

2014 ONE YEAR ACTION PLAN

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT OBJECTIVES & PROJECTED USE OF FUNDS

On June 1, 2014 the County of Essex will enter its 38th 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 the 2014 entitlement of \$4,605,513.

2014 One Year Action Plan Public Comment Period

The 2014 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 2014 Action Plan. This hearing will be held at 6 PM on May 7, 2014 at The Salvation Army, 13 Trinity Place, Montclair, New Jersey 07042. The meeting location is fully accessible to persons with physical disabilities. Persons unable to attend the Hearing may request a copy of the 2014 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 May 23, 2014. 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.

Statistics regarding the level of benefit to such individuals under each project/program outlined in this notice can be found in the 2014 One Year Action Plan. **Beginning April 17, 2014 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 thirty (30) days beginning April 18, 2014 and conclude May 19, 2014.

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, III & 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)

Listed below are the proposed activities for 2014. 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 \$865,992 of CDBG funds will be requested for the following:

Home Improvement Program	\$772,782
Tenant Resource Center	\$93,210

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 \$756,435 has been recommended to assist communities in the preservation and rehabilitation of the following facilities:

Cedar Grove

Barrier Free Improvements to North End Firehouse Restroom	\$62,100
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Livingston

ADA Improvements to Monmouth Court & Haines Pool	\$42,265
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<u>Montclair</u>	
ARC Generator for Group Home	\$8,800
<u>Maplewood</u>	
ADA Restroom Improvements to Hilton Branch Library	\$102,589
<u>Nutley</u>	
ADA Improvements to Parks Walkway	\$16,000
<u>Orange</u>	
Central Park Spray & Play Facility	\$266,915
<u>Roseland</u>	
ADA Improvements to Municipal Building	\$40,250
<u>South Orange</u>	
South Orange Performing Arts Center	\$118,216
<u>Countywide</u>	
ARC of Essex – Emergency Generator	\$30,000
Family Connections, Inc. – Renovations & Expansion of Agency	\$15,000
FOCUS – Replacement HVAC System	\$38,500
Northwest Essex Comm. Healthcare Network- Bldg. Renovations	\$15,800

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 \$1,195,561 is being recommended for the following:

<u>Belleville</u>	
Roadway Reconstruction Lawrence St. (Entire Length)	\$206,000
Roadway Reconstruction Quinton St. (Entire Length)	\$126,000
<u>Fairfield</u>	
ADA Curb Ramps to Municipal Complex	\$53,540
<u>Glen Ridge</u>	
ADA Street Ramp Improvements	\$39,500
<u>Millburn</u>	
ADA Street Ramp Improvements	\$42,475
<u>Montclair</u>	
Glenridge Avenue Streetscape Improvements Phase III	\$182,400

Nutley

Roadway Reconstruction Conover Ave. (Hancox Ave. to St. Mary's Pl.)	\$143,908
Roadway Reconstruction Chestnut & Willow Place	\$17,000

Verona

Reconstruction of Gould & Reid Place	\$108,738
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West Orange

Roadway Reconstruction Cherry Street	\$276,000
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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 \$573,227 has been recommended for the following areas:

Montclair

MNDC – Project Oasis Youth Program	\$21,000
HOME Corp – Financial Literacy Program	\$12,500
Interfaith Hospitality Network – Transitional Housing Services	\$21,000
Succeed2gether - After School Tutoring Program	\$21,000
Family Service League – Rape Victim & Family Counseling	\$ 9,996
United Way of North Essex – Job Resource & Skill Building	\$12,500
COPE Center, Inc. – Families Empowered	\$21,000
Start Out Fresh Intervention Advocates (S.O.F.I.A.) Soar to Success	\$12,731

Orange

Helping Hands & Ears Food Pantry and Social Services	\$25,000
Main Street Counseling Center - School Based Mental Health Svc.	\$15,000
Horizons Community Development – Admin	\$10,000
Circle of Excellence – After School Program	\$43,350
Orange Public Library – Saturday Literacy Program	\$50,000

West Orange

Main Street Counseling – Accessible Mental Health Program	\$10,000
Bethany Center for Champions – Outreach for At-Risk Youth	\$65,000

Countywide

1 st Cerebral Palsy – Nursing Support Services	\$15,000
ASUN Star – Future Leaders of Tomorrow After School Program	\$ 7,000
Big Brothers & Big Sisters	\$ 7,000
EIES of New Jersey – Radio Reader Service	\$ 7,900
First Community Development Corp. – Vocational Training	\$ 7,000
Hudson Community Enterprises – Operation Hope	\$ 7,000
Jewish Family Services-Frail Adult Program	\$ 7,900
Mental Health Association – Vehicle Replacement	\$ 9,875
National Council for Jewish Women-Economic Empowerment Program	\$ 9,875
North Ward Center – Casa Israel Senior Services	\$51,000
Northwest Essex Community Healthcare Network Services	\$38,000
O.A.R. – EMERGE Women’s Empowerment Project	\$ 7,000
Opportunity Project -Pre-Vocational Training & Work Adjustment	\$15,800
Planned Parenthood – HIV Counseling & Testing	\$ 7,900
Saint James Social Service Corp- Emergency Food & Crisis Prevention	\$ 7,900
The Bridge, Inc. – Admin	\$17,000

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 \$1,214,298 is being recommended for allocation under this category.

Countywide

Administration	\$921,102
Program Delivery Costs for CDBG Activities (Environmental Reviews, Davis Bacon Monitoring, etc.)	\$100,000
Home Improvement Revolving Loan Program Delivery Costs	\$193,196

HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM (HOME)

Proposed Use of Funds

In the 2014 Program Year, the County of Essex anticipates to receive an entitlement of \$877,134. The County of Essex must reserve a minimum of 15% of its entitlement or \$131,571 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 Housing Quality Standard (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 2014, the County plans to expend at least \$789,421 on projects that support the production of rental housing and/or production of units for homebuyers. 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.

Developers will be eligible to apply for 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	\$789,421
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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 \$131,571 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 \$87,713 is being recommended for allocation under this category.

EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT PROGRAM

The Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing Act (HEARTH) was enacted into law on May 20, 2009. HEARTH consolidates three of the separate homeless assistance programs administered by HUD under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act into a single grant program, and revises the Emergency Shelter Grants program and renames it as the Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) program. The change in the program's name, from Emergency Shelter Grants to Emergency Solutions Grants, reflects the change in the program's focus from addressing the needs of homeless people in emergency or transitional shelters to assisting people to quickly regain stability in permanent housing after experiencing a housing crisis and/or homelessness. The County was notified it will receive a total ESG grant of \$382,751 to fund activities consistent with the interim rule.

Salvation Army – Shelter Operations	\$ 20,000
Salvation Army – Homeless Prevention Services	\$ 15,000
Interfaith Hospitality Network – Rapid Re-Housing Activities	\$ 43,000
Interfaith Hospitality Network – Shelter Operations	\$ 41,500
Covenant House – Homeless Youth Street Outreach	\$ 20,000
Newark Emergency Services for Families – Rapid Rehousing	\$ 50,000
YMWCA – Emergency Shelter Operations	\$ 61,545
YMWCA – Supportive Services	\$ 36,000
Integrity, Inc. – Homeless Prevention	\$ 47,000
Integrity, Inc. – Emergency Shelter Operations	\$ 20,000
Planning & Administration	\$ 28,706

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