

**PUBLIC HEARING
ESSEX COUNTY
DIVISION OF HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
PY 2025 ONE YEAR ACTION PLAN**

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

Citizens of Essex County are invited to a Public Hearing on the proposed PY 2025 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 people. On June 1, 2025, the County of Essex begins its 51st 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 PY 2025 (hereinafter referred to as 2025) CDBG entitlement of **\$5,216,482** plus anticipated program income of \$154,000 generated from the Home Improvement Program. The County will also fund activities with 2025 ESG funds in the amount of **\$464,006**, and 2025 HOME funds of **\$1,199,356.09**.

2025 One Year Action Plan Public Comment Period

The 2025 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 May 30, 2025. The provision of program information began with individual municipal meetings and will culminate with the Countywide Spring Public Hearing to solicit public comments on the 2025 Action Plan. The Public Hearing is scheduled as follows:

Date: June 18, 2025

Time: 6:00 P.M.

Place: The Salvation Army

13 Trinity Place, Montclair, NJ, 07042

The hearing is scheduled to entertain citizen comments on the statement of proposed objectives and activities to be funded by the Community Development Block Grant, HOME Investment Partnerships and Emergency Solutions Grant Programs prior to submission to the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development on or after July 4, 2025 but no later than August 16, 2025. The Division staff will review all comments and respond to each commentator in a timely manner. The plan will also be presented to the Essex County Board of County Commissioners for their review.

Beginning May 30, 2025, 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 <https://essexcountynj.org/>. The Division of Housing & Community Development will be accepting public comments for a period beginning May 30, 2025 and concluding July 7, 2025 (19 days after public hearing). There are two ways to participate:

1. Present comments at the June 18, 2025, 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. For non-English speaking persons requiring a translation of this notice, or persons with disabilities that require an alternative presentation format, 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.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM (CDBG)

Proposed Use of Funds

The goal of the Essex County CDBG 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 people 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 main, 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 2025. The activities are divided by project Type, municipality/agency. Numbers are rounded to the nearest dollar. The total of programmed funds and the percentage of the total grant benefiting low to moderate income people (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 2025, CDBG funds totaling \$700,000 will be requested for the following Housing Rehabilitation/Counseling activities:

Home Improvement Program	\$450,000
Home Improvement Revolving Loan Program Delivery Costs	\$150,000
Tenant Resource Center	\$100,000
Total	\$700,000

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 income-eligible areas and/or are utilized by people who are predominantly (51%) low- and moderate-income people. For PY 2025, **\$607,500** has been recommended for the preservation and rehabilitation of the following facilities:

Livingston

ADA accessibility improvements for Senior Community Center 204 Hillside Avenue	\$31,000
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Millburn

ADA accessibility improvements to town hall located at 375 Millburn Avenue 375 Millburn Avenue	\$50,000
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Orange

Rehabilitation of tennis courts at Central Avenue Park, 371 Central Avenue	\$150,000
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Verona

ADA accessibility improvements including ADA doorways, ramps, and sidewalks at Community Center at 880 Bloomfield Avenue	\$100,000
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Countywide

Community Options

Generators for group home(s) for people with intellectual and developmental and developmental disabilities located at 43 Wychwood Road, Livingston and 49 Union Avenue, Maplewood	\$14,500
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The Arc of Essex County

Improvements for Orange group home	\$180,000
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The Bridge

Rehabilitation of roof for counseling facility located at at 860 Bloomfield Avenue, West Caldwell	\$52,000
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Family Connections

Upgrade restrooms for Wellness Center of Mental health and substance abuse counseling facility	\$30,000
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Total	\$607,500
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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 2025, **\$2,325,936** has been recommended for the following public improvement activities:

Belleville

Water main relining & valve replacements along Center Street	\$300,000
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Montclair

Streetscape improvements to improve pedestrian safety along Maple Avenue from Bloomfield Avenue to Woodland Avenue	\$200,000
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Nutley

Road rehabilitation along San Antonio Avenue from Van Winkle Avenue to Nutley border	\$115,000
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Nutley

Road rehabilitation along Van Winkle Avenue from Margaret Avenue to Keirstead Avenue	\$123,000
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Orange

Road Rehabilitation of Berkeley Road	\$182,000
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West Orange

Road rehabilitation of Standish Avenue from Park Avenue to Lakeside Avenue and Fremont Street from Samuel Street to the border with Montclair	\$305,000
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Countywide

Essex County DPW Road rehabilitation of Springfield Avenue from Chancellor Avenue (Maplewood) to 20 th Street (Newark)	\$1,100,936
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Total**\$2,325,936****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 people throughout the County. For PY 2025, \$539,750 has been recommended for the following public service activities:

