

SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT TO THE FY2008-09 ONE YEAR ACTION PLAN (SPRINGFIELD SECTION)

City of Springfield, Oregon
Development Services Department
Housing and Community Development
www.ci.springfield.or.us/dsd/housing/housing.home.htm

Kevin Ko, CD Specialist
City of Springfield
225 Fifth Street
Springfield, OR 97477
(541) 726-2302
kko@ci.springfield.or.us

Purpose

The purpose of this Substantial Amendment to the FY2008-09 One-Year Action Plan for the City of Springfield is to incorporate additional CDBG funds which were recently released by HUD under the Americans Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). Under ARRA, the City of Springfield is entitled to receive \$164,302 of CDBG-Recovery funds. CDBG-R funds are to be used to promote the purposes of ARRA, which are “--to stimulate the economy through measures that modernize the Nation’s infrastructure, improve energy efficiency, and expand educational opportunities and access to health care”. Further, HUD has made a strong recommendation that CDBG-R funds be used for “—hard development costs associated with infrastructure activities that provide basic services to residents or activities that promote energy efficiency and conservation through rehabilitation or retrofitting of existing facilities”. CDBG-R funds also have the statutory requirement that at least 70% of the allocation (less program administration) must be used to benefit primarily low and moderate-income (LMI) persons.

Public Participation

The Springfield Community Development Advisory Committee (CDAC) met on May 14, 2009 to discuss four potential CDBG-R projects. After discussion, the CDAC recommended three of the projects for CDBG-R funding. The CDAC also recommended that 10% (\$16,430) of Springfield’s CDBG-R allocation be allocated to grant administration, and 15% (\$24,645) be allocated to the Human Services Commission to provide services to vulnerable families and individuals impacted by the recent economic crisis. The recommendations were forwarded to the City Council for consideration at its June 1, 2009 meeting. A combined notice of 10-day comment period and public hearing was published in the Register Guard on May 22, 2009. A similar notice was posted in the lobby at City Hall and on the Housing and Community Development website, www.ci.springfield.or.us/dsd/housing/housing.home.htm. No written comments were received, and one person commented at the public hearing. The commenter spoke in support of the three proposals and the benefits they will provide to the youth of Springfield, the mid-Springfield neighborhoods and to the community at large. After discussion, the City Council approved the Substantial Amendment to the FY08-09 One Year Action Plan by a vote of 5 to 0. Subsequent discussions with HUD-Portland staff about one of the projects raised concerns of its compatibility with the goals for the CDBG-R program. This project has been set aside, and the two remaining approved projects are being included in this substantial amendment.

FY08-09 CDBG-R Allocations

The following projects were approved for funding by the City Council and are included in this substantial amendment to the FY08-09 One-year Action Plan. It is anticipated that 100 percent of the CDBG-R grant amount (less amount reserved for grant administration) will benefit persons of low and moderate incomes.

- **Gateway and A3 Schools Parking Lot Reconstruction**

\$62,000 of CDBG-R is being allocated to the Springfield Public Schools (SPS) to assist with the parking lot reconstruction for the Gateways School and the Academy of Arts and Academics (A3), 615 and 665 Main Street. Located in the heart of downtown, the two alternative public high schools serve a high percentage of students from low and moderate income households. Because the existing parking lots were built at different times to serve several former downtown businesses, they are at different grades and constructed of different materials. The existing lighting is inconsistent and substandard. The existing parking surfaces are seriously deteriorated, and the misaligned spaces, aisles and separators creates unsafe circulation for students and staff to South A Street. The new parking plan would consolidate the different lots into one coherent parking infrastructure. This will significantly increase the available number of regular and handicapped spaces, eliminate the unsafe access to South A Street and provide improved lighting. The parking plan will also incorporate an infiltration planter to capture storm water and allow it to slowly infiltrate into the ground. This will significantly reduce or eliminate storm water runoff from the parking lot, filter out pollutants, and recharge the groundwater--- all while reducing the impact on the City's infrastructure. Green building technologies have been incorporated into the project design to lessen the impact of the project on the environment. The new parking layout will provide long-term economic benefit to SPS, and by making more efficient use of the existing spaces, this project will secondarily benefit other downtown businesses by reducing the pressure students and faculty currently impose on public parking lots. The total activity budget is estimated at \$185,000. No other ARRA funds are being budgeted for this activity.

National Objective and Eligible Activity. This project qualifies as an LMI limited clientele project. 56% of the students attending the Gateways and A3 schools are eligible for the Free and Reduced Lunch Program—an indicator of family incomes between 130 - 185% of the poverty level. The eligible CDBG activity is reconstruction of a public facility.

