

# THE CDBG-R SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT

Jurisdiction(s): Cook County	CDBG-R Contact Person: Judith Hamill Address: 69 W. Washington St., Chicago, IL 60602 Telephone: 312-603-1004 Fax: 312-603-9971 Email: jhamill@cookcountygov.com
Jurisdiction Web Address: www.cookcountygov.com • <i>(URL where CDBG-R Substantial Amendment materials are posted)</i>	

## COOK COUNTY

### ***CDBG-R INFORMATION BY ACTIVITY***

Cook County proposes to amend the above Action Plan and Consolidated Plan for the purpose of fulfilling the application requirements to receive Community Development Block Grant funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (CDBG-R). Making proper application to HUD by June 5, 2009 will result in Cook County receiving an allocation of \$2,853,255 to be used for ADA compliance, capital improvements, allowable administration and planning costs, clearance and demolition, public service activities, and single-family rehabilitation.

Pursuant to 24 CFR 91.220 (d) (e) and (l), the activities to be undertaken with the CDBG-R funds are:

Description of activities:

#### **I. ADA Activities – Infrastructure Improvements in order to service people with disabilities.**

Estimated number and type of families that will benefit: 100% of these funds will be spent to benefit people with disabilities. Approximately 240,082 persons in the County of Cook have some form of disability.

Specific local objectives and priority needs addressed by the activity: The realization of disability improvements will allow persons with disabilities to fully access public facilities. The County of Cook places a high priority on providing these critical improvements. The Federal law mandates that all public facilities be accessible to persons with disabilities.

Proposed accomplishments: Proposed improvements to be undertaken may include: improvements to sidewalks, parking lots and/or washrooms in order to create an environment that is barrier free and allows disabled persons equal access.

Target date for completion: Cook County estimates that these improvements will be ready to move forward in the summer of 2009. Target date for completion is before September 30, 2012.

Outcome measures: Accessibility to a barrier-free environment.

Other Recovery Act funding to be used in conjunction with the activity: \$0

Total activity budget from all funding sources: \$40,000

## **II. Capital Improvements – Public Facilities and Infrastructure Improvements**

Estimated number and type of family that will benefit: 100% of funds expended will be either to benefit areas that are low and moderate income or improve facilities that benefit persons with disabilities. Approximately 24,285 persons of low and moderate income and over 17,000 disabled persons will benefit from these programs.

Specific local objectives and priority needs addressed by the activity: The specific objective is to improve the quality of life and increase Cook County's ability to provide public improvements for both disabled and low and moderate income persons. Cook County has objectively reviewed the needs of its 129 suburban communities. The County places a high priority on water and sewer improvements and energy savings. A medium priority is placed on street and alley reconstruction. Many of Cook County's municipalities are experiencing budget issues and shortfalls. This makes being able to fund infrastructure improvements from the Community Development Block Grant fund a necessity.

Proposed accomplishments: Proposed improvements to be undertaken include water main replacement, water and sewer reconstruction, street and alley reconstruction, energy savings and roof reconstruction at CILA facilities, renovation of a senior and homeless shelter, demolition of a large blighted property, and reconstruction of a historic public facility.

Target date for completion: Cook County estimates that these improvements will be ready to move forward in the summer of 2009. Target date for completion is before September 30, 2012.

Outcome measures: Sustainability of a suitable living environment and improved quality of life.

Other Recovery Act funding to be used in conjunction with the activity: \$411,000

Total activity budget from all funding sources: \$4,878,976

### **III. Clearance and Demolition**

Estimated number and type of families that will benefit: This improvement will benefit one entire suburban community in Cook County including 1,084 low and moderate income persons.

Specific local objectives and priority needs addressed by the activity: Large parcels of land that include slum and blighted property create both a nuisance and a health hazard to a community. This dilapidation also hinders the sustainable economic development of a community. Removal of such structures immediately improves the quality of life for all residents.

Proposed accomplishments: Proposed improvements to be undertaken include the elimination of a blighted structure.

Target date for completion: Cook County estimates that this project will be underway in the autumn of 2009. Target date for completion is before spring, 2010.

Outcome measures: Sustainability in a community's quality of life.

