

**PUBLIC HEARING
ESSEX COUNTY
DIVISION OF HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
2021 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 virtual public hearing on the proposed 2021 One Year Action Plan, which includes a needs assessment of infrastructure, housing and services with particular emphasis on those areas that benefit low and moderate-income persons. On June 1, 2021 the County of Essex entered its 47th 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 with a 2021 CDBG entitlement of \$5,582,860 and anticipated program income of \$140,000 generated from the Home Improvement Program. The County will also fund activities with 2021 ESG funds in the amount of \$466,561, and 2021 HOME funds of \$1,249,089.

2021 One Year Action Plan Public Comment Period

The 2021 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 Citizen Participation Plan was amended and posted on the County's website on June 14, 2021. The provision of program information began with individual municipal meetings and will culminate with a Countywide Public Hearing to solicit public comments on the 2021 Action Plan. Due to public health concerns the County will hold a virtual public hearing on July 6, 2021 at 2 PM to obtain comments on these documents and proposed activities. Attendees will be able to access the public hearing via a call-in number that will be provided to all registrants. To register for the virtual hearing, please contact Toni Rodriguez at 973-655-0200 or trodriguez@hcd.essexcountynj.org.

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 19, 2021. 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 County Commissioners.

Statistics regarding the level of benefit to such individuals under each project/program outlined in this notice can be found in the 2021 One Year Action Plan. Beginning June 17, 2021, copies of the 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 17, 2021 and concluding July 18, 2021. There are two ways to participate:

1. Present your comments at the July 6, 2021 virtual public hearing
2. Send written comments to 20 Crestmont Road, Verona, NJ 07044 Attn: Toni Rodriguez or to trodriguez@hcd.essexcountynj.org.

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.

Anyone needing special modifications when attending this virtual meeting, has non-English-speaking needs and/or if this information is needed in an alternative format because of a disability, please contact Toni Rodriguez at (973) 655-0200 or via email at trodriguez@hcd.essexcountynj.org. Requests must be submitted at least 72 hours prior to the meeting to make the appropriate arrangements.

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:

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

Listed below are the proposed activities for 2021. 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. For PY 2021, CDBG funds totaling \$676,888 will be requested for the following Housing Rehabilitation/Counseling activities:

Home Improvement Program	\$426,888
Home Improvement Revolving Loan Program Delivery Costs	\$150,000
Tenant Resource Center	\$100,000
Total	\$676,888

II PUBLIC 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. For PY 2021, \$700,500 has been recommended for the preservation and rehabilitation of the following facilities:

Fairfield

ADA Compliant Sidewalk construction – Beverly Road from Mayhew Drive to Woodland Road	\$47,000
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Glen Ridge

ADA compliant street ramp and sidewalk Improvements at various intersections along Mitchell Place, Ardsley Road and Columbus Avenue	\$39,000
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Maplewood

Maplewood ADA Compliant Curb Cuts at various intersections throughout the township	\$193,000
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Millburn

ADA Barrier Free Curb Cuts at various intersections in the Glenwood section of Millburn	\$ 35,000
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Montclair

ADA compliant public restroom and accessibility for Valley Road fire house	\$70,000
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Roseland

ADA compliant accessibility improvements to Tedesco Park	\$28,500
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South Orange

South Orange Public Library ADA Improvements	\$105,000
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Verona

ADA Accessible Ramps for various intersections throughout the township	\$90,000
<u>Countywide</u>	
Montclair Shared Housing Association - Reconstruct of patio for senior housing site at 27 Hillside Avenue, Montclair	\$8,000
Northwest Essex Comm. Healthcare Network – Rehabilitate roof of facility at 570 Belleville Avenue, Belleville	\$35,000
Wynona’s House - Rehabilitation of West and South side masonry of facility at 185 Washington Street to mitigate water intrusion	\$50,000
Total	\$700,500

III PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS

Funds provided under this category are used to replace, rehabilitate or reconstruct streets, sewers, drainage systems, roads, curbs, and sidewalks. For PY 2021, \$2,466,000 has been recommended for the following public improvement activities:

Belleville

Water Main Relining & Valve Replacements Project Phase III for roads within Census Tract 147, including sections along Newark Ave, Rocco St, Cuozzo Street; Brighton Ave, Watsessing Ave, Kimball St; Forest Ave; and Highland Ave	\$335,000
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Montclair

Road Reconstruction Hartley Street from Bloomfield Avenue to Washington Street	\$133,000
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Nutley

Reconstruction/resurfacing of King Street from Union Ave to the Belleville border	\$203,000
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Orange

Reconstruction of Ward Street	\$286,000
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West Orange

Road reconstruction Kingsley Street	\$108,000
Road reconstruction Wheeler Street, water main reconstruction, ADA compliant curb ramps	\$201,000

Countywide

Essex County DPW road reconstruction of County owned South Orange Avenue from Speedway Av to Stuyvesant Av in Newark	\$1,200,000
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Total	\$2,466,000
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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. For PY 2021, \$622,900 has been recommended for the following public service activities:

