

**City of Columbus, Ohio**  
**THE CDBG-R SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT**

Jurisdiction(s): City of Columbus, Ohio	CDBG-R Contact Person: Philip Carter, Grants Coordinator, City of Columbus, Department of Finance and Management
Jurisdiction Web Address: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="http://www.columbus.gov">www.columbus.gov</a></li></ul>	Address: 90 W. Broad Street Telephone: 614.645.7492 Fax: 614.645.7139 Email: <a href="mailto:pdcarter@columbus.gov">pdcarter@columbus.gov</a>

**ENSURING RESPONSIBLE SPENDING OF RECOVERY ACT FUNDS**

*Funding available under the Recovery Act has clear purposes – to stimulate the economy through measures that modernize the Nation’s infrastructure, improve energy efficiency, and expand educational opportunities and access to health care. HUD strongly urges grantees to use CDBG-R funds for hard development costs associated with infrastructure activities that provide basic services to residents or activities that promote energy efficiency and conservation through rehabilitation or retrofitting of existing buildings. While the full range of CDBG activities is available to grantees, the Department strongly suggests that grantees incorporate consideration of the public perception of the intent of the Recovery Act in identifying and selecting projects for CDBG-R funding.*

The City of Columbus (city) was awarded \$1,728,023 of Community Development Block Grant Recovery (CDBG-R) funds from HUD. On May 20, 2009, the city will begin a 7 day public comment period on the proposed CDBG-R plan and will accept public comments through May 27, 2009. Columbus City Council’s Health, Housing and Human Services Committee will discuss this proposed substantial amendment on May 20, 2009 at 5:30 in City Council Chambers, located at 90 W. Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio, 43215. City Council will vote on the substantial amendment legislation on June 1, 2009. The city will submit the CDBG-R application to HUD by June 5, 2009. The city’s CDBG-R application and plan will be an amendment to the Consolidated Plan’s 2008 Action Plan.

The remainder of this application contains responses to HUD’s application format (in italics) followed by the city’s responses.

***A. SPREADSHEET FOR REPORTING PROPOSED CDBG-R ACTIVITIES***

*Grantees must provide information concerning CDBG-R assisted activities in an electronic spreadsheet provided by HUD. The information that must be reported in the spreadsheet includes activity name, activity description, CDBG-R dollar amount*

*budgeted, eligibility category, national objective citation, additional Recovery Act funds for the activity received from other programs, and total activity budget. An electronic copy of the spreadsheet and the format is available on HUD's recovery website at <http://www.hud.gov/recovery>.*

The City of Columbus' HUD CDBG-R spreadsheet is attached.

***B. CDBG-R INFORMATION BY ACTIVITY (COMPLETE FOR EACH ACTIVITY)***

**(1) Activity Name: Economic Development Loan Program**

**(2) Activity Narrative:**

*In addition to the Spreadsheet for Reporting Proposed CDBG-R Activities, grantees must provide a narrative for each activity describing how the use of the grantee's CDBG-R funds will meet the requirements of Title XII of Division A and Section 1602 of ARRA. The grantee's narrative must also state how CDBG-R funds will be used in a manner that maximizes job creation and economic benefit in relation to the CDBG-R funds obligated, and will address the Recovery Act, by:*

- *Preserving and creating jobs and promoting economic recovery;*
- *Assisting those most impacted by the recession;*
- *Providing investment needed to increase economic efficiency;*
- *Investing in transportation, environmental protection, or other infrastructure that will provide long-term economic benefits;*
- *Minimizing or avoiding reductions in essential services; or*
- *Fostering energy independence.*

The Economic Development Loan Program will provide a variety of loans to small businesses. One loan product has an emphasis on minority-owned businesses. This program will also make available to businesses fixed asset financing through expansion. Loans will leverage and/or reduce the cost of business borrowing. A variety of lending tool provisions under this program offer attractive financing terms to spur investment.

\$546,727 in 2009 CDBG loan repayments is currently allocated to this program. The City of Columbus has budgeted \$1,000,000 of CDBG-R funds for this same loan program. This loan program has a track record of generating private investment at twice the amount of the original CDBG funds invested. No other Recovery Act funding has been allocated for this loan program.

The City of Columbus currently has a pipeline list of businesses waiting for loan funds to initiate their expansion projects. The city anticipates that these funds will be under contract within 120 calendar days from the date the funds are made available. The \$1,000,000 in CDBG-R funds will allow the City to provide five to ten loans to individual credit worthy companies.

**(3) Jobs Created: (Report the number of full- and part-time jobs estimated to be created and retained by the activity (including permanent, construction, and temporary jobs)).**

These companies will create 35 to 50 full-time jobs, 51 percent of the jobs being provided to low- to moderate income individuals, and may retain many times that number of jobs.