Other Recovery Act funding to be used in conjunction with the activity: \$0

Total activity budget from all funding sources: \$1,000,000

### **IV. Public Service Activities**

Estimated number and type of families that will benefit: 100% of these funds will be spent to benefit persons of low and moderate income. Approximately 200 women of low and moderate income will benefit from this activity.

Specific local objectives and priority needs addressed by this activity: Training classes will be held for low and moderate income persons, mostly female, to engage them in retraining and business development activities. These business development activities include small business management classes and marketing training.

Proposed accomplishments: Many of the women who are trained in these programs open incubator businesses which fuel jobs within Cook County. Of particular note is that this training is aimed at entrepreneurial expertise including credit repair, loan packaging, access to capital, and assistance in accessing government and corporate contracting opportunities.

Target date for completion: Cook County estimates that this program will move forward during the summer and autumn of 2009. The target date for completion is Summer, 2010.

Outcome measures: Sustainability of opportunity for minority owned businesses.

Other Recovery Act funding to be used in conjunction with the activity: \$0

Total budget activity from all funding sources: \$30,000

## **V. Housing**

Estimated number and type of families that will benefit: 100% of these funds will be spent to benefit people who are low and moderate income. Approximately 52,000 households are in the foreclosure process in Cook County's courts. This project is aimed at mitigating foreclosure outcomes and minimizing reductions in essential services.

Specific local objectives and priority needs addressed by the activity: These are the people most affected by the recession. The Cook County courts have recognized the need for mitigating foreclosure outcomes. Additionally, Cook County realizes that families in this process also have financial needs that far exceed their ability to stay in their homes. This program is designed to keep people in their homes thereby thwarting homelessness.

Proposed accomplishments: This program is designed to stop homelessness before it begins. A foreclosure mitigation program is Cook County's response to this issue. Stopping a foreclosure before it happens will save a family from being out on the street. This investment is needed to increase economic efficiency.

Target date for completion: Cook County estimates that this program can move forward immediately. The target date for completion is before September 30, 2012.

Outcome measures: Sustainability and affordability of housing in our communities.

Other Recovery Act funding to be used in conjunction with the activity: \$0

Total activity budget from all funding sources: \$3,000,000

## **VI. Economic Development**

Estimated number and type of family that will benefit: 100% of the funds will benefit persons in low and moderate income areas. Approximately 10,000 Cook County residents will benefit from this activity.

Specific local objectives: This activity is aimed at creating jobs and promoting economic recovery. This project will improve the quality of life for Cook County residents by providing the opportunity to shop within the community's environs. This project will increase economic efficiency and foster energy independence.

Proposed accomplishments: Cook County suburban communities have experienced the loss of adequate retail business choices. In some geographic areas, there are no retail choices. This project is an attempt to provide seed money for the establishment of a retail business in suburban Cook County.

Target date for completion: Cook County estimates that this activity will be ready to move forward in the autumn of 2009. The target date for completion is September 30, 2012.

Outcome measures: Affordability and sustainability of the quality of life in Cook County's suburban communities.

Other Recovery Act funding to be used in conjunction with the activity: \$250,000

Total activity budget from all funding sources: \$5,000,000

## **VII. Administration of CDBG-R Funds**

Estimated number and type of families that will benefit: N/A

Specific local objectives and priority needs addressed by the activity: N/A

Proposed accomplishments: N/A

Target date for completion: N/A

Outcome measures: N/A

Other Recovery Act funding to be used in conjunction with the activity: N/A

Total Activity Budget from all funding sources: \$285,325

Further details regarding all of these activities are contained on the attached spreadsheet.

### **ii. Selection Criteria Discussion**

Title XII of Division A and Section 1602 of the Recovery Act require that, in selecting projects to be funded, recipients shall give priority to projects that can award contracts based on bids within 120 calendar days from the date the funds are made available to the recipients; and that for CDBG-R funds being used for infrastructure investments, recipients shall give preference to activities that can be started and completed expeditiously, including a goal of using at least 50 percent of the funds for activities that can be initiated not later than 120 calendar days after February 17, 2009. Description of how grantee will distribute and use CDBG-R funds to meet the requirements is as follows:

