



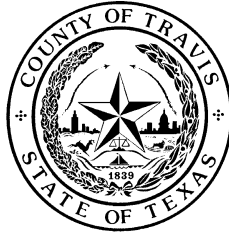
Travis County

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program

Substantial Amendment to the
2008 Program Year Action Plan for
CDBG-Recovery funds



Prepared by Travis County Health & Human Services & Veterans Service



Travis County Commissioners Court

Samuel T. Biscoe
Travis County Judge

Ron Davis
County Commissioner, Precinct One

Sarah Eckhardt
County Commissioner, Precinct Two

Karen Huber
County Commissioner, Precinct Three

Margaret Gómez
County Commissioner, Precinct Four

Executive Summary

CDBG-Recovery

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 ("Recovery Act") was signed into law by President Obama on February 17, 2009. The Recovery Act awards \$1 billion in CDBG Recovery (CDBG-R) funds to be distributed to cities, counties, insular areas and states, of which \$10 million has been reserved by the U.S. Department of Housing (HUD) for its administrative costs and \$10 million of which will be awarded to Indian tribes. Recipients of the remaining \$980 million of CDBG-R funds will be the approximately 1,200 jurisdictions that received CDBG funding in Fiscal Year 2008.

Travis County, as an entitlement jurisdiction that received Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding in Fiscal Year 2008, is qualified to apply for \$226,300 in CDBG-R funds. As is the case with the regular CDBG funds, these moneys must benefit Travis County low- to moderate-income residents who live in the unincorporated areas of the county. In addition, the CDBG-R funds must meet at least one of the objectives of the Recovery Act by stimulating the economy through measures that modernize the Nation's infrastructure, improve energy efficiency, and expand educational opportunities and access to health care.

In order to apply for these funds from HUD, the County must amend its Program Year 2008 Action Plan. Travis County considered five different projects for these funds, and after evaluating the feasibility of each, the Commissioners Court proposes funding the following one:

Proposed