

CDBG *E-Newsletter*

Bi-Monthly Update for Participating Agencies from the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Division

CDBG Fall 2009 Community Meetings

Every fall, the Community Development Commission conducts its *Fall Community Meetings* in each of the five (5) Supervisorial Districts. In this effort, residents from the surrounding unincorporated communities, local community-based organizations, representatives from various County departments, and the Community Development Commission (CDC) come together to identify community needs. The goal is always the same: to assess community conditions, availability of facilities and services, as well as determine whether local needs are being met. If issues or concerns are identified, they can potentially be addressed through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program if they meet one (1) of

the Program's primary objectives. Such objectives include targeting benefits to low- and moderate-income residents and aiding in the prevention of neighborhood deterioration.

Projects targeted for funding such as street-improvement projects, youth services activities, and health service programs can be budgeted for future CDBG funding. We, therefore, encourage our participating agencies to promote attendance and participation at our upcoming community meetings.

For information on the dates and locations of the meetings, please refer to the *Important Dates* section on page 2 of this E-Newsletter or contact Gloria V. Ramirez, Grants Planning Specialist, at (323) 890-7188.

Infill Sites Rental Program

Everyday effects of the home foreclosure fallout seem to take center stage in the news. For this reason, past issues of the E-Newsletter have highlighted how the CDC's Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP), specifically the assistance to first-time homebuyers component, has been helping to reduce the number of foreclosed and abandoned properties in Los Angeles Urban County (County). Continuing this discussion, we would like to bring your attention to the CDC's NSP Infill Sites Rental Program, which just recently received an important "go ahead."

The NSP Infill Sites Rental Program was designed to provide financial assistance for the creation of affordable housing for low-income persons. After months of reviewing proposals submitted by interested developers, the CDC selected Cross-Roads Housing Developer to assist in the creation of affordable rental housing. The Texas-based housing developer will receive up to \$3.1 million zero interest,

55-year deferred loan to acquire, rehabilitate, and rent properties in targeted areas in the County. During the next four (4) months, Cross-Roads Housing Developer will find eligible site(s), conduct appraisals and environmental clearances, and open escrow on housing properties currently in foreclosure. The County expects that the Cross-Roads Housing Developer will acquire properties sustaining anywhere between 1- 4 units that can be quickly turned into affordable housing for low-income persons and stem the number of families facing possible homelessness.

Understanding the impact that such programs have on the community at large, the CDC is currently seeking additional funding opportunities for NSP eligible activities from both the State of California and the federal government. (For more information on additional funding resources for the CDC, please see page 2, article entitled, *Los Angeles County Seeks Additional Funding Opportunities...*).



Los Angeles County Seeks Additional Funding Opportunities to Address Homelessness, Foreclosure, Infrastructure Improvements, and Job Creation

In an effort to stimulate the economy, curb the growing number of foreclosures, and decrease unemployment rates, Congress passed the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA)*. Under ARRA, states and units of local government, including the County, are eligible to apply and receive one-time funding for various community development programs ranging from homelessness prevention to infrastructure improvements.

Homelessness Prevention Funding

Following the first set of notices released by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in May 2009, the CDBG Division submitted its ARRA application (also known as the One-Year Action Plan amendment) for the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP). HPRP will allocate approximately \$12 million to the County to provide financial assistance and services to either prevent at-risk individuals and families from becoming homeless or help those who are experiencing homelessness to be quickly re-housed and stabilized.

Energy Efficiency, Infrastructure, and Job Creation Funding



Submission of another Action Plan amendment followed in June for approximately \$7.9 million in Community Development Block Grant-Recovery (CDBG-R) Program funds. Over 70 proposed projects will receive CDBG-R funding allowing the County to invest in infrastructure and other

public facility improvements designed to quickly spur economic investment, increase energy efficiency, and promote job creation or retention.

Funding for Foreclosed and Abandoned Properties

Taking advantage of available funding to address the problem of foreclosed and abandoned properties throughout the County, the CDBG Division also submitted applications to the State of California and HUD for additional NSP funds. The CDC anticipates an additional allocation of approximately \$4.8 million in NSP funds from the State and based on a competitive process, as much as \$61 million is available from HUD, to purchase, rehabilitate, and



resale foreclosed and abandoned homes. With this additional State and federal aid, the County will continue to offer first-time, low- to moderate-income homebuyers zero interest, deferred loans, and down payment assistance, decreasing the number of foreclosed and abandoned properties throughout targeted Los Angeles County areas.

The CDC expects to receive and execute its various grant agreements with HUD for the HPRP and CDBG-R funds sometime this fall. The same is expected for the State of California's NSP. In the meantime, the CDC will continue to work with local agencies to determine the best plan of action for each program.

For more information on the County's amendments and funding applications currently in process, please visit the CDC's website at: www.lacdc.org.

Summary of CDBG Pursuit of ARRA Funding Opportunities:

- HPRP: \$12,197,108
- CDBG-R: \$8,080,528
- State of California NSP: \$4,804,152
- NSP2: up to \$61,000,000

Important Dates August-September

8/18/2009

Financial Training for new Agencies @ CDC
Commission Room,
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

8/19/2009

City Quarterly Meeting @ CDC Commission Room,
9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

8/19/2009

CDBG-R Training @ CDC Commission Room,
11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

8/27/2009

Annual Labor Compliance Training @ CDC Commission Room,
1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

8/27/2009

Financial Closeout for projects that expired 6/30/2009

Fall 2009

Community Meetings

9/1/2009

1st District Community Meeting @ Graham Elementary
Los Angeles, CA
6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

9/3/2009

2nd District Community Meeting @ Lennox Park
Lennox, CA
6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

9/10/2009

3rd District Community Meeting @ San Fernando Regional Pool Facility
San Fernando, CA
6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

9/15/2009

4th District Community Meeting @ Rowland Heights Library
Rowland Heights, CA
6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

9/17/2009

5th District Community Meeting @ Pamela Park Duarte, CA
6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.