

CAP coffee shop program misses out on federal grant

Barbara LaBoe / The Daily News | Posted: Sunday, May 16, 2010

CAP's Grounds for Opportunity coffee shop/job training program lost out on a 2010 federal grant but officials hope to apply again for 2011.

Lower Columbia Community Action Program officials want to open a coffee shop and cafe to provide on-the job food service training while also providing the dinners Meals on Wheels delivers to senior citizens. In phase 2, the cafe, in downtown Kelso at the corner of Ash and South Pacific streets, would be open to the public to bring in extra revenue for the Meals on Wheels program.

Cowlitz County can nominate one Community Development Block Grant request to the state each year and picked the CAP project for 2010. The state administers its share of the federal funding. Competition was particularly tough this year, though, with \$37 million in requests and only \$15 million to distribute statewide, according to county officials.

CAP is eligible to apply again and plans to seek \$472,000 for 2011, which would cover about half the estimated cost of the project, CAP's Community Services Director Michael Torres told county officials Tuesday. If CAP gets the grant next year, both phases would be up and running by the end of 2011, Torres said.

The Longview Housing Authority also is applying for a CDBG grant to move its offices and expand services to veterans, officials told the county Tuesday.

County commissioners will decide which project to forward to the state in November. The 2011 grants will be awarded in spring of next year.