

YEAR 37 CDBG ACTION PLAN CITY OF FITCHBURG

(Revised 4/27/11)

PUBLIC FACILITIES AND IMPROVEMENTS

Sidewalk Accessibility Improvement

\$ 20,000

Summary: Project funds will be used to bring city sidewalks into compliance with ADA requirements. The project involves removal of curbs that are obstructing universal access at 12 locations throughout the city.

Performance Measurement: SL-1. The goal of this project is to improve accessibility on city sidewalks and at intersections. Approximately 24 architectural barriers will be removed at 12 locations. The benefit of this project is an increase in opportunities for every individual to safely access schools, housing, recreation, government and businesses. It is estimated that approximately 500 people will be served by this project.

Broad Street Sidewalk Improvements

\$ 60,000

Summary: Project funds will be used to raise the curbs and construct new sidewalks on Broad Street from River Street to Circle Street. The sidewalk will be brought into ADA compliance.

Performance Measurement: SL-3. The goal of this project is to remove the safety hazards and architectural barriers by constructing approximately 650lf of new sidewalk and curbing, according to ADA standards. The benefit of this project is the elimination of safety hazards and improved drainage. It is estimated that approximately 40,000 people will be served by this project.

Park and Playground Improvements

\$ 20,000

Summary: Project funds will be used to complete the work proposed at Howarth Park, including upgrades to the basketball court, repair of walkway and accessibility improvements. The balance of funds will be used to design and construct a water spray feature and fencing at Crocker Playground.

Performance Measurement: SL-3. The goal of this project is improved recreational opportunities for individuals using city parks. Improvements include approximately 340lf of fencing at Howarth Park and 165lf of fencing at Crocker Park. The benefit to users is the provision of safe and secure recreational facilities. It is estimated that over 9,500 residents will benefit from this project.

Gateway Beautification Phase II

\$135,000

Summary: Project funds will be used for the design and streetscape improvements along various city gateway locations.

Performance Measurement: SL-3. The goal of this project is to construct an embankment against a 100ft. long retaining wall at the junction of Mechanic and High Streets and the installation of adjacent sidewalk and fencing; the installation of fencing along Cleghorn Street; and the preparation of plans, specifications and the implementation of streetscape improvements to the Main and Water Street corridors. The benefit will be improved appearance into the city, accessible and safe sidewalks, and the deterrence of illegal dumping. It is estimated that 40,000 people will benefit from this project.

TOTAL PUBLIC FACILITIES AND IMPROVEMENTS

\$235,000.00

PUBLIC SERVICES

Building Leadership and Inspiring Self-Sufficiency Project

\$ 62,700

Summary: Project funds will be used to provide an afterschool youth program, information and referral, food pantry, bi-lingual services to Latino residents, GED, ESOL and computer classes; and the Elm Street Congregational Church Youth Outreach Program. Funds will be used for staff salaries and related administrative costs. It is estimated that 9,000 -13,000 people (duplicated count) will be served. The Cleghorn Neighborhood Center is located at the 2-18 Fairmount Street in Fitchburg.

Performance Measurement: SL-1. The goal of this project is the provision of a one-stop social service program to residents in the Cleghorn neighborhood, citywide Latino information and referral services, and outreach services to the Elm Street neighborhood. The benefit of this project is individual skill-building in English proficiency, academics, social connections, family support groups, neighborhood needs assessment, access to resources and employment. It is estimated that approximately 9,000 -13,000 people (duplicated count) will benefit from this project.

Family Services Unit

\$ 25,000

Summary: Project funds will be used to pay for a Civilian Advocate position within the Fitchburg Police Department. Staff will follow up with residents who are involved in domestic violence complaints/cyber bullying/sexting, screen for high risk cases, provide assistance in the court system and make referrals to social service agencies. It is estimated that 400 individuals (duplicated count) will benefit from this service, of which 300 will be served by CDBG funds. CDBG funds will be used as a match to the Dept. of Justice Violence Against Women Grant.

Performance Measurement: SL-1. The goal of this project is to provide for the safety of victims of domestic violence. The benefit of this project will result in fewer cases of domestic violence and increased education on this issue. It is estimated that 300 (duplicated count) Fitchburg residents will benefit from the CDBG project.

Drug Enforcement

\$ 80,000

Summary: Project funds will be used to provide for police overtime expenses related to drug investigations in CDBG eligible areas. Activities include narcotic investigations, surveillance, undercover buys and search warrant services.

