

2011 ONE YEAR ACTION PLAN

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) OBJECTIVES & PROJECTED USE OF FUNDS

On June 1, 2011 the County of Essex will enter its 35th year in the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. The County proposes to fund the following activities totaling \$5,698,296 (excluding program income derived from the Revolving Loan Programs), with the projected 2011 entitlement of \$5,698,296.

2011 One Year Action Plan Public Comment Period

The 2011 One Year Action Plan has been developed in accordance with the County's adopted Citizen Participation Plan, which provides for and encourages citizen participation during the program's planning process. The provision of program information began with individual municipal meetings and will culminate with a Countywide Public Hearing to solicit public comments on the 2011 Action Plan. This hearing will be held at 6 PM on June 1, 2011 at The Essex County Hospital Center, 204 Grove Ave., Cedar Grove, New Jersey 07009. The meeting location is fully accessible to persons with physical disabilities. Persons unable to attend the Hearing may request a copy of the 2011 One Year Action Plan by contacting the Division of Housing and Community Development at 20 Crestmont Road, Verona, New Jersey 07044.

The hearing is scheduled to entertain citizen comments on this proposed Community Development Block Grant, Home Investment Partnership Program and Emergency Solutions Grant Program statement of objectives prior to submission to the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development on June 20, 2011. In 2011, 97% of the appropriated funds or \$5,548,656 will benefit low and moderate-income persons. The Division staff will review all comments and respond to EACH commentator in a timely manner. Based on this information, the plan will be presented to the Essex County Board of Chosen Freeholders. The deadline for submission to U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development is June 21, 2011. Allocations are pending official notification from the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development final 2011 Fiscal Year allocation.

Statistics regarding the level of benefit to such individuals under each project/program outlined in this notice can be found in the 2011 One Year Action Plan. **Beginning May 16, 2011 Copies of Draft Action Plan** will be made available at the Office of the Division of Housing & Community Development, 20 Crestmont Road, Verona, NJ 07044 and available on the Essex County Website at <http://essex-countynj.org>. The Division of Housing & Community Development will be accepting public comments for a period of 30 days beginning May 13, 2011 and conclude June 13, 2011.

All program and project records are available for inspection at the Division of Housing & Community Development, 20 Crestmont Road, Verona, New Jersey during the office hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Interested citizens should contact the Division at (973) 655-0200 or fax (973) 655-0982.

The goal of the Essex County Community Development Block Grant Program is to enhance the development of viable communities by assisting in the provision of decent housing, a suitable living environment and expanded economic opportunities, principally for persons of low to moderate income. The proposed programs are designed to meet the following objectives:

- To reconstruct, replace, rehabilitate, acquire or construct facilities including street, water, sewer, fire protection, recreational, parking, neighborhood center and barrier-free facilities. (See Categories II & IV)
- To eliminate conditions detrimental to health, safety and public welfare. (See Categories I, II & IV)
- To conserve and expand the County's housing stock. (See Category I)
- To assist in the provision of counseling, education, recreation and related public services. (See Categories I & V)
- To assist in the conservation, expansion and construction of commercial and industrial facilities. (See Category III)

Listed below are the proposed activities for 2011. The activities are divided by project type and municipality. Numbers are rounded to the nearest dollar. The total of programmed funds and percentage of the total grant benefiting low to moderate income persons (including planning and management, administration and program delivery) is provided under the Program Information section.

I - HOUSING REHABILITATION/COUNSELING

These activities provide for the rehabilitation, stabilization and preservation of the housing stock, particularly that occupied by low and moderate-income people. Additionally, these activities prevent the spread of deterioration by improving homes and counseling tenants on their rights and responsibilities. This year \$923,781 of CDBG funds will be requested for the following:

Home Improvement Program	\$489,781
Home Improvement Administration	\$335,000
Tenant Resource Center	\$99,000

II FACILITIES

Funds provided in this category serve to eliminate and prevent unsafe and/or unhealthy conditions in neighborhood facilities throughout the County. In addition, funds are provided to the facilities for expansion and/or rehabilitation projects. These facilities are either located in and/or utilized by persons, the majority of whom are low and moderate

income. This year \$1,566,600 has been recommended to assist communities in the preservation and rehabilitation of the following facilities:

