

CDBG Consolidated Plan 2010-2014 Executive Summary

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

TOWN OF EAST HARTFORD CONSOLIDATED PLAN

FOR THE PERIOD 2010-2015

The Town of East Hartford receives Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds on an annual basis from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The overall goal of the CDBG Program is to assist in the development of viable urban communities by providing decent housing, a suitable living environment, and expanded economic opportunities principally for persons of low to moderate income. The purpose of the Consolidated Plan is to state in one document the specific objectives that a community, in this case East Hartford, intends to follow over a five year period to work toward this goal.

This abstract provides a summary of the contents of East Hartford's Consolidated Plan including a description of housing and community development needs, a strategy that identifies priorities and activities to meet those needs, and an Action Plan describing the use of funds for the one-year period: September 1, 2010 – August 31, 2011. A written citizen participation plan was followed throughout the process of developing the Plan. Specific steps taken to obtain the views of town residents and diverse stakeholders on housing and non-housing community development needs included direct consultation with citizens and non-profit agencies, collaboration with the East Hartford Housing Authority and with other Town Departments, and four public hearings at two different times of the planning process. In addition to the above, a needs assessment survey document was mailed to 75 community organizations and 29 faith-based organizations; placed at Raymond Library, in the Grants Administration Office, in the WIC Office, Parks and Recreation Office, Youth Services and at the South End Senior Center; and posted on the Town's website. The proposed Consolidated Plan was made available for a 30-day public comment period at three locations in town and the Executive Summary was posted on the Town's website prior to submission to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Housing and Homeless Priority Needs

The Town has determined its priority housing and homeless needs based on various data sources outlined in Section III (A, B, C, D), on information provided by community organizations representing different constituent groups, and on information provided by Town Departments that have frequent contact with residents searching for resources to meet their housing needs (its Health & Social Services Department; its Housing Code Inspection Officers; its Development Department; and its Grants Administration Office). These needs include:

- addressing cost burden and improving the physical condition of the Town's existing housing stock for homeowners earning 0-80% of median family income;
- addressing cost burden for extremely low and very low income renters (0-30% and 31-

- 50% MFI);
- supporting the resources that make up the Town’s continuum of care for the homeless and those at-risk of becoming homeless; and
- supporting the housing needs of special populations, such as the elderly and persons with disabilities.

The specific objectives to meet these needs and the projected annual goals for the five-year Consolidated Plan period are as follows:

- Objective # 1: Improve the supply and condition of one to four-unit housing occupied by low income families in designated neighborhoods and throughout East Hartford through the implementation of housing improvement programs; including, but not limited to lead-based paint hazard control, general and emergency rehabilitation, handicapped accessibility, and code correction.

Output: During the Plan period, approximately 150 units of housing will be improved through the Furnace and Roof Replacement Program. Experience has shown that although this program is open to one to four-unit owner-occupied properties, single-family property owners show the most interest. Therefore it is estimated that approximately 25% of completed units will benefit low to moderate income renters. The remaining 75% will benefit low to moderate income owners residing in their own homes.

- Objective # 2: Provide fair housing services to the East Hartford community including, but not limited to, education and counseling services.

Output: Approximately 180 low income members of East Hartford renter and owner households will be assisted each year of the Consolidated Plan period under HERC’s Direct Services program funded through CDBG.

- Objective # 3: Support the continued operation of East Hartford’s homeless shelter with particular emphasis on the transition of homeless persons to permanent residents in the community.

Output: Approximately 225 unduplicated homeless persons (men, women and children) will be sheltered yearly during the Con Plan period. These extremely low income persons will be given a roof over their heads, food, case management services, and assistance with finding transitional and permanent housing.

- Objective # 4: Support the provision of public services which include, but are not limited to, those concerned with youth services, substance abuse, senior services, and

handicapped accessibility.

Output: Approximately 100 frail elderly and elderly residents will receive senior support services yearly during the Plan period to help them remain in their homes. These services, funded through CDBG and the North Central Agency on Aging, consist of grocery delivery and an Elderly Outreach Worker.

Non-Housing Community Development Priority Needs

The Town has determined its priority non-housing community development needs based on various data sources outlined in Section III (E), on information contained in the Town of East Hartford's 10-year *Plan of Conservation and Development*, on Consolidated Plan Survey results, citizen participation and comments at public meetings and in less formal settings in the past several years, and on interviews with diverse non-profit community organizations. These needs include:

- the revitalization of the central business district and its surrounding low to moderate income neighborhoods;
- public improvements to roads and sidewalks, measures to address noise and congestion on major thoroughfares, and handicapped accessibility improvements;
- public service needs, especially for the elderly, homeless persons, and youths;
- continued support for grass-roots efforts to improve the physical, economic, and social environments of low and moderate income neighborhoods.

The specific objectives to meet these needs and the projected annual goals for the five-year Consolidated Plan period are as follows. Please note that although Objective # 4 is included in the previous section as a housing priority because it addresses the need for supportive housing, it is also included in this section because of its applicability to non-housing community development needs. Besides Objective # 4, the Town of East Hartford has identified three additional non-housing objectives to meet the goals of providing a suitable living environment for low to moderate income town residents and expanding economic opportunities for them.