Economic Opportunity and Timeliness. SPS is facing a reduction of nearly \$15.5 million of its operating budget for the next school year. This project would not be able to go forward as planned if not for the CDBG-R funds. This project will create 17-20 temporary construction jobs for area businesses, including excavation workers, asphalt workers, electricians, landscapers, painters and engineers. This project is “shovel ready” and can be initiated immediately upon release of funds. With a timely release of funds, this project can be completed during the summer of 2009.

Responsible Organization. This project will be administered by the Springfield Public Schools. For more information, please contact:

Jeff Defranco, Director of Communications and Facilities
Springfield Public Schools
525 Mill Street
Springfield, OR 97477
(541) 726-3204
Jeff.defranco@sps.lane.edu

- **Brattain House Renovation**

\$61,227 of CDBG-R is being allocated to the Springfield Public Schools (SPS) for renovations to the Brattain House, 1030 G Street. Built in 1915, the Brattain House is located between two of Springfield's highest poverty schools. The Brattain House is home to the Springfield Family Resource Center which includes the Homeless Student Program and the English Language Learners Program. In addition to these SPS programs, the facility is used by several community and social service agencies to provide supportive services for high-need and at-risk students and their families. According to SPS, several thousand students and their families receive services at Brattain House each year. The Brattain house is an important and extensively used facility, and is in need of major repair to extend its useful life. The most urgent repairs are complete roof replacement, siding replacement, paint, gutters and downspouts.

The proposed CDBG-R investment in this public facility will provide long term economic and educational benefit for children and families most affected by the recent economic crisis. Without Brattain House, important programs would be lost or significantly reduced. The total activity budget is estimated at \$70,000. No other ARRA funds are being budgeted for this activity.

National Objective and Eligible Activity. This project qualifies as an LMI limited clientele project. Nearly 100% of the students and family members served at the Brattain House are of low or very-low income. Many of the programs operated from the Brattain House are of the type and in a location where the beneficiaries can be presumed to be LMI. The eligible CDBG activity is rehabilitation of a public facility.

Economic Opportunity and Timeliness. SPS is facing a reduction of nearly \$15.5 million of its operating budget for the next school year. This project would not be able to go forward as planned if not for the CDBG-R funds. When renovation is completed, the Brattain House will provide long-term community benefit for some of the community most vulnerable students and their families. This project will create approximately 16 temporary construction jobs for area businesses, including roofers, glaziers, siding installers and painters. Green building technologies will be incorporated in the renovation that promotes sustainability and reduces the impact of this activity on the environment. The project is "shovel ready" and can be initiated immediately upon release of funds. With a timely release of funds, this project can be completed before the end of 2009.

Responsible Organization. This project will be administered by the Springfield Public Schools. For more information, please contact:

Jeff Defranco, Director of Communications and Facilities
Springfield Public Schools
525 Mill Street
Springfield, OR 97477
(541) 726-3204
Jeff.defranco@sps.lane.edu

- **Public Service Activities**

The City of Springfield is allocating \$24,645 (15%) for public services under a subrecipient agreement with the Human Services Commission (HSC). The services provided will assist those individuals and families most impacted by the recent economic crisis. Although five HSC agencies currently receive regular CDBG funds from Springfield, the limited amount of funding and the additional reporting requirements of the CDBG-R program dictate that CDBG-R funds will be most effective if only one agency is selected. Agency selection is based on community needs and agency capacity as determined by HSC. Priority also was given to agencies that are not anticipated to receive ARRA funding from other sources. The Relief Nursery is the agency selected to receive CDBG-R funds through the HSC. The Relief Nursery provides child care, counseling and respite services to abused, neglected and at-risk children and their families. The Relief Nursery is located at 1720 West 25th Avenue in Eugene.

National Objective and Eligible Activity. This project qualifies as an LMI limited clientele. Because the Relief Nursery currently reports CDBG accomplishments, it will already have the administrative processes in place to document income eligibility for each client served. The eligible CDBG activity is public services.

Responsible Organization. The Human Services Commission will be provide oversight and subrecipient administration for these programs. For information, please contact:

Lyn Oliver
Lane County H&HS
Human Services Commission
125 E 8th Avenue
Eugene, OR 97401
(541) 682-4607
lyn.e.oliver@co.lane.or.us

- **Grant Administration**

The City of Springfield is reserving \$16,430 (10%) for grant and program administration.

Contact Information

For information regarding the CDBG-R funds or this Substantial Amendment to the FY08-09 One Year Action Plan, please contact:

Kevin Ko, Community Development Specialist
City of Springfield
225 Fifth Street
Springfield, OR 97477
(541) 726-2302
kko@ci.springfield.or.us