Belleville

Belleville Track and Field Facility \$410,000

Caldwell

Construction of Elevator at Municipal Building \$70,900

Livingston

ADA Improvements Monmouth Court Community Center \$62,000

Maplewood

ADA Improvements to Civic House Maplewood Memorial Park \$129,860

Millburn

Barrier Free Improvements–Short Hills Train Station \$60,000

Montclair

Neighborhood Childcare Center – Leasehold Improvements \$150,000

Bay Street Parking Facility Improvements \$41,750

Roseland

ADA Improvement to Municipal Restrooms \$60,500

South Orange

South Orange Performing Arts Center \$149,640

West Orange

Valley Settlement House-Roof Replacement \$12,000

Downtown Streetscape Planters \$20,000

Countywide

First Cerebral Palsy of New Jersey – School Foundation Repair \$200,000

Clara Maass Medical Center- Cancer Center Reconstruction \$60,000

Family Connections –Client Kitchen Renovation \$23,550

JCC Metrowest-Maurice Levin Theater ADA Improvements \$10,000

Northwest Essex Comm. Healthcare Network-Window Replacement \$34,400

Wynona’s House – Flooring Repairs & Renovations \$72,000

III PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS

Funds provided under this category are used to replace, rehabilitate or reconstruct streets, sewers, drainage systems, roads, curbs, and sidewalks. This year \$1,444,506 is being recommended for the following:

<u>Cedar Grove</u> Reconstruction of Marley Ave.	\$88,125
<u>Fairfield</u> ADA Pedestrian Improvements to Hollywood Ave	\$73,765
<u>Glen Ridge</u> ADA Street Ramp Improvements	\$50,000
<u>Nutley</u> Edgar Place Reconstruction	\$149,533
Vreeland Ave. Reconstruction	\$66,544
<u>Orange</u> Center Street Roadway Reconstruction	\$447,116
<u>Verona</u> Bloomfield Ave. Streetscape Improvements Phase VIII	\$137,643
<u>West Caldwell</u> ADA Pedestrian Curb Ramps	\$62,780
<u>West Orange</u> Seward Street Reconstruction	\$69,000
Edisonia Terrace Reconstruction	\$98,000
Shepard Terrace Reconstruction	\$100,000
William Street Reconstruction	\$70,000
Cherry Street Reconstruction	\$32,000

IV PUBLIC SERVICES

All funds provided under the Public Service category would assist in providing counseling, drug treatment services, educational programs, recreational programs and other supportive services for elderly, handicapped, youth and other low/moderate income persons throughout the County. This year \$623,750 has been recommended for the following areas:

Montclair

MNDC – Project Oasis Youth Program	\$45,000
HOME Corp – Financial Literacy Program	\$30,000
Interfaith Hospitality Network – Transitional Housing Services	\$30,000
Bluewave Community Center-After School Tutoring Program	\$50,500
United Way of North Essex – Family Success Center	\$30,000
COPE Center, Inc. – Counseling Services	\$30,000

Orange

Helping Hands & Ears Food Pantry and Social Services	\$25,000
Main Street Counseling Center - School Based Mental Health Svc.	\$18,000
Valley Arts, Inc.-Young Artist Program	\$10,000
Interfaith Hospitality Network-Home for Good	\$20,000

West Orange

Bethany Center for Champions-Outreach for At-Risk Youth	\$33,750
Main Street Counseling-Accessible Mental Health Program	\$10,000

Countywide

ARC Disability Maintenance Coordinator	\$10,000
EIES of New Jersey – Radio Reader Service	\$10,000
Family Service League – Rape Crisis Services	\$10,000
Ironbound Soccer Club- Youth Training Program	\$5,000
Jewish Family Services-Frail Adult Program	\$10,000
Mental Health Association – Vehicle Replacement	\$25,000
National Council for Jewish Women-Economic Empowerment Program	\$12,500
NJ Citizen’s Action-Foreclosure Prevention & Homebuyer Counseling	\$40,000
Newark Youth Golf – Summer Program Hendricks Field	\$5,000
North Ward Center – Casa Israel Senior Services	\$65,000
Northwest Essex Community Healthcare Network Services (WERC)	\$49,000
Opportunity Project -Pre-Vocational Training & Work Adjustment	\$20,000
Planned Parenthood – HIV Counseling & Testing	\$10,000
Saint James Social Service Corp- Emergency Food & Crisis Prevention	\$10,000
Urban League of Essex County-Community Career Center	\$10,000

V PLANNING & ADMINISTRATION

Administration of the CDBG Program involves the planning and execution of the projects, program coordination, evaluation, and monitoring provision of technical assistance and dissemination of information to municipal officials and the general public. This year \$1,139,659 is being recommended for allocation under this category.

