

Substantial Amendment to the 2008 Action Plan for
Community Development Block Grant – Recovery Funding
City of Bentonville, Arkansas

Substantial Amendment to the 2008 Action Plan for Community Development Block Grant - Recovery Funding (CDBG-R)



City of Bentonville, Arkansas

*Prepared by the City of Bentonville:
Community Development Department*

Presented to HUD: June 5th, 2009 (NO LATER THAN)

City Council Approval: Pending Approval

Department of Housing and Urban Development Approval: Pending Approval

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Contact Information

Grantee Name	City of Bentonville, Arkansas
Name of Entity or Department Administering Funds	City of Bentonville, Arkansas Community Development Department
CDBG-R Contact Person (person to answer questions about this amendment and CDBG-R)	Danielle Semsrott
Title	Community Programs Coordinator
Address	305 SW “A” Street
City, State, Zip Code	Bentonville, Arkansas 72712
Telephone	(479) 271-6826
Fax	(479) 271-6807
Email Address	dsemsrott@bentonvillear.com
Authorized Official (if different from Contact Person)	Bob McCaslin
Title	Mayor
Address	117 E. Central Avenue
City, State, Zip Code	Bentonville, AR 72712
Telephone	(479) 271-5966
Fax	(479) 271-3105
Email Address	bmccaslin@bentonvillear.com
Web Address where this Form is Posted	www.bentonvillear.com
Amount Grantee is Eligible to Receive*	\$49, 442.00
Amount Grantee is Requesting	\$49,442.00

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>.

Response: The required spreadsheet is included as an attachment to this report and is available in a hard copy format and in an electronic format. The spreadsheet is posted on the City of Bentonville's website at www.bentonvillear.com. In addition, the spreadsheet was e-mailed to CDBG-R@hud.gov on **INSERT DATE** as required in the Notice of Program Requirements.

B. CDBG-R INFORMATION BY ACTIVITY

(1) Activity Name:

Response: The proposed activity to be funded with CDBG-R funds is an **Owner Occupied Single Family Housing Rehabilitation Program (Program)**. The purpose of the Program is to provide housing related improvements such as moderate rehabilitation and emergency repairs to qualified, low to moderate income families and individuals in order to improve and preserve their single family home. The goal is to promote housing that is safe, secure, healthy, and energy efficient to individuals and families that live in owner occupied, single family, substandard housing. To qualify for the Program the applicant's income must be less than 80% of the median, adjusted for family size. Income levels are set by the Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) and change annually. As a result, at least 70% of the grant amount will benefit persons of low and moderate income

No CDBG-R funds will be spent on activities which fall into the public service and program administration and planning categories as defined by HUD.

(2) Activity Narrative:

Response: The Program will meet the requirements of Title XII of Division A and Section 1602 of ARRA. The 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 giving priority to projects that will be able to award contracts based on bids within 120 calendar days from the date the funds are made available to the recipients. In addition, the Program will meet the following requirements:

- **Preserving and creating jobs and promoting economic recovery:** The Program will preserve jobs, create jobs, and promote economic recovery by providing contractors and

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skilled laborers with new and / or increased employment opportunities. Outside contractors will complete the rehabilitation and emergency repair projects. This trade has been negatively impacted by the economic recession due to the associated decline in new construction and remodeling projects. In addition, the materials purchased will promote economic recovery by increased spending due to the purchase of products and materials needed to complete the projects.

- **Assisting those most impacted by the recession:** The Program will assist those most impacted by the recession because, as explained previously in this report, outside contractors will complete the rehabilitation and emergency repair projects. This trade has been negatively impacted by the economic recession by the associated decline in new construction and remodeling projects. In addition, all Program recipients' income must be less than 80% of the median, adjusted for family size. Individuals and families that fall into the low to moderate income categories are at risk of being impacted by the recession due to such factors as being laid off; not receiving an increase in pay; and inflated expenses in such items as utilities, child care, food, and gasoline.
- **Providing investment needed to increase economic efficiency:** The Program will provide investment needed to increase economic efficiency by providing jobs, spending money on materials and labor, improving the City's infrastructure of affordable housing stock, and saving homeowners' money by improving energy efficiency.
- **Investing in transportation, environmental protection, or other infrastructure that will provide long-term economic benefits:** By offering the Program through the use of CDBG-R funds, long-term economic benefits will be provided because the rehabilitation and emergency repairs will preserve the City's infrastructure of affordable housing stock. Program recipients will save money by the installation and use of energy efficient materials. In addition, improving dilapidated housing structures will prevent many at risk owner households, especially extremely low and very low income individuals and families, from becoming homeless. New and / or increased employment opportunities and money spent on materials will also benefit the economy.
- **Minimizing or avoiding reductions in essential services:** The Program will minimize or avoid reductions in essential services because there is currently not an LMI Owner Occupied Housing Rehabilitation Program offered directly by the City of Bentonville. Rebuilding Together of Northwest Arkansas offers a similar program in the region. Although, their funding is limited and not all applicants can be funded immediately or at all because the demand outweighs the resources. The combined efforts will result in a positive impact by assisting those individuals and families who are most in need of housing assistance.
- **Fostering energy independence:** The Program will foster energy independence because all materials needed and purchased for Program activities will improve the energy efficiency of the dwelling. In addition, Energy Star rated products will be purchased if applicable and appropriate to the needed repairs. All completed repairs and improvements