Performance Measurement: SL-3. The goal of this project is to reduce drug distribution in CDBG neighborhoods. The benefit of this project will result in safer neighborhoods. It is estimated that 23,871 people will benefit from this project.

MIHN Shelter Project

\$ 10,500

Summary: Project funds will be used to provide emergency shelter for homeless families in North Worcester County. Case management services are provided during a resident's stay in the program and follow-up services are provided once a family leaves the shelter. It is estimated that 20 families will be served (75-90 individuals/unduplicated count), of which 10 families will come from Fitchburg. Over 400 volunteers from 12 local churches assist in the operation of the shelter by providing meals and overnight staffing. Funds will be used for staff salaries of part-time positions, including an Administrative Assistant, Shelter Worker and Bookkeeper. The Montachusett Interfaith Hospitality Network shelter and day program are located at 196 Mechanic Street in Leominster.

Performance Measurement: SL-1. The goal of this project is the provision of shelter services to people who are without permanent housing. The benefit is the provision of a safe environment which offers families the time and assistance needed to secure permanent housing and provide case management in the areas of employment, day care, health, budgeting, education and parenting skills. It is estimated that 10 Fitchburg families will benefit from this project.

Project Learn, After-School Program and Teen Center

\$ 16,000

Summary: Project funds will be used to provide one-way transportation to the afterschool program, for Fitchburg youth between the ages of 8 and 18. It is estimated that 150 Fitchburg youth (unduplicated count) will be served. The Club provides help with homework, learning and leisure activities, promoting parent and adult involvement, collaborating with schools and other youth organization, and incentives. The Boys and Girls Club is located at 365 Lindell Street in Leominster.

Performance Measurement: SL-1. The goal of this project is to provide a safe place for students to gather after school. The benefit to program participants is the development of life skills.

TOTAL PUBLIC SERVICES

\$194,200.00

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Small Business and Microenterprise Assistance

\$ 20,000

Summary: Project funds will be used to provide outreach and technical assistance to businesses. This program helps leverage loans for small businesses. The CDC would like to expand its scope of work to include businesses that have more than five employees. It is estimated that 56 individuals (unduplicated count) will be served. In addition to people served, 37 jobs will be created/retained, 30 businesses will be counseled, 4 loans with a value of \$80,000 will be made and 23 businesses plans will be developed. Funds will be used to pay for staff salaries. The Twin Cities CDC is located at 470 Main Street. In order to meet CDBG eligibility requirements, the technical assistance provided must result in job creation and/or job retention.

Performance Measurement: EO-3. The goal of this program is to assist entrepreneurs in the start-up of small businesses in Fitchburg and assist existing businesses in the creation and retention of jobs. The benefit of this project is an increase in economic development. An estimated 56 individuals (unduplicated count) will be served. In addition to residents served, 37 jobs will be created, 30 businesses will be counseled, 4 loans with a value of \$80,000 will be made and 23 business plans will be developed.

TOTAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

\$ 20,000.00

CLEARANCE ACTIVITIES

Demolition

\$123,874.19

Summary: Project funds will be used to remove abandoned structures in the CDBG Strategy Area, which pose an imminent threat to public safety and which contribute to slums and blight. It is estimated that 10 properties (24 housing units) will be demolished.

Performance Measurement: SL-3. The goal of this project is the reduction of slums and blight and the revitalization of neighborhoods. The benefit of this project is the improved appearance of neighborhoods, increased public safety and the removal of dangerous structures. It is estimated that 10 properties will be demolished.

TOTAL CLEARANCE ACTIVITIES

\$ 123,874.19

REHABILITATION AND PRESERVATION

Elder Home Repair Program

\$ 65,000

Summary: Project funds will be used to provide home repairs and modifications to low-income elderly households in Fitchburg. Improvements include installation of handrails/grab bars/, screen/window/door/floor repairs, minor roof repairs, and hot water tank replacement. It is estimated that 15 Fitchburg households will be served. Funds will pay a portion of the salaries for the Program Assistant, Construction Manager, and Home Repair Technician and related administrative costs. The Montachusett Opportunity Council's main office is located at 133 Prichard Street.

Performance Measurement: DH-1. The goal of this project is to help elders remain in their own home for as long as possible by providing affordable home repairs. The benefit of this project to elders is improved safety, accessibility and better living conditions. It is estimated that 15 Fitchburg homes will benefit from this project.