- Objective # 4: Support the provision of public services which include, but are not limited to, those concerned with youth services, substance abuse, senior services, and handicapped accessibility.
- Literacy Volunteers: Literacy tutoring and tutoring in the English language for adults needing those skills to find employment, fit into the cultural life of the community, and to support the reading skills of their children.

Output: For each year funded, approximately 30 low to moderate income adults will benefit from literacy tutoring.

- InterCommunity, Inc.: Clinical assessment and support group for East Hartford families suffering from mental health or substance abuse issues; services provided

through InterCommunity's Outpatient Psychiatric Children's Clinic (OPCC).

Output: For each year funded approximately 30 low to moderate income families will benefit from support group services.

- Interval House East: Shelter, food, domestic violence counseling, advocacy with social services and in the court system, safety planning, 24-hour hotline, information and referrals, support groups and children's services for victims of domestic violence.

Output: For each year funded, approximately 140 low to moderate income adults will benefit from services concerning domestic violence.

- East Hartford Interfaith Ministries: Operation of Friendship Center Free Hot Meal Program.

Output: For each year funded, approximately 365 low to moderate income adults will benefit from the free hot meal program.

- Youth Services Bilingual Counselor: Youth counseling services to Hispanic/Latino citizens who may have limited English proficiency to bridge language and cultural barriers and be culturally responsive to growing Hispanic/Latino families in town.

Output: For each year funded, approximately 21 low to moderate income families will benefit from bilingual youth counseling.

- Objective # 5: Revitalization of downtown or any other blighted area through the promotion of economic development which increases available jobs to low and moderate income persons.

Output: The Town intends to continue initiatives to revitalize the central business district and other low to moderate income commercial/residential areas. Examples of activities that may be undertaken with CDBG funds include the rehabilitation of one to four-unit housing stock, streetscape and amenity improvements, and improvements to the facades of commercial buildings.

- Objective# 6: Physical Improvements to parks and public facilities in deteriorating low and moderate income areas.

Output: During the Con Plan period, the Town intends to continue to make improvements to parks and public facilities including replacement of deteriorated sidewalks in low to moderate income areas and general streetscape improvements.

- Objective# 7: Support efforts aimed at improving the physical, economic or social environment of low to moderate income neighborhoods.

Output: The Town intends to support the neighborhood revitalization efforts of community based organizations by utilizing CDBG funds for technical assistance or for eligible activities that improve the physical, economic and social environments of the low to moderate income areas they represent.

ONE YEAR ACTION PLAN

Each year the Town of East Hartford prepares an *Action Plan* that provides information on CDBG activities proposed for the coming program year and their funding levels. This annual *Plan* is formulated in February, subject to public review in March or April, and approved by the Town Council in May. The following is a brief summary of the approved activities for the CDBG 36th Program Year:

Public Services

Senior Support Services (Social Services)	\$20,000	Funding for services to East Hartford's at-home, frail elderly including grocery delivery and an Elderly Outreach Worker. Matching funds to a grant from North Central Area Agency on Aging.
CRT – East Hartford Community Shelter	\$35,000	Funding for operating expenses at the town's homeless shelter.
Housing Education Resource Center	\$11,500	Funding for fair housing services including tenant/landlord counseling and foreclosure information.
Bilingual Counselor	\$6,000	Part-time Spanish speaking (Youth Services) counselor.
East Hartford Interfaith Ministries	\$9,000	Funding for Friendship Center Free Hot Meal Program.
Interval House East	\$7,000	Funding for domestic violence shelter and counseling services for low/moderate income

		residents.
Literacy Volunteers	\$5,000	Funding for program which provides tutoring in basic literacy and in English for low/moderate income adults.
InterCommunity, Inc.	\$5,000	Funding to support assessment and support group services provided to town families coping with mental health or addiction disorders.

Projects

Housing Rehabilitation	\$321,673	Roof and furnace replacement for one to four-unit owner-occupied properties for low to moderate income families.
Martin Park Pool Deck	\$100,000	Replacement of Martin Park Pool decking.
East Hartford Community Cultural Center Access	\$25,000	Funding to install automatic door opener.
Latimer Street Fencing	\$25,000	Replacement of fencing between Town's transfer station, landfill & incinerator and residences on Latimer Street, a low to moderate income neighborhood.
Mayberry Village Neighborhood Revitalization Zone	\$500	Funding to assist with the support of a neighborhood revitalization activity undertaken by a Community Based Development Organization.

The Town of East Hartford's Community Development Block Grant Consolidated Plan for 2010-2015 may be reviewed in its entirety at the following locations:

Office of the Town Clerk, 740 Main Street
Raymond Library, 840 Main Street
Grants Administration Office, 740 Main Street
(all sites handicapped accessible).

Please contact Clare Fravel, Housing Planning Analyst (860) 291-7306 for more information
(TTD/TDY users call Relay Connecticut 1-800-842-9710 or 7-1-1).