

THE CDBG-R SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT

Jurisdiction(s): City of Port St. Lucie	CDBG-R Contact Person: Tricia Swift-Pollard
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ENSURING RESPONSIBLE SPENDING OF RECOVERY ACT FUNDS

Funding available under the Recovery Act has clear purposes – to stimulate the economy through measures that modernize the Nation’s infrastructure, improve energy efficiency, and expand educational opportunities and access to health care. HUD strongly urges grantees to use CDBG-R funds 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 buildings. While the full range of CDBG activities is available to grantees, the Department strongly suggests that grantees incorporate consideration of the public perception of the intent of the Recovery Act in identifying and selecting projects for CDBG-R funding.

A. SPREADSHEET FOR REPORTING PROPOSED CDBG-R ACTIVITIES

Grantees must provide information concerning CDBG-R assisted activities in an electronic spreadsheet provided by HUD. The information that must be reported in the spreadsheet includes activity name, activity description, CDBG-R dollar amount budgeted, eligibility category, national objective citation, additional Recovery Act funds for the activity received from other programs, and total activity budget.

A copy of the spreadsheet is attached.

B1. CDBG-R INFORMATION BY ACTIVITY (COMPLETE FOR EACH ACTIVITY)

- (1) Activity Name: (Grantees should follow the same order that activities are listed in the Spreadsheet for Reporting Proposed CDBG-R Activities – this will allow HUD to easily match activity narratives with the information provided in the spreadsheet.)

Ardasley Storm Drainage Improvements

- (2) Activity Narrative:

In addition to the Spreadsheet for Reporting Proposed CDBG-R Activities, grantees must provide a narrative for each activity describing how the use of the grantee's CDBG-R funds will meet the requirements of Title XII of Division A and Section 1602 of ARRA. The grantee's narrative must also state how CDBG-R funds will be used in a manner that maximizes job creation and economic benefit in relation to the CDBG-R funds obligated, and will address the Recovery Act, by:

- Preserving and creating jobs and promoting economic recovery;
- Assisting those most impacted by the recession;
- Providing investment needed to increase economic efficiency;
- Investing in transportation, environmental protection, or other infrastructure that will provide long-term economic benefits;
- Minimizing or avoiding reductions in essential services; or
- Fostering energy independence.

Description of Project: The Ardsley Storm Drainage Improvements project is located in a low/moderate income neighborhood in the City's Floresta Pines (FP) section (Census Tract 001503 Group 3.) 100% of project funds will be utilized for this low/mod area project, which is located just west of Floresta Drive and serves as a local connector for residents wishing to access this urban minor arterial to Floresta Drive. The project will replace aged and failing corrugated metal pipes with corrugated aluminum pipes and N12 plastic, where applicable, and clean out detention areas within the Tract. The City has adopted and will utilize the Florida Department of Transportation specifications for this project. The City Public Works Department will design the proposed pipe replacements and provide contract oversight. The improved drainage system will mitigate home flooding and provide safe pedestrian access.

Preserving and Maximizing Job Creation: The drainage project will not create long-term jobs but it will help to employ workers in the short-term until other more permanent projects are ready. Administrative personnel will design the pipe replacement, oversee construction and provide regulatory compliance and reporting for the project. The City has been forced to lay off over 40 employees within the last year, the design, construction oversight and administrative reporting for this project will help to retain six city employees.

Assisting Those Most Impacted By the Recession: The infrastructure project area is one of the first established developments in the City of Port St. Lucie, built in 1972. Over 56% of these older homes in Census Tract 1503, Block Group 3, are occupied by low-to-moderate income residents. Home slabs in this neighborhood are built slightly above the crown of

the road elevation, which can cause significant flooding if storm water exceeds this elevation. There is also a considerable amount of pedestrian traffic, as the Northport Elementary K-8 School is nearby. Children often walk to school or to bus stops and need safe and dry access to sidewalks along the street. Residents also require protection against damage to homes or roadways.

