

**PUBLIC HEARING
ESSEX COUNTY
DIVISION OF HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
2015-2019 FIVE YEAR CONSOLIDATED PLAN AND
2015 ONE YEAR ACTION PLAN**

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

Citizens of Essex County are invited to a public hearing to comment on the proposed 2015-2019 Five-Year Consolidated Plan, which includes a needs assessment of infrastructure, housing and services with particular emphasis on those areas that benefit low and moderate income persons and the 2015 One Year Action Plan. The hearing will be held:

Date: April 20, 2015
Time: 6:00 P.M.
Place: The Salvation Army
13 Trinity Place
Montclair, NJ 07042

2015 One Year Action Plan Public Comment Period

The 2015 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 2015 Action Plan. The meeting location is fully accessible to persons with physical disabilities. Persons unable to attend the Hearing may request a copy of the 2015 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 Partnerships Program and Emergency Solutions Grant Program statement of objectives prior to submission to the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development on May 5, 2015. 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 2015 One Year Action Plan. **Beginning April 2, 2015 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 www.essex-countynj.org. The Division of Housing & Community Development will be accepting public comments for a period of thirty (30) days beginning April 2, 2015 and conclude May 4, 2015.

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 2015. 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 \$786,196 of CDBG funds will be requested for the following:

Home Improvement Program	\$500,000
Home Improvement Revolving Loan Program Delivery Costs	\$193,196
Tenant Resource Center	\$93,000

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 \$945,997 has been recommended to assist communities in the preservation and rehabilitation of the following facilities:

Cedar Grove

ADA Bleachers & Concrete Walkway at Panther Park \$22,000

Livingston

ADA Improvements to Water Pollution Control Facility \$50,931

Millburn

ADA Accessibility to Town Hall \$55,000

Montclair

Edgemont Park Senior Center Improvements \$9,000

MCDC – Replacement of Existing Interior Doors, Floors,
Carpet & Lighting \$21,000

Human Needs Food Pantry – Facility Renovations & Improvements \$20,000

Orange

High & Alden Street Park Multi-Purpose Field Improvement \$245,000

Metcalf Park Improvement Project \$20,550

CIAO – Manna from Heaven Food Pantry Relocation \$45,000

South Orange

ADA Entrance to Recreation & Cultural Affairs Building \$118,216

West Orange

West Orange Community House Boys & Girls Club -
Recreational Facility Expansion \$200,000

Countywide

ARC of Essex – ADA Modifications to Scattered Sites \$30,000

Babyland Family Services, Inc. – Revitalization Project \$38,500

Family Connections, Inc. – Hallway & Ceiling Replacement \$15,000

HOPE Autism Foundation – HOPE Autism Solutions \$40,000

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 \$1,309,575 is being recommended for the following:

Belleville

Roadway Reconstruction Beech St. (Greylock Pkwy. to Overlook Ave.)	\$250,000
Roadway Reconstruction Quinton St. (Entire Length)	\$126,000
<u>Fairfield</u>	
ADA Curb Ramps to Various Locations	\$49,500
<u>Glen Ridge</u>	
ADA Street Ramp Improvements	\$40,000
<u>Maplewood</u>	
Reconstruction of Van Ness Terrace	\$171,637
<u>Montclair</u>	
Orange Road West Streetscape Improvement	\$155,650
<u>Nutley</u>	
Roadway Reconstruction Conover Ave. (Union Ave. to St. Mary's Pl.)	\$159,358
<u>Orange</u>	
School Zone Pedestrian Safety Improvements (Oakwood Ave.)	\$18,692
<u>Verona</u>	
Area Wide Sidewalk Reconstruction	\$108,738
<u>West Orange</u>	
Watson Avenue Street Reconstruction	\$230,000

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 \$543,130 has been recommended for the following areas:

<u>Caldwell / Roseland / West Caldwell</u>	
Senior Transportation Bus	\$70,780
<u>Montclair</u>	
MNDC – Project Oasis Youth Program	\$20,000
HOME Corp – HOPE Financial Literacy Program	\$12,000
Interfaith Hospitality Network – Transitional Housing Services	\$20,000
Succeed2gether - After School Tutoring Program	\$20,000
United Way of North Essex – Job Resource & Skill Building	\$12,000
COPE Center, Inc. – Families Empowered Health Services	\$20,000
Start Out Fresh Intervention Advocates (S.O.F.I.A.) Soar to Success	\$12,000

Orange

Helping Hands & Ears Food Pantry and Social Services	\$25,000
Main Street Counseling Center - School Based Mental Health Svc.	\$15,000
YWCA/City Senior Health & Wellness Program	\$25,000
YWCA/Circle of Excellence – After School Program	\$45,000
Orange Public Library – Saturday Literacy Program	\$20,000

West Orange

Main Street Counseling – Accessible Mental Health Program	\$10,000
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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 – Youth Mentoring Program	\$ 7,000
EIES of New Jersey – Radio Reader Service	\$ 7,900
Jewish Family Services-Frail Adult Program	\$ 7,900
Mental Health Association – Vehicle Replacement	\$ 9,875
National Council for Jewish Women- Job Readiness	\$ 9,875
NJ Citizen Action – Housing & Foreclosure Education & Outreach	\$ 30,000
North Ward Center – Casa Israel Senior Services	\$51,000
Northwest Essex Community Healthcare Network Services - Transitional Services	\$38,000
Opportunity Project -Pre-Vocational Program	\$15,800
The Bridge, Inc. – Behavioral Health Counseling	\$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 \$1,022,187 is being recommended for allocation under this category.

Countywide

Administration	\$921,417
Program Delivery Costs for CDBG Activities (Environmental Reviews, Davis Bacon Monitoring, etc.)	\$100,770

HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM (HOME)

Proposed Use of Funds

In the 2015 Program Year, the County of Essex anticipates to receive an entitlement of \$807,646. The County of Essex must reserve a minimum of 15% of its entitlement or \$121,147 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 County of Essex will allocate \$200,000 towards its' First Time Homebuyer Program. The County will be accepting applications on a rolling basis. 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 2015, the County plans to expend at least \$405,735 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 (Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis for rental & homeownership production)	\$405,735
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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 \$121,147 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 \$80,764 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 \$410,520 to fund activities consistent with the interim rule.

Salvation Army – Cornerstone Emergency Shelter Operations	\$ 20,000
Salvation Army – Homeless Prevention Services	\$ 15,000
Salvation Army – Drop In Center Street Outreach	\$ 15,000
Interfaith Hospitality Network – Rapid Re-Housing Activities	\$ 43,000
Interfaith Hospitality Network – Emergency Shelter Operations	\$ 21,000
Covenant House – Roof Renovations	\$ 35,000
Newark Emergency Services for Families – Rapid Rehousing	\$ 60,000
YMWCA – Rapid Re-Housing Activities	\$ 25,000
YMWCA – Emergency Shelter Supportive Services	\$ 75,231
Integrity, Inc. – Homeless Prevention Program	\$ 40,500
Isaiah House – Emergency Shelter Operations	\$ 10,000
Fairmont Health Services – Emergency Shelter Operations	\$ 10,000
Peace House – Emergency Shelter	\$ 10,000
Planning & Administration	\$ 30,789

JOSEPH N. DI VINCENZO, JR.
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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