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will be necessary to bring the dwelling up to current building and energy efficiency codes. Funds may be used to update the plumbing, electrical, heating, ventilation, air conditioning, insulation, entry doors, windows, vinyl siding, leaking roofs, broken water lines, broken sewer lines, inoperative heating systems, hot water heaters, electrical hazards, and other repairs deemed to be needed and / or an emergency. Program funds may not be used to perform routine maintenance work. The amount of funds expended on each individual dwelling varies, according to the amount of work necessary to bring the dwelling up to current codes, standards, and to foster energy independence.

(3) Jobs Created:

Response: The number of full and part time jobs estimated to be created and retained by the proposed Program (including permanent, construction, and temporary jobs) is forty-eight (48) construction jobs. This is an estimate because the amount of work to be completed on each home will vary.

For example: \$49,442 (CDBG-R funds) / \$3,000 (estimated average spent per home, includes labor and materials) = 16 homes

16 homes x 3 workers per home (estimated average) = 48 construction jobs estimated to be created.

(4) Additional Activity Information:

Response: The Program will promote energy conservation, smart growth, and reduce pollution emissions. The Project will promote energy conservation, smart growth, and reduce pollution emissions by the installation and use of Energy Star products. By utilizing Energy Star for, “best practices and products, households can reduce their energy use and save about one-third, or \$750 annually, on their utility bills, while reducing the greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change” (Energy Star Overview of 2008 Achievements; www.energystar.gov). The Project will promote smart growth because existing structures will be rehabbed instead of creating new housing. In addition, the areas with the greatest potential of single family homes that need rehabilitation are centrally located in the downtown area, which reduces emissions.

(5) Responsible Organization:

Response: The contact information for the organization that will implement the CDBG-R activity, including its name, location, and administrator contact information is listed on page two of this report.

C. PUBLIC COMMENT

Response: The proposed CDBG-R Substantial Amendment was posted on the City of Bentonville’s website on May 22nd, 2009. The URL is www.bentonvilllear.com. This meets the seven (7) day calendar requirement for public comment.

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In addition, a public notice for comments on the substantial amendment and the opportunity for public comment were published in the Arkansas Democrat Gazette, Northwest Arkansas Edition newspaper on **INSERT DATE**. The notice includes a description of the contents and purpose of the substantial amendment in English and Spanish. Copies of the proposed amendment are available at the City of Bentonville’s Community Development building, Public Library, and City Hall. Any and all public comments received will be taken into consideration prior to the submittal of this amendment.

There **WERE / WERE NOT** any public comments received to the proposed CDBG-R Substantial Amendment. **IF PUBLIC COMMENT, INSERT HERE.**

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CDBG-R Substantial Amendment Grantee Checklist

For the purposes of expediting review, HUD asks that applicants submit the following checklist along with the CDBG-R Substantial Amendment, Spreadsheet for Reporting Proposed CDBG-R Activities, and SF-424.