Fairfield

ADA accessible van for seniors	\$74,000
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Montclair

Family Promise: Transitional Housing Services	\$26,000
Montclair Fund for Educational Excellence MFEE	\$5,000
MNDC: Project Oasis Youth Empowerment Program	\$12,000
Oaks Integrated Care: UMFA (Utilities, Medicine and Food Assistance)	\$14,500
Sister to Sister of Montclair Mentoring Group	\$5,500
Start Out Fresh Intervention Advocates (SOFIA): Soar to Success	\$15,750
Strategic Mentoring/Brother to Brother: STEAM Workshop Series	\$6,500
Succeed2gether: After School Tutoring, Student Enrichment, Pathways Forward	\$16,000

West Orange

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

Big Brothers Big Sisters	\$6,000
Essex County Legal Aid	\$6,000
Family Connections: Mental Health Services	\$29,500
Family Service League: Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence Counseling	\$49,000
Jewish Family Services: Frail Adult Program	\$12,500
JVS of Metrowest: Vocational Rehab Services	\$33,000
Mental Health Association: Transportation Vehicle	\$27,000
National Council for Jewish Women: Job Readiness	\$10,500
NJ Citizen Action: Housing & Foreclosure Education & Outreach	\$32,000
North Ward Center: Casa Israel Medical Day Program	\$48,000
Opportunity Project: Pre Vocational program for people with brain injuries	\$15,000
Planned Parenthood: HIV Prevention, Testing & Counseling	\$12,000
The Bridge: Mental Health Counseling	\$15,000
Wynona's House: Family Advocacy program	\$20,000

Total**\$539,750**

V. PLANNING & ADMINISTRATION - CDBG

Administration of the CDBG Program involves the planning and execution of projects, program coordination, evaluations, monitoring, provision of technical assistance and the dissemination of information to municipal officials and general public. For PY 2025, CDBG funds of **\$1,043,296** (20% of Allocation) plus anticipated program income of \$154,000 are recommended for this category.

HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM (HOME)

Proposed Use of Funds

For Program Year 2025, the County of Essex anticipates a total HOME allocation of **\$1,199,356.09**. The following projects/programs will be implemented to address the housing needs of Essex County residents.

Rental Housing

In 2025, the County will allocate Entitlement Funds of \$899,517 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 people for a minimum 5-to-20-year 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 2025 Home funds for specific HOME affordable housing projects, the Division will amend the plan accordingly.

CHDO (Community Housing Development Organization)

For PY 2025, the County will set aside \$179,903 for CHDO managed projects (15% of HUD allocation). Upon any commitment of PY 2025 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 2025, the recommended allocation for this category is \$119,936 (10% of HUD allocation).

EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT PROGRAM

The Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing Act (HEARTH) was enacted into law on May 20, 2009. HEARTH consolidated three of the separate homeless assistance programs administered by HUD under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act into a single grant program, revised the Emergency Shelter Grants program, and renamed 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 emergencies or transitional shelters to assisting people quickly regain stability in permanent housing after experiencing a housing crisis and/or homelessness.

For PY 2025, the County was notified it will receive a total ESG grant of \$464,006 to fund activities consistent with the interim rule. Recommend allocations of ESG funds for various agencies is as follows:

Apostle's House	Rapid Rehousing	\$10,000
Bridges Outreach	Rapid Rehousing	\$18,500
Covenant House	Emergency Shelter Operations	\$25,000
Essex County DCA	Street Outreach	\$15,000
Family Promise	Rapid Rehousing	\$80,000
HBP RAIN Foundation	Emergency Shelter Operations	\$6,500
Isaiah House	Emergency Shelter Operations	\$20,000
NESF	Rapid Rehousing	\$18,500
St. James Social Services	Rapid Rehousing	\$15,000
Salvation Army Montclair	Emergency Shelter Operations	\$25,000
Salvation Army Montclair	Rapid Rehousing	\$30,000
Salvation Army Montclair	Street Outreach Drop-in Center	\$15,000
Turning Point	Emergency Shelter Operations	\$15,000
United Community Corp	Emergency Shelter Operations	\$10,000
YMCA of Newark	Emergency Shelter Operations	\$100,706
YMCA of Newark	Rapid Rehousing	\$25,000
Sub Total		\$429,206
Planning & Administration (7.5%)		\$34,800
Total ESG		\$464,006

JOSEPH N. DI VINCENZO, JR.
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

JOHN M. SOARES
DIVISION DIRECTOR