jpg; image008.jpg; image001.jpg; image002.jpg

Bill

Begin forwarded message:

From: Shannon Stevenson <SStevenson@nctcog.org>
Date: September 30, 2013, 12:07:48 PM CDT
To: 'Bill Bilyeu' <bbilyeu@co.collin.tx.us>
Cc: Jeff Durham <jdurham@co.collin.tx.us>, Jason Brown <jbrown@nctcog.org>, Dora Kelly <DKelly@nctcog.org>
Subject: RE: AirCheck Funding Update for Collin County

Bill,

I attended the Executive Board meeting last week as well and it's been on my radar to circle back with you guys so your email is timely. There was a lot of discussion about LIRAP and the conversation sort of took a turn when Judge Whitley (Tarrant County) chimed in on their recent task force enforcement efforts, which launched into a larger discussion about the LIP programs, future legislative strategies (including expanding the use of *LIRAP* dollars for transportation projects), etc.

I could see where there may have been some confusion about what funding was eligible for what, etc. However, you're correct in that funds allocated for LIRAP are not eligible to be spent for anything else other than LIRAP. It's the LIP funds that have slightly more flexibility. I understand you guys are working with Dallas County on having your old LIP funds used for enforcement efforts.

In response to the commitment to increase Collin County's LIRAP participation, we'd like to catch up with you and/or your staff in next few weeks to develop a strategy on how we can better promote the program within Collin County. We'd like to be able to report at the end of the next quarter that participation was up by x-percent. We'll work with Jeff on finding a time and plan on coming up to your offices.

Please let me know if you have any other questions or need anything else.

Thanks,
Shannon

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**Shannon Stevenson**

Program Manager, Air Quality Planning & Operations  
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**From:** Bill Bilyeu [<mailto:bbilyeu@co.collin.tx.us>]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 30, 2013 10:48 AM  
**To:** Shannon Stevenson  
**Cc:** Jeff Durham  
**Subject:** RE: AirCheck Funding Update for Collin County

Shannon,

Judge Self had some discussions at last Friday's Executive Board about LIRAP that left him with questions. A commitment was made to attempt to keep and spend LIRAP funding that was generated in Collin County in Collin County (had to read that twice insure that it made sense). He wants to explore expanded inspection tag enforcement and also revisit traffic light synchronization and possibly turn lanes. I know that these three items were LIP options, but can Collin County also use LIRAP funds for these type of expenditures? If LIRAP funds can be expended for law enforcement, etc., what request and reporting bureaucracy needs to occur?

Thanks,  
 Bill

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**From:** Jeff Durham  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 26, 2013 8:52 AM  
**To:** Bill Bilyeu  
**Cc:** Ruben Delgado  
**Subject:** FW: AirCheck Funding Update for Collin County

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**From:** Shannon Stevenson [<mailto:SStevenson@nctcog.org>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 25, 2013 4:39 PM  
**To:** Jeff Durham  
**Cc:** Chris Klaus; Jason Brown; Dora Kelly; Molly Rendon; Hoyt Taylor  
**Subject:** AirCheck Funding Update for Collin County

Jeff,

Per our conversation this morning, below is a little more information about the funding associated with the AirCheckTexas Drive a Clean Machine Program (also known as the Low-Income Repair and Replacement Assistance Program, or LIRAP).

- Collin County signed an Inter-County Agreement with the other 8 participating counties in North Central Texas in 2003 to share AirCheck funding between counties so the program could operate on a regional level instead of at a county level.
  - o This means the program can remain operational for all counties for as long as possible.

- o A copy of the Agreement is attached as reference.
- FY2013 Carryover Amount: the recent quarterly report submitted to Collin County shows \$2.99 million in carryover funds, but that doesn't depict the full picture for the regional program.
  - o TCEQ requires NCTCOG to track each county individually using their form, which doesn't have a way to show where the program stands overall, so NCTCOG tracks the funds collectively in a separate table to keep up with how much funding is available overall. Since the counties share the funds, the overall carryover amount for the region as a whole, is only \$828,816. Attached is a copy of that table showing the total overall carryover for the region is \$828,816.
  - o I sincerely apologize for the confusion this caused. Going forward, NCTCOG will be sure to always include the overall summary to each county when submitting the quarterly reports.
- Collin County has only returned AirCheck funding to the State once in 2006 (\$309,576) when funds received for FY2003 were not spent within the timeframe allowed.
  - o Funds allocated for a fiscal year are allowed to be spent that fiscal year plus two more fiscal years; therefore, FY2003 funds could have been spent in FY2003, FY2004, & FY2005.
  - o As a general rule, NCTCOG always spends the oldest funding first.
  - o Just a note: the last two legislative sessions have not fully appropriated all the funds being collected in Collin County either. NCTCOG estimates approximately \$2.6 million is being collected each fiscal year from Collin County for AirCheck (and Local Initiative Projects).
- You mentioned our webpage was slightly confusing since it mentioned the program is no longer accepting replacement applications.
  - o We updated the webpage to now state the program is no longer accepting applications *at this time*.
  - o The next paragraph also mentions that we will resume replacement assistance for a limited time in 2014.

Please let me know if you have any other questions or would additional clarification on anything.

Regards,  
Shannon

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Shannon Stevenson

Program Manager, Air Quality Planning & Operations
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