Countywide

Administration	\$1,139,659
----------------	-------------

CERP Facade Program

The County has established a grant pool through the reprogramming process that is intended to promote revitalization in eligible communities' downtown shopping districts entitled Community Economic Revitalization Grant Program (CERP). Through the grant program, building or business owners in eligible designated areas can apply through the municipality for 50% of the project costs associated with façade renovations. The building or business owners are responsible for providing a 50% match to the grant funds. The County has not set aside additional funds from its 2011 entitlement for this program.

HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM (HOME) **Proposed Use of Funds**

In the 2011 Program Year, the County of Essex anticipates to receive an entitlement of \$1,524,852. The County of Essex must reserve a minimum of 15% of its entitlement or \$228,728 for use by Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDO). The following projects/programs will be implemented to address the housing needs of Essex County residents. HOME regulations require 25% matching funds towards the overall program. These funds come from various local, state and non-profit sources. It should be noted all required matching funds would be used to supplement the proposed use of funds.

First Time Homebuyers

The program provides for down payment assistance and/or closing costs of structures for sale to first time homebuyers who are at or below 80% of median income. The program may incorporate a deferred payment loan in the form of a permanent lien repayable only upon sale or transfer of the property when necessary to make the purchase affordable.

In the case of properties requiring rehabilitation, all work will be completed and the property brought to HQS prior to the purchase of the property by the program applicant. In many cases the renovation will be performed by an eligible and qualified CHDO.

Rental Housing

In 2011, the County plans to expend at least \$228,728 on projects that support the production of rental housing. Once again, the County will be providing HOME assistance in the form of loans.

The Division plans on utilizing Reprogrammed HOME funds for new housing and development. The Division will amend the plan accordingly.

Property owners will be eligible to apply for low interest loans for the rehabilitation of affordable housing units. The units will be required to remain affordable to very low and

low-income persons for the 5 to 20 year period depending upon the amount of HOME assistance per unit. These projects are:

Countywide

Affordable Housing Development Program \$1,143,639

Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO)

As stated previously, the HOME Program mandates each participating jurisdiction to set aside at least 15% of its HOME funds for use by one or more CHDOs. This year, the County will expend a minimum of \$228,728 on projects involving CHDOs.

Planning & Administration

Administration of the HOME Program involves the planning and execution of the projects, program coordination, evaluation, monitoring and the provision of technical assistance and dissemination of information to municipal officials and the general public. This year \$152,485 is being recommended for allocation under this category.

EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT PROGRAM

On June 1, 2011 the County of Essex will enter its 22nd year in the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Emergency Solutions Grant Program (ESG). The County proposes to fund the following projects for the total grant of \$383,360. Therefore, the County proposes to fund the following projects ranging from rehabilitation work to the provision of essential services.

Montclair

Salvation Army – Shelter Nights / Administration Costs \$10,000

Countywide

Apostles' House-Roof Replacement 24 Grant Street	\$38,400
Circle of Life-Case Management Services	\$10,000
Integrity Inc.-Operations & Maintenance Services	\$20,000
Interfaith Hospitality Network – HPRP Services Shelter Nights	\$32,850
Interfaith Hospitality Network-Operations & Maintenance Services	\$10,000
New Community Corp Harmony House – Case Management	\$20,000
Newark YWMCA – Shelter Expansion	\$80,000
SEED Time Outreach Center, Inc.-HPRP Case Management	\$20,000
United Community Corporation – Homeless Shelter Elevator	\$40,000
Division of Community Action – HPRP Case Management	\$83,110
Planning & Administration	\$19,000

JOSEPH N. DI VINCENZO, JR.
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

GEORGE F. SERIO, JR
DEPUTY DIVISION DIRECTOR