This project may help low income wage earners in the neighborhood who have lost jobs or at least decreased their hours of work. If the contractor needs additional help, he will be required to follow Section 3 guidelines and provide notice of job openings in the low income neighborhood where construction will occur. Some of those residents may be able to fill or retain jobs because of the project.

Investing in Environmental Protection and Infrastructure: The drainage improvement project will provide an investment in environmental protection; it will mitigate flooding that can disrupt normal drainage systems and overwhelm septic systems within the neighborhood. Flooding conditions can also cause damage to homes or roadways or disturb the environment with floatables that enter nearby waterways during uncontrolled flooding events. The investment in infrastructure will provide for immediate replacement of failing metal pipes through the purchase and installation of corrugated aluminum pipes (CAP) and N12 plastic purchased from companies producing these products in the United States.

Minimizing or avoiding reductions in essential services: The type of pipe used for the drainage improvements, as discussed in #4 below, will provide a long-term solution to mitigate flooding problems experienced in the past. The pipe will require less maintenance, saving money and allowing public works staff to perform other essential services.

Fostering Efficiency, Conservation and Energy Independence: By providing for long-term improvements in infrastructure, the City can begin to perform more services with less money. We can save energy – less trips to perform routine maintenance or to fix flooding problems. The pipes will not need to be replaced for over 50 years, saving the energy of producing replacements. Energy efficiency allows us to reduce our need for more power plants or imported energy. Smaller projects like this, done with energy efficiency in mind, can start us on our way to energy independence.

- (3) **Jobs Created:** (Report the number of full- and part-time jobs estimated to be created and retained by the activity (including permanent, construction, and temporary jobs)).

The project is expected to employ 30 construction workers during the 4 week project. An additional 6 administrative city staff will be employed in design, oversight and administrative reporting, before, during and after the construction, until close out of the grant. The City has been forced to lay off over 40 employees within the last year, the design, construction oversight and administrative reporting for this project will help to retain six city employees.

- (4) Additional Activity Information: (A description of how the activity will promote energy conservation, smart growth, green building technologies, or reduced pollution emissions, if applicable.)

The pipe replacement will last 20 years longer than the type of pipe being replaced, which promotes energy conservation by requiring less frequent production of the materials. These pipes will require less maintenance and will mitigate an estimated imminent road failure and sinkhole formation which alleviates road shut-down and detours and promotes reduced pollution emissions.

- (5) Responsible Organization: (Contact information for the organization that will implement the CDBG-R activity, including its name, location, and administrator contact information)

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B2. CDBG-R INFORMATION BY ACTIVITY

- (1) Activity Name:

Administration

- (2) Activity Narrative:

Description of Project: Funds to provide administrative support for the project before, during and after construction. No more than 10% of the grant amount will be spent on this activity.

- (3) Jobs Created: (Report the number of full- and part-time jobs estimated to be created and retained by the activity (including permanent, construction, and temporary jobs)).

Administrative Activity will help to retain 2 city employees.

- (4) Additional Activity Information: (A description of how the activity will promote energy conservation, smart growth, green building technologies, or reduced pollution emissions, if applicable.)

N/A - Administrative Activity

- (5) Responsible Organization: (Contact information for the organization that will implement the CDBG-R activity, including its name, location, and administrator contact information)

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C. PUBLIC COMMENT

Provide a summary of public comments received to the proposed CDBG-R Substantial Amendment.

Note: A Proposed CDBG-R Substantial Amendment must be published via the usual methods and posted on the jurisdiction's website for no less than 7 calendar days for public comment.

Response:

The City of Port St. Lucie published an announcement of the draft CDBG-R Substantial Amendment in the St. Lucie News Tribune on 5/16/09 . The proposed draft amendment was posted on the City's website on 5/20/09. Written comments were accepted until 5/28/09. A public meeting was advertised and held on May 26, 2009. A (summary of the comments and a) copy of the minutes of the meeting (is) are attached as Appendix 1. There were no comments at the meeting.