Contents of a CDBG-R Action Plan Substantial Amendment

Contact Information

Grantee Name	City of Bentonville, Arkansas
Name of Entity or Department Administering Funds	City of Bentonville, Arkansas Community Development Department
CDBG-R Contact Person (person to answer questions about this amendment and CDBG-R)	Danielle Semsrott
Title	Community Programs Coordinator
Address	305 SW “A” Street
City, State, Zip Code	Bentonville, Arkansas 72712
Telephone	(479) 271-6826
Fax	(479) 271-6807
Email Address	dsemsrott@bentonvillear.com
Authorized Official (if different from Contact Person)	Bob McCaslin
Title	Mayor
Address	117 E. Central Avenue
City, State, Zip Code	Bentonville, AR 72712
Telephone	(479) 271-5966
Fax	(479) 271-3105
Email Address	bmccaslin@bentonvillear.com
Web Address where this Form is Posted	www.bentonvillear.com
Amount Grantee is Eligible to Receive*	\$49, 442.00
Amount Grantee is Requesting	\$49,442.00

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The elements in the substantial amendment required for the CDBG recovery funds are:

A. SPREADSHEET FOR REPORTING PROPOSED CDBG-R ACTIVITIES

Does the submission contain a paper copy of the Spreadsheet for Reporting Proposed CDBG-R Activities?

Yes No Verification found on page: 3

Does the submission include an electronic version of the Spreadsheet for Reporting Proposed CDBG-R Activities sent to the email box CDBG-R@hud.gov?

Yes No Date Spreadsheet was emailed: INSERT DATE

Does the Spreadsheet for Reporting Proposed CDBG-R Activities include, for each activity:

- amount of funds budgeted for each activity, including CDBG-R funds, any additional Recovery Funds used and total activity budget,
Yes No Verification found on page: 2 and Spreadsheet
- the Eligibility citation (eligibility regulatory cite or HCDA cite),
Yes No Verification found on page: Spreadsheet
- the CDBG national objective citation,
Yes No Verification found on page: Spreadsheet

B. CDBG-R INFORMATION BY ACTIVITY

Does the submission contain information by activity describing how the grantee will use the funds, including:

- a narrative for each activity describing how CDBG-R funds will be used in a manner that maximizes job creation and economic benefit,
Yes No Verification found on page(s): 3 and 4
- projected number of jobs created for each activity,
Yes No Verification found on page: 5
- whether an activity will promote energy efficiency and conservation,
Yes No Verification found on page(s): 4 and 5
- the name, location, and contact information for the entity that will carry out the activity,
Yes No Verification found on page: 2 and 7
- evidence that no more than 10% of the grant amount will be spent on administration and planning,
Yes No Verification found on page: 3

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- evidence that no more than 15% of the grant amount will be spent on public services,
Yes No Verification found on page: 3
- evidence that at least 70% of the grant amount will benefit persons of low and moderate income,
Yes No Verification found on page: 3

C. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Was the proposed action plan amendment published via the jurisdiction’s usual methods and on the Internet for no less than 7 calendar days of public comment?

Yes No . Verification found on page: 5 and 6

Is there a summary of citizen comments included in the final amendment?

Yes No Verification found on page: 6

D. CERTIFICATIONS

The following certifications are complete and accurate:

- | | | |
|--|---|-----------------------------|
| (1) Affirmatively furthering fair housing | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (2) Anti-displacement and relocation plan | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (3) Drug-free Workplace | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (4) Anti-lobbying | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (5) Authority of jurisdiction | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (6) Consistency with plan | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (7) Section 3 | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (8) Community development plan | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (9) Following a plan | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (10) Use of Funds | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (11) Excessive Force | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (12) Compliance with anti-discrimination laws | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (13) Lead-based paint procedures | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (14) Compliance with laws | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (15) Compliance with ARRA | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (16) Project selection | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (17) Timeliness of infrastructure investments | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (18) Buy American provision | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (19) Appropriate use of funds for infrastructure investments | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (20) 70% of CDBG-R for LMI | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |

Optional Certification

(21) Urgent Need Yes No

D. STATE CERTIFICATIONS

The following certifications are complete and accurate:

- | | | |
|---|---|-----------------------------|
| (1) Affirmatively furthering fair housing | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (2) Anti-displacement and relocation plan | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |

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- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| (3) Drug-free Workplace | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (4) Anti-lobbying | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (5) Authority of State | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (6) Consistency with plan | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (7) Section 3 | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (8) Community development plan | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (9) Consultation with Local Governments | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (10) Use of Funds | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (11) Excessive Force | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (12) Compliance with anti-discrimination laws | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (13) Compliance with laws | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (14) Compliance with ARRA | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (15) Project selection | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (16) Timeliness of infrastructure investments | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (17) Buy American provision | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (18) Appropriate use of funds for infrastructure investments | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (19) 70% of CDBG-R for LMI | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Optional Certification | | |
| (20) Urgent Need | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |