

2017 ONE YEAR ACTION PLAN

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

On June 1, 2017 the County of Essex will enter its 43rd 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 2017 entitlement of \$4,709,073 and anticipated program income of \$200,000 generated from the Home Improvement Program.

2017 One Year Action Plan Public Comment Period

The 2017 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 2017 Action Plan. This hearing will be held at 6 PM on July 10, 2017 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 2017 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 or about July 26, 2017. 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 2017 One Year Action Plan. **Beginning June 23, 2017 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 June 23, 2017 and conclude July 24, 2017.

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 2017. 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 \$1,046,271 of CDBG funds will be requested for the following:

Home Improvement Program	\$675,131
Home Improvement Revolving Loan Program Delivery Costs	\$280,000
Tenant Resource Center	\$91,140

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 \$947,081 has been recommended to assist communities in the preservation and rehabilitation of the following facilities:

Caldwell

ADA Elevator at 14 Park Avenue (Food Pantry)	\$54,880
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Maplewood

Woodland ADA Improvements Project Phase II	\$168,204
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Millburn

Barrier Free Access to Public Library \$34,055

Nutley

Public Safety Building Handicap Accessible Restroom \$49,000

South Orange

Barrier Free Access to Village Police Department \$115,852

West Orange

Ginny Dunkel Municipal Pool ADA Improvements \$152,880

Main St. Counseling – Renovations & Building Accessibility \$9,800

Countywide

E.C. Dept. of Public Works – Various Roadway Reconstruction \$321,440

Family Connections, Inc. – Ground/Basement Level Flooring Project \$18,430

Wynona’s House – Exterior Waterproofing Rehab Project \$22,540

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 \$1,306,887 is being recommended for the following:

Belleville

Roadway Reconstruction of Wilson Place \$204,546

Roadway Reconstruction of Stephens Street \$147,833

Cedar Grove

Reconstruction of Bowden Road \$52,920

Fairfield

Sand Road ADA Sidewalk Extension \$46,305

Glen Ridge

ADA Street Ramp Improvements \$39,200

Montclair

Lackawanna Plaza Alley Improvement \$137,200

Pedestrian Mobility Improvements (Maple & Bellevue Ave.) \$19,600

Nutley

Princeton Street Reconstruction & Resurfacing \$58,800

Hunt Place Reconstruction & Resurfacing \$49,000

Orange

Colgate Park Skate Facility \$225,400

Verona

ADA Improvements to Township Library Elevator	\$106,563
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West Orange

Roadway Improvements to Meade Street	\$116,620
Roadway Improvements to Columbia Street	\$102,900

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 \$467,020 has been recommended for the following areas:

Montclair

MNDC – Project Oasis Youth Program	\$19,600
HOME Corp – H.O.P.E.	\$11,760
Interfaith Hospitality Network – Transitional Housing Services	\$19,600
Succeed2gether - After School Tutoring Program, Summer Enrichment	\$19,600
COPE Center, Inc. – Families Empowered Counseling Program	\$19,600
Start Out Fresh Intervention Advocates (S.O.F.I.A.) Soar to Success	\$7,840

West Orange

Bethany Center – Outreach for At-Risk Youth	\$49,000
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Countywide

1 st Cerebral Palsy – Vehicle Purchase	\$14,700
ARC of Essex – Accessible Vehicle	\$29,400
Big Brothers & Big Sisters – Mentoring Program	\$6,860
EIES of New Jersey – Radio Reader Service	\$7,742
E.C. Dept. of Citizen/Senior Services – Purchase of 2 Vehicles	\$83,300
Family Service League – Rape Victim Service & Family Counseling	\$9,800
Jewish Family Services – Frail Adult Program	\$7,742
Mental Health Association – Vehicle Replacement	\$9,678
National Council for Jewish Women- Job Readiness	\$9,678
NJ Citizen Action – Housing & Foreclosure Education & Outreach	\$19,600
North Ward Center – Casa Israel Adult Medical Daycare	\$48,020
N.W. Essex Community Healthcare Network Transitional Services	\$37,240
Opportunity Project – Pre-Vocational Program	\$14,700
Planned Parenthood – HIV Prevention Testing & Counseling	\$9,800
The Bridge, Inc. – Behavioral Health Counseling	\$11,760

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 \$941,814 is being recommended for allocation under this category.

HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM (HOME)

Proposed Use of Funds

In the 2017 Program Year, the County of Essex anticipates to receive an entitlement of \$840,771. The County of Essex must reserve a minimum of 15% of its entitlement or \$126,116 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 2017, the County plans to expend at least \$630,648 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:

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 \$84,007 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 \$416,165 to fund activities consistent with the interim rule.

Bridges Outreach – Project Connect Street Outreach	\$22,320
Covenant House – Roof Renovations	\$18,500
Integrity, Inc. – Emergency Shelter Operations	\$9,250
Integrity, Inc. – Homeless Prevention Services	\$40,543
Integrity, Inc. – Rapid Re-housing Activities	\$16,290
Interfaith Hospitality Network – Emergency Shelter Operations	\$24,513
Interfaith Hospitality Network – Rapid Re-housing Activities	\$64,750
Isaiah House – Emergency Shelter Operations	\$9,250
Salvation Army – Emergency Shelter Operations (Montclair)	\$18,500
Salvation Army – Homeless Prevention Services (Montclair)	\$7,400
Salvation Army – Street Outreach Drop-in Center (Montclair)	\$27,750
Salvation Army – Rapid Re-Housing (Montclair)	\$6,938
Salvation Army – Homeless Prevention (Newark)	\$18,500
YMCA – Y-Care Shelter Nights	\$72,699
YMCA – Rapid Re-housing Activities	\$27,750
Planning & Administration	\$31,212

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