

City of Evanston
Amendment to the Community Development Block Grant Recovery (CDBG-R) Plan
Approved by the Evanston City Council on November 14, 2011

- (1) Activity Name: South NRSA Economic Development Fund (17A, 17B, 17C, 17D, 18A, 18C; LMA, LMJ, SBS, SBR, LMCMC)

Activity Narrative: The City of Evanston will use CDBG-R funds for one or more economic development projects, addressing the current priority of stimulating economic development in south Evanston, particularly on Howard Street and key properties such as the former CVS Pharmacy at the corner of Oakton and Asbury. Assisting income eligible persons to establish micro-enterprises that will also hire unemployed or under employed persons from the NRSA is one of the strategies being pursued to address economic development and job creation goals for this area.

CDBG-R funds totaling \$131,453.32, including \$61,446 originally allocated to the Howard Street Improvement Project, \$31,750.06 unspent in the completed Fleetwood-Foster Improvement Project-Phase 1B and \$38,257.26 in unspent CDBG-R Administration, will be used for this activity.

The area targeted for this economic development activity is in or near census tract 8102, which comprises the City's south Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Area (NRSA). Economic development is a high priority of the NRSA plan, part of the City's 2010-2014 Consolidated Plan to achieve the community development goals for south Evanston. This census tract is also targeted by the City's Neighborhood Stabilization Program 2 grant to purchase, rehabilitate and re-occupy foreclosed homes in neighborhoods hardest hit by foreclosures and job losses.

CDBG-R funds will be used for economic development projects that may include:

- Rehabilitation of commercial properties purchased by the City with TIF dollars to address code violations and make improvements needed to attract retail or commercial tenants
- Grants or loans to for-profit businesses, non-profit enterprises or micro-enterprises that provide economic development benefits; eligible uses of funds include: property acquisition, construction, rehabilitation or other needs, and equipment purchases.

Investment in this part of south Evanston will help stabilize an area that has been heavily impacted by mortgage foreclosures and by job losses and reinforce the desirability of the neighborhood for existing and potential residents by stimulating retail/commercial activity in this primarily low- and moderate-income neighborhood.

- (2) Jobs Created: Construction jobs, including carpentry, roofing, plumbing and electrical and other work, may be created by rehabilitation activities. It is anticipated that this could amount to approximately 1 FTE on an annualized basis. In addition, businesses attracted to currently vacant storefronts are projected to generate up to four permanent jobs/FTEs, of

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which 51% or more will be filled by LMI persons, to meet the CDBG National Objective of benefitting primarily low- and moderate-income persons.

- (3) Additional Activity Information: This improvement supports the goals of ARRA by creating economic development activity and by supporting the economic development goals of the TIF designed to revitalize this primarily LMI neighborhood.
- (4) Responsible Organization: This activity will be implemented by the City of Evanston through its Economic Development division and administered by Sarah Flax, Housing & Grants Administrator, Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center, 2100 Ridge Avenue, Room 3102, Evanston, IL 60201. 847-448-8684, sflax@cityofevanston.org

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENT

The draft amendment to the CDBG-R Plan was posted on the City's website at <http://www.cityofevanston.org/planning-zoning/community-dev-block-grant/cdbg-publications/> for public comment; the formal public comment period opened on October 24 and closed at noon on November 1, 2011. An email requesting input on the amendment was sent to a list of 75 people who have expressed interest in CDBG activities, as well as to the City's general email list of over 1,500 individuals and local press.

The City received a letter from the Child Care Center of Evanston stating that organization's support for the amendment, stressing the importance of economic development and jobs to the low and moderate income families they serve. The letter is attached.

There were no other comments received in person, by mail, fax or email. No comments were received that were not accepted.

