

# THE CDBG-R SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT

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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. An electronic copy of the spreadsheet and the format is available on HUD’s recovery website at <http://www.hud.gov/recovery>.

### ***B. 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.)

#### Response:

**Public Facilities** – Creation of a counseling center that will provide services to residents such as home maintenance education, foreclosure prevention, homebuyer education, workforce skills preparation, computer literacy, and referral assistance. The center will also house affordable housing development staff. Future expansion to micro-enterprise assistance (revolving loan funds).

(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.

Response:

The proposed project is consistent with the following Consolidated Plan:

Priority: Promote neighborhood revitalization through targeted marketing of housing and other services and implementation of programs which promote strong neighborhoods.

The proposed project places particular emphasis on programs that support job creation and economic stimulus activities. Such programs support a reduction in foreclosures, increase in job skills, foster home improvement and financial literacy, and promote self-sufficiency among Irving residents.

(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)).

Response:

The proposed project will create an estimated fifteen (15) construction jobs and three (3) permanent counseling jobs. Additionally, a key component of the Counseling Center is employment training. It is estimated that 40-60 people per year will obtain employment either through City of Irving Counselors or referrals through the Counseling Center.

(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.)

Response:

The proposed public facility project will include building restoration, possible retrofitting, with the use of high seer air conditioning units, increased insulation, motion sensor lighting, low emission materials (paint, coating, adhesives, sealants, and carpet), ACM abatement, and ADA upgrades. The City of Irving is committed to purchasing local materials when possible. The project will also include the installation of energy star appliances in the kitchen/break room area and other energy efficient equipment as allowable.

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

Response:

The projects will be directly overseen by City staff. There are no subgrantees.

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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: As required by the Department of Housing and Urban Development Rules and Regulations, the City complies with regulation 24 CFR 91.105, Citizen Participation Plan for local governments as outlined. The components of Irving's citizen participation plan have been designed with the explicit intention of accommodating and encouraging participation by low-and moderate-income residents, residents of low-and moderate-income neighborhoods, members of minority groups, persons with limited English proficiency, and persons with disabilities.

With the release of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, HUD emphasized that CDBG-R funds should target programs that create/retain jobs and provide economic stimulus activities. Given this guidance, along with the requirement that funds be under contract within 120 days, a number of economic development programs originally recommended for funding with FY09-10 CDBG funds were redirected to the CDBG-R program. Making this change ensures that the City complies with HUD's directive while employing a fair and citizen led process to allocate the funds. Shifting programs in this way allows the City to support more projects and programs than otherwise would have been possible.

Programs supported with CDBG-R funds are included as a Substantial Amendment to the 2008-09 Annual Action Plan. A draft of the Substantial Amendment was made available for a 7-day public comment period beginning May 22, 2009. The Draft was made available on the City's website. Special accommodations were available for non-English speaking individuals or for individuals with disabilities. A summary of the draft spending plan was made available for review at the Housing and Human Services office. Copies were also available at a work session held on May 27, 2009, and at a City Council meeting on May 28, 2009. The May 28, 2009 meeting was held at City Hall, which is located in downtown Irving in the center of one of Irving's low-income neighborhoods.