Board of Health Code Enforcement

\$ 137,000

Summary: Project funds will be used to pay for existing Inspector positions and part-time Clerk position, and the addition of a part-time night Building Inspector. Through the enforcement of the State's Sanitary and Building Codes, Fitchburg's housing stock will be greatly improved. To be eligible, this activity must be part of a comprehensive strategy to arrest deterioration, including housing rehab and demolition. It is estimated that 5,000 housing units will be inspected in the CDBG Strategy Area. Program income collected as a result of this activity will be allocated to the existing CDBG Housing Revolving Loan Fund.

Performance Measurement: DH-1. The goal of this project is to inspect housing units in the CDBG Strategy area and ensure compliance with State Sanitary and Building Codes. The benefit of this project is the continued availability and accessibility of quality housing stock. It is estimated that 5,000 housing units will be inspected.

Buy Fitchburg Homebuyer Rehab Program

\$ 113,628

Summary: Project funds will be used to help families purchase and rehabilitate foreclosed homes in the Fitchburg CDBG Strategy Area. It is estimated that 5-10 owner-occupied housing units will be assisted. Staff will work with the Building Department and the Board of Health to identify target properties in concert with code enforcement activities.

Performance Measurement: DH-2. The goal of this project is to provide safe and affordable housing to Fitchburg's residents. The benefit is an improved and affordable housing stock. It is estimated that 5-10 owner-occupied housing units will be assisted with CDBG funds.

TOTAL REHABILITATION AND PRESERVATION

\$ 315,628.00

PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION

CDBG Administration and Planning

\$249,200

Summary: Project funds will provide for necessary administration of CDBG programs and sub-recipient contracts in accordance with federal guidelines, including staffing, technical services and planning activities. This also includes grant writing and administration of grant projects.

Performance Measurement: N/A. The goal of this project is to administer the CDBG Program in accordance with regulatory and statutory requirements. The benefit of this project is a more viable urban community with an improved quality of life for all residents, particularly those of low-to-moderate income.

TOTAL PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION

\$249,200.00

TOTAL RECOMMENDED YEAR 37 CDBG PROGRAM **\$ 1,137,902.19**

TOTAL ANTICIPATED FUNDING **\$ 1,137,902.19**

Anticipated Year 37 Entitlement	\$ 1,036,686.00
Anticipated CDBG Program Income as of 6/30/11 (BOH-\$2,000) and (Demo Payoff- \$25,000)	\$ 27,380.00
Reprogrammed Amount (unused funds from previous years)	\$ 73,836.19

PROGRAM INCOME and FUND BALANCE

CDBG Housing Revolving Loan Funds:

Anticipated Program Income July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011	\$ 196,000.00
Anticipated Fund Balance as of June 30, 2011	\$ 86,000.00
Potential Program Income from July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012	\$ 185,000.00

CDBG Business Revolving Loan Funds:

Anticipated Program Income July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011	\$ 35,000.00
Anticipated Fund Balance as of June 30, 2011	\$ 163,000.00
Potential Program Income July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012	\$ 26,400.00

FITCHBURG-LEOMINSTER CONSORTIUM HOME PROPOSED ACTION PLAN

Anticipated Year 37 HOME Formula Grant

Anticipated HOME Consortium funding for Year 37 Program	\$ 596,451.00
Estimated HOME Program Match (State) (25% of CHDO Set Aside and Homeowner Assistance)	\$ 134,201.48

Use of Funds

Performance Measurement

HOME Program Administration (10%)	(N/A)	\$ 59,645.10
CHDO Set Aside (15%)	(DH-2)	\$ 89,467.65
Homeowner Assistance (75%)	(DH-2)	\$ 447,338.25

HOME Program Income

Anticipated Program Income July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011	\$ 215,000.00
Anticipated Fund Balance as of June 30, 2011	\$ 100,000.00
Potential Program Income July 2, 2011 – June 30, 2012	\$ 50,000.00

The complete Consolidated Plan, compiled for a five year period beginning Year 37 through Year 41 and the proposed Year 37 Action Plan for CDBG and HOME may be reviewed in the Community Development Office, 718 Main Street, Fitchburg, MA. 01420, Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:30a.m. and 4:30p.m.

Public comments on the proposed Year 37 Action Plan will be accepted for thirty days from the date of this notice, or up through May 30, 2011, whichever is later. Send written comments to the Community Development Office, 718 Main Street, Fitchburg, MA. 01420. A public hearing on the proposed Action Plan will be held on Tuesday, May 17, 2011 at 5:00p.m. in the Veterans Room, First Floor, 718 Main Street, Fitchburg, MA. 01420. For further information please contact Mary McCaffrey at the Community Development Office at (978) 345-1018. TTY (for hearing impaired) (978) 345-9567.