Cedar Grove

Senior Transportation _ ADA Accessible Bus	\$52,000
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Montclair

COPE Center, Inc. – Families Empowered Counseling Program	\$19,600
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Family promise – Transitional Housing Services	\$24,500
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MNDC – Project Oasis Youth Program	\$15,000
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Succeed2gether - After School Tutoring Program, Summer Enrichment	\$15,000
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Strategic Mentoring/Brother to Brother – Summer Youth Empowerment	\$ 5,000
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Start Out Fresh Intervention Advocates (S.O.F.I.A.) Soar to Success	\$15,000
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Orange

Senior Transportation _ ADA Accessible Bus	\$70,000
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West Orange

Bethany Center – Outreach for At-Risk Youth	\$49,000
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Main Street Counseling Center – Mental Health Services	\$25,000
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Countywide

ARC of Essex – ADA Accessible Vehicle	\$35,000
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Big Brothers & Big Sisters – Mentoring Program	\$10,000
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Family Service League – Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence	\$48,000
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Victim Counseling	
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Family Connections Mental Health Services	\$29,000
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Jewish Family Services Frail Adult Program	\$10,000
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JVS of Metrowest – Vocational Rehab Services	\$35,000
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Mental Health Association – Vehicle Replacement	\$29,000
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National Council for Jewish Women – Job Readiness	\$10,000
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NJ Citizen Action – Housing & Foreclosure Education & Outreach	\$40,000
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North Ward Center – Casa Israel Adult Medical Daycare	\$48,000
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Opportunity Project – Pre-Vocational Program	\$14,000
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Planned Parenthood- HIV Prevention, Testing & Counseling	\$ 9,800
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The Bridge, Inc. – Behavioral Health Counseling	\$15,000
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Total	622,900
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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. For PY 2021, CDBG funds of \$1,116,572 plus anticipated program income of \$140,000 is being recommended for allocation under this category.

HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM (HOME)

Proposed Use of Funds

In the 2021 Program Year, the County of Essex anticipates a total HOME allocation of \$1,249,089. The following projects/programs will be implemented to address the housing needs of Essex County residents.

Rental Housing

In 2021, the County will allocate Entitlement Funds of \$836,817 to provide loans for the production of rental housing and/or units for homebuyers. The Division plans to utilize any Reprogrammed HOME funds for new housing and development. 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 a 5 to 20 sddyear period depending upon the amount of HOME assistance per unit and the scope of the project. HOME projects are generally reviewed and awarded funds on a rolling basis; upon any commitment of PY 2021 Home funds for specific HOME affordable housing projects, the Division will amend the plan accordingly.

First Time Homebuyers Program

In 2021, the County will set aside \$100,000 to provide loans to assist first time home buyers to Purchase a home. The County will provide up to \$50,000 to subsidize down payments for income eligible persons who are first time home buyers. Upon any commitment of PY 2021 Home funds for specific first time home buyer projects, the Division will amend the plan accordingly

CHDO (Community Housing Development Organization)

For PY 2021, the County will set aside \$187,364 for CHDO managed projects. Upon any commitment of PY 2021 Home funds for specific CHDO projects, the Division will amend the plan accordingly

Planning & Administration

Administration of the HOME Program involves the planning and execution of projects, program coordination, evaluation, monitoring and the provision of technical assistance and dissemination of information to municipal officials and the general public. For PY 2021, the recommended for allocation under this category is \$124,908.

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. For PY 2021, the County was notified it will receive a total ESG grant of \$466,551 to fund activities consistent with the interim rule

The Division will accept applications for these funds upon publication of this notice.

Bridges Outreach -Street Outreach	\$14,000
Covenant House – Shelter Operations	\$19,000
Family Promise – Rapid Re-housing Activities	\$70,000
Family Promise – Emergency Shelter Operations	\$26,000
Integrity (Mary's House) – Emergency Shelter Operations	\$18,000
Integrity (Women's Housing) – Emergency Shelter Operations	\$19,000
Isaiah House – Emergency Shelter Operations	\$20,000
Salvation Army – Emergency Shelter Operations (Montclair)	\$20,000
Salvation Army – Street Outreach Drop-in Center (Montclair)	\$20,000
Salvation Army – Rapid Re-Housing (Montclair)	\$20,000
Salvation Army – Homeless Prevention Services (Newark)	\$ 9,500
St. James – Homeless Prevention	\$14,000
Turning Point – Emergency Shelter Operations	\$15,000
United Community Corp. – Rapid Re-Housing Activities	\$26,000
United Community Corp. – Homeless Prevention Activities	\$10,000
YMCA – Emergency Shelter Operations	\$85,000
YMCA- Homeless Prevention Services	\$26,059
Sub Total	\$431,559
Planning & Administration	\$ 34,992
Total ESG	\$466,551

JOSEPH N. DI VINCENZO, JR.
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

CRAIG LOMBARDI
PROGRAM COORDINATOR