City of Trenton
Department of Housing & Economic Development

Application workshop for:
Community Development Block Grant
HOME Investment Partnerships Program
Emergency Solutions Grant

December 14, 2016
Background

• Beginning in 1974, the CDBG program is one of the longest continuously run programs at HUD. The CDBG program provides annual grants on a formula basis to 1,209 general units of local government and States.

• CDBG is a flexible program that provides communities with resources to address a wide range of community development needs.
• The City of Trenton is an entitlement community which means it receives annual grants on a formula basis.

• The program is authorized under Title 1 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, Public Law 93-383, as amended.

• The objectives of the CBDG program are to:
  • Maintain **decent housing**;
  • Provide residents with a **suitable living environment**; and
  • **Expand economic opportunities**.
National Objectives

Each CDBG Activity must meet one of the 3 National Objectives

1. Benefit Low and Moderate Income (LMI) Persons
2. Prevent or Eliminate Blight
3. Meet an Urgent Need
Eligible Uses of CDBG Funds

CDBG funds may be used for, but are not limited to:
• Acquisition of real property;
• Relocation and demolition;
• Rehabilitation of residential and non-residential structures;
• Construction of public facilities and improvements, such as water and sewer facilities, streets, neighborhood centers, and the conversion of school buildings for eligible purposes;
• Public services, within certain limits;
• Activities relating to energy conservation and renewable energy resources; and
• Provision of assistance to profit-motivated businesses to carry out economic development and job creation/retention activities.
Ineligible Uses of CDBG Funds

Generally, the following types of activities are ineligible:

• Acquisition, construction, or reconstruction of buildings for the general conduct of government;

• Political activities;

• Certain income payments; and

• Construction of new housing by units of local government
Consolidated Planning Process

- **Every 5 years** the City must complete a Consolidated Plan to set priorities for the use of CDBG funds;

- **Every year** the City prepares an Action Plan to describe to the public (and HUD) how it intends to spend its annual allocation. The projects in the Action Plan can be divided into three categories.

  - Projects subgranted to organizations;
  - Projects delivered by the City; and
  - Administration expenses for oversight of the program.
FY 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan Goals

1. **Increase the Number of Affordable Units** - Continue the housing rehabilitation, first-time homebuyer, and new housing construction activities to support an increase in the number of affordable units in the City of Trenton.

2. **Slum and blight removal** - The City of Trenton seeks to improve the sustainability of suitable living environments by acquiring strategically located buildings for redevelopment.

3. **Improve public infrastructure** - Infrastructure in the low income areas of the City must be improved or expanded to improve the quality of life for lower income residents.

4. **Improve public facilities** - Public facilities serving low income residents including senior centers require capital improvements.
5. **Improve health care** - The Trenton Health Clinic provides health screening activities.

6. **Public Services** - Expand and continue non-housing community development supportive services.

7. **Provide homeless housing and services** - Creation and preservation of affordable homeownership housing opportunities including housing rehabilitation assistance, creation of new homeownership units and down payment and closing cost assistance.

8. **Acquisition** - The City will acquire one or more properties that are critical to redevelopment efforts.

9. **Administration** - Provide administrative support for the CDBG, HOME, and ESG programs.
Nonprofit Capital Improvement Program (NCIP)

- CDBG Grant
- Projects that would result in improvements to facilities/infrastructures
- Owned (or leased) by nonprofit corporations
- Where services are being delivered.
- Eligible projects
  - Energy improvements
  - And/or improvements that expand capacity or services provided at the facility.
  - Handicap Accessibility
- Services provided at the facility must benefit at least 51% low- and moderate-income persons.
HOME Investment Partnerships Program

Housing Programs – provide safe and decent housing for low and moderate income households.

- Rental Housing
- Owner-Occupied Housing
- Homebuyer Assistance
- Rehabilitation
- New Construction
Community Housing Development Organization

- Community-based
- Focus on housing
- Board composed with community residents
Emergency Solutions Grant

- Strictly limited to serving homeless or those in jeopardy of homelessness.
- Funds are awarded to the City of Trenton using a formula.
- The adoption of the 2011 HEARTH Act dramatically revised the eligible uses of ESG funds.
ESG Activities

Eligible

• Rapid Rehousing & Street Outreach;
• Emergency Shelter Essential Services, Rehab/Conversion, or Operations;
• Homeless Prevention (City-managed); and
• HMIS Support & Expenses; (City-managed).

Ineligible

• Transitional Housing
ESG Eligible Activities

Rapid Rehousing
  • Tenant-based Rental Assistance for homeless individuals

Street Outreach
  • Engagement
  • Case Management
  • Emergency Health Services
  • Emergency Mental Health Services
  • Transportation
  • Services to Special Populations
Emergency Shelters Activities

Essential Services

- Services provided to individuals and families who are in an emergency shelter: Case Management, Life Skills, Child Care; and more.

Rehabilitation and Renovation

Renovating buildings to be used as emergency shelter for homeless families and individuals.

Shelter Operations

Costs to operate and maintain emergency shelters and also provide other emergency lodging when appropriate.

Assistance required under “URA”

- Assistance required under the Uniform Relocation Assistance and
- Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (URA) as described in subpart E of the interim regulations.
Continuum of Care (CoC)

Continuum of Care is a community plan to organize and deliver housing and services to meet the needs of people who are homeless. The vision of the Continuum of Care is to develop and implement policy designed to house people as quickly as possible and provide the necessary supports to maintain housing. This plan is funded by the (HUD) through a national competition. The Trenton/Mercer CoC receives approximately $2 million annually.

CoC Membership

- Welfare Department
- Supportive housing Providers
- Homeless Service Providers
- Mental Health & Substance Abuse Providers
- City & County Government
- Homeless and Formerly Homeless Consumers

Who We Serve

- Homeless Individuals and Families
- Chronically Homeless Individuals and Families

How We Serve

- Permanent Supportive Housing
- Rapid Rehousing
- Supportive Services: Case Management Services; Job Readiness/Coaching; Mental Health Counseling; and Community Linkages.

Community Impact

- In Mercer County, homelessness has declined by 58% since 2007.
- In our community, over 200 individuals with a history of chronic homelessness are now living in permanent housing as a result of our CoC strategy to end homelessness.
### CDBG/ESG/HOME Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Application round opens</td>
<td>Late January 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Request for proposals public hearing</td>
<td>Mid-February</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deadline for submission of applications</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff review of proposals</td>
<td>March 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Draft Action Plan released</td>
<td>End of March 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-day citizen comment period and public hearing</td>
<td>March 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City Council approval of Action Plan</td>
<td>May 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Applicants notified regarding awards</td>
<td>May 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HUD review and approval</td>
<td>June 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contract Year begins</td>
<td>July 1, 2017</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Applicants are encouraged to reach out to City staff with questions throughout the application process.

Marc Leckington
mleckington@trentonnj.org
(609) 989-3536

Farrah Gee
fgee@trentonnj.org
(609) 989-3516
City of Trenton
FY 2017 Annual Action Plan
1st Public Hearing
December 14, 2016

Diana Rogers welcomed participants and explained the purpose of the meeting. The City is preparing its 2017 Annual Plan and is seeking input from the community to better focus resources for critical needs. She introduced Karen Parish and Whitney Finnstrom from Mullin and Lonergan Associates as the City’s consultants.

Karen Parish presented a power point on the grants programs – CDBG, HOME and ESG – detailing the eligible uses of the funds. She emphasized that the schedule for applications for FY 2017 is not yet set. Applications would not be available until late in January and the community would have another opportunity present their individual proposals at a subsequent meeting – probably in February. The grant funding from HUD will not be known until the new Administration and congress prepare the Federal budget for 2017 which may not occur until April. Therefore the application to HUD would not be submitted until August in all likelihood.

Summary of community comments:

1. Need for youth programs to enhance foundational skills for education and after-school care
2. Need for homeless programs: Rescue Mission of Mercer County: serve over a 1,000 persons annually. The homeless population is stable but still a major issue.
3. Recapturing of funds: will agencies be held to the 12 month contract period, even if funds aren’t received until well into the 12 month contract period? Yes, program funds are reimbursable. Agencies should plan accordingly.
4. YMCA: Gateways at key intersections and entry point to the City are important to improve aesthetics. Pennington Avenue is an important gateway.
5. Some of the non-profits have a lot of money. Non-profits should work together to fund programs.
6. Is there an effort to bring corporations into the City? Yes, the City has worked actively to bring in new businesses. Dunkin Donuts is one example. The City has worked to retro-fit buildings to draw in new companies. State programs can be used as an extra incentive to enhance economic development.
7. Meals on Wheels of Mercer County: 
   o A growing need for delivered meals to persons who are under 60 and disabled (both temporarily or permanently disabled persons).
8. Arm and Arm Homeless Prevention Services: 100-200 persons were estimated to have been impacted by funding cuts last year.
9. Young Scholars Institute After School Programs: a need exists for persons who can teach basic math and reading comprehension skills. Need staff members who can assist.

10. Day care: there is a large Hispanic population. A language barrier exists for persons trying to access services. Outreach is needed via the Spanish language paper. In addition, a large number of persons also speak Creole. Karen Parish indicated that the City may need a language access plan (LAP) update to adapt to the changing demographics.

11. A lifestyle/environmental study should be performed to see if homes that are assisted with program funds are appropriate (free of lead-based paint, etc.).

12. Street outreach is needed for homeless male youths: young men need an outreach program (need to redirect negative activity). Youthbuild is one successful program (Isles operates a similar academically oriented program in Trenton).

13. The public libraries need rehabilitation. Many are in disrepair and many have been closed. The City doesn’t operate the library system.

14. East Trenton/Mulberry needs a community center. The East Trenton Collaborative (with Habitat) could be one group to assist.