Cook County received \$24.5 million dollars in Community Development Block Grant applications on February 20, 2009. Cook County's CDBG entitlement allocation for 2009 is \$10,497,277. Because there were so many demands on the 2009 funding, Cook County's Planning and Development staff developed a strategy to review all projects for CDBG-R inclusion. All infrastructure requests were given high priority. These potential projects were also reviewed by the Cook County Block Grant Review Committee. Final funding decisions will be posted on the Cook County website in June, 2009. Sub-grantee agreements will be in place by mid-July. During this period, bid specifications will be prepared by the governmental units and Cook County will complete the environmental review. Once Cook County approves bid specifications, projects will go to bid and contracts will be awarded within sixty (60) days. One hundred percent of Cook County's CDBG-R funds (less administration) will be used for activities that can be initiated as quickly as possible.

iii. **Job Creation**

- A. Preserving and creating jobs and promoting economic recovery: Cook County has chosen to focus the bulk of its funding on infrastructure improvements that can be initiated immediately and that can produce the highest probability of both preserving and creating jobs. The construction industry in Cook County has been severely affected by the downsizing of the housing industry. The current economic conditions in the housing market will keep the construction industry in a downward spiral. Cook County has chosen to infuse the CDBG-R funds into construction that should help to jump start some of the local economy.
- B. Assisting those most impacted by the recession: Cook County is currently developing a Foreclosure Mitigation program that should keep families from becoming homeless.
- C. Providing investment needed to increase economic efficiency: Cook County is interested in providing investment into community based retail in order to promote both economic and energy efficiency.
- D. Investing in transportation, environmental protection, or other infrastructure that will provide long term economic benefits: Investing CDBG-R funds in neighborhood infrastructure not only preserves and creates jobs, it also provides long term benefits for neighborhoods by improving and sustaining the quality of life of its residents. Providing for these improvements ensures that neighborhoods remain desirable places to live which results in local business development and stable property values.
- E. Fostering energy independence: Cook County has developed a direct financial assistance program aimed at developing the retail business environment in the community. This local retail environment should result in less miles driven, thus fostering energy independence.

iv. For each activity, estimate job creation and retention:

Activity	Full Time Jobs Permanent	Full Time Jobs Construction	Full Time Jobs Temporary	Part Time Jobs Permanent	Part Time Jobs Construction	Part Time Jobs Temporary
ADA Activities		Retention of 3 jobs				
Capital Improvements					Creation of 60 jobs	
Clearance and Demolition		Retention of 5 jobs				
Public Service				Creation of 1 job		
Housing	Creation of 5 jobs					
Economic Development	Creation of 15 jobs			Creation of 10 jobs	Creation of 5 jobs	
Admin			Creation of 2 jobs			

- v. Description of activities that will be carried out with the CDBG-R funds that assist in the promotion of energy conservation. See section iii. E. for details on energy conservation issues. Cook County has created a detailed program of expenditures which dovetail into the 2008 and 2009 CDBG funding areas. Projects that have been reviewed in this process should provide the best effort of the county to stimulate the economy and put people back to work. All projects are anticipated to utilize the latest construction energy conservation techniques. None of the projects are specifically targeted toward the goal of energy conservation. However, some of the projects are anticipated to share EECBG monies.
- vi. Citizens and other interested parties may contact the Department of Planning and Development, County of Cook, at 69 W. Washington, Suite 2900, Chicago, Illinois, 60602. The Department of Planning and Development will accept telephone calls at (312) 603-1000 or faxes at (312) 603-9971. Public comment may also be sent to the Department in care of [jhamill@cookcounty.gov](mailto:jhamill@cookcounty.gov)

- vii. Public Notice and public comment. The public was originally notified of Cook County's intent to use the CDBG-R funding for public facilities/neighborhood infrastructure/ADA improvements/economic development/housing/public service by notice which has been placed in several libraries throughout the County. A public hearing was held on May 7, 2009, in which members of the Cook County Block Grant Advisory Committee were informed of the County's intent to move forward on CDBG-R funding. This substantial amendment was placed on the Cook County Department of Planning and Development website on June 1, 2009. The seven day public comment period will be extended to June 12, 2009 at 4:30 p.m. A summary of the public comments will be forwarded to HUD upon completion of the public comment period.

To be completed at the end of the public comment period.