This loan program will definitely assist in the economic recovery process. The 35 to 50 jobs being created by the CDBG-R funds for the Economic Development Loan Program will be assisting those most impacted by the recession because 51% of jobs created are required to be low-to-moderate income individuals.

- (4) *Additional Activity Information:* (A description of how the activity will promote energy conservation, smart growth, green building technologies, or reduced pollution emissions, if applicable.)

This section is not applicable to this program.

- (5) *Responsible Organization:* (Contact information for the organization that will implement the CDBG-R activity, including its name, location, and administrator contact information)

The contact person for the Economic Development Loan Program is Betsy Meleski, Program Coordinator. She can be reached at blmeleski@columbus.gov or by phone at 614-645-8644.

(1) *Activity Name:* **Affordable Housing Opportunity Fund**

(2) *Activity Narrative:*

*In addition to the Spreadsheet for Reporting Proposed CDBG-R Activities, grantees must provide a narrative for each activity describing how the use of the grantee's CDBG-R funds will meet the requirements of Title XII of Division A and Section 1602 of ARRA. The grantee's narrative must also state how CDBG-R funds will be used in a manner that maximizes job creation and economic benefit in relation to the CDBG-R funds obligated, and will address the Recovery Act, by:*

- *Preserving and creating jobs and promoting economic recovery;*
- *Assisting those most impacted by the recession;*
- *Providing investment needed to increase economic efficiency;*
- *Investing in transportation, environmental protection, or other infrastructure that will provide long-term economic benefits;*
- *Minimizing or avoiding reductions in essential services; or*
- *Fostering energy independence.*

The Affordable Housing Opportunity Fund allows for three programmatic components: Home Modification Program, Chores Program and the Roof Repair Program.

Home Modification Program provides financing to both homeowners and owners of rental properties to make accessibility modifications. The program finances modifications to the homes of persons with disabilities to increase the independent living opportunities in his/her home. The removal of architectural and attitudinal barriers would allow the severely disabled the same freedom to participate in the community as other citizens and foster the individual's dignity and self-respect through the ability to make decisions and manage one's own life. A total of \$100,000 of CDBG-R funds will be allocated to the Home Modification Program. Contractors are selected on a bid basis from among approved contractors. While funding coordination is always sought, there is no other known Recovery Act funding that will coordinate with this program. Approximately 10 low- and moderate-income households will be served with this program.

Chores Program provides up to \$1,000 in minor home maintenance to income-eligible elderly and/or disabled homeowners to enable them to remain in their homes. The City of Columbus will make referrals to subrecipient agencies that will retain service providers to perform minor electrical, carpentry, plumbing and masonry repairs. A total of \$100,000 of CDBG-R funds will be allocated to the Chores Program. Each funding recipient seeks additional funds for its program and several have been successful in obtaining Ohio Housing Trust Fund monies and Federal Home Loan Bank funding. There is no known Recovery Act funding that will coordinate with this program. There is a great need in the community for Senior and Disabled minor home repair services and requests have outpaced available resources. Since agencies have requests that cannot be currently filled due to funding, the bid and award of contracts can be accomplished within 120 days. Approximately 100 low and moderate income households will be served with this program.

Roof Repair Program provides financing to eligible homeowners with assistance for roof and other related roof element repairs critical to preserving the housing stock and enabling homeowners to remain in their homes. The repair and/or replacement of the roof and roof elements necessary to effect a sound, watertight repair are permitted uses for these funds. Roof elements include, but are not limited to: chimneys, coverings, sheathing, rafters, flashings, vents, structural members, soffits, fascia, gutters and downspouts. Proper ventilation of the structure to prevent the condensation of moisture shall be considered a necessary condition of the repair. A total of \$508,023 will be allocated to the Roof Repair Program. The Roof Repair Program will explore the coordination of CDBG-R funds with Weatherization Assistance Program funds made available to local agencies through Recovery Act funding provided to the Department of Energy. Weatherization funds cannot be used in homes with existing roof leaks. The combination of these funds and programs would extend the impact of both programs for low income homeowners. The two local agencies receiving these Weatherization Assistance funds are Columbus Impact Community Action and Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission. Completed applications, submission of bids and executed contracts can be achieved in 120 days. Approximately 40 roof repair projects will assist low and moderate income homeowners who are unable to afford repairs and whose primary investment is deteriorating due to water damage from a leaky roof. On projects combined with Weatherization Assistance Program funds, the homeowners will also benefit from utility cost savings.

*(3) Jobs Created: (Report the number of full- and part-time jobs estimated to be created and retained by the activity (including permanent, construction, and temporary jobs)).*

Home Modification projects will provide a total of 800 hours of full-time, temporary construction work. These temporary construction jobs will be spread over 10 Home Modification projects and an estimated 5 contractors. Chores projects will provide a total of 400 hours of full-time, temporary construction work. These temporary construction jobs will be spread over 100 Chores projects and an estimated 10 contractors. Roof repair projects will provide a total of 9 months of full-time, temporary construction work for 5 workers. These temporary construction jobs will be spread over 40 roof repair projects and an estimated 15 contractors. These projects will, at a minimum, retain and potentially create new jobs for construction workers impacted by the recession.

*(4) Additional Activity Information: (A description of how the activity will promote energy conservation, smart growth, green building technologies, or reduced pollution emissions, if applicable.)*

Home modification work done under this program will be done using the most energy efficient methods possible. Use of the funds for this program will promote smart growth by allowing disabled persons to remain in their homes.

Minor home repairs done under the Chores program will be done using the most energy efficient methods possible. Use of the funds for this program will promote smart growth by allowing seniors and disabled persons to remain in their homes.

The Roof Repair Program, particularly when combined with Weatherization Assistance Program funds promotes energy conservation, storm water management and smart growth by assisting people to remain in their current homes.

(5) *Responsible Organization: (Contact information for the organization that will implement the CDBG-R activity, including its name, location, and administrator contact information)*

The contact person for the Affordable Housing Opportunity Fund is Kim Stands, Assistant Housing Administrator. He can be contacted by email at kistands@columbus.gov or by phone at 614-645-7571.

(1) *Activity Name:* **Environmental Nuisance Program**

(2) *Activity Narrative:*

*In addition to the Spreadsheet for Reporting Proposed CDBG-R Activities, grantees must provide a narrative for each activity describing how the use of the grantee's CDBG-R funds will meet the requirements of Title XII of Division A and Section 1602 of ARRA. The grantee's narrative must also state how CDBG-R funds will be used in a manner that maximizes job creation and economic benefit in relation to the CDBG-R funds obligated, and will address the Recovery Act, by:*

- *Preserving and creating jobs and promoting economic recovery;*
- *Assisting those most impacted by the recession;*
- *Providing investment needed to increase economic efficiency;*
- *Investing in transportation, environmental protection, or other infrastructure that will provide long-term economic benefits;*
- *Minimizing or avoiding reductions in essential services; or*
- *Fostering energy independence.*

The Environmental Nuisance program includes a component to contract for services to remove grass, weeds and rank growth which may potentially create, directly or indirectly, a health hazard or may endanger public safety. A total of \$20,000 of CDBG-R funds will be allocated to the Environmental Nuisance program. Contractors are selected on a bid basis from among approved contractors. While funding coordination is always sought, there is no known Recovery Act funding that will coordinate with this program.

There is a long standing need in the community for the services to remove grass, weeds, and rank growth. It is expected that because of the increased need for these essential services that the bid and award of contracts can be accomplished within 120 days after funds are made available.

The number of projects completed is based on the average abatement of \$175.00. An administrative cost of \$192.00 shall be attached to each property abated. The assessments created shall be certified to the Franklin County Auditor as future tax liens.

(3) Jobs Created: (Report the number of full- and part-time jobs estimated to be created and retained by the activity (including permanent, construction, and temporary jobs)).

The weed cutting contracts will provide a total of 1,000 hours of part-time, temporary lawn care work. These temporary lawn care jobs will be spread over 114 projects and an estimated 5 contractors.

(4) Additional Activity Information: (A description of how the activity will promote energy conservation, smart growth, green building technologies, or reduced pollution emissions, if applicable.)

These areas are not applicable to this program.

(5) Responsible Organization: (Contact information for the organization that will implement the CDBG-R activity, including its name, location, and administrator contact information)

The contact person for the Weed Cutting Contracts is Martin Cahill, Community Relations Coordinator. He can be contacted by email at [mtcahill@columbus.gov](mailto:mtcahill@columbus.gov) or by phone at 614-645-7122.

### ***C. PUBLIC COMMENT***

*Provide a summary of public comments received to the proposed CDBG-R Substantial Amendment.*

**Note:** *A Proposed CDBG-R Substantial Amendment must be published via the usual methods and posted on the jurisdiction's website for no less than 7 calendar days for public comment.*

Response: This section will be completed after the 7 day public comment period. The proposed CDBG-R Substantial Amendment and all related CDBG-R documents and information can be located on the web at: [http://wbt1.finance.ci.columbus.oh.us/content.aspx?id=17668&menu\\_id=574](http://wbt1.finance.ci.columbus.oh.us/content.aspx?id=17668&menu_id=574)

On May 20, 2009, the city will begin a 7 day public comment period on the proposed CDBG-R plan and will accept public comments through May 27, 2009. Columbus City Council's Health, Housing and Human Services Committee will discuss this proposed CDBG-R legislation on May 20, 2009 at 5:30 in City Council Chambers, located at 90 W. Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio, 43215. City Council will vote on this substantial amendment legislation on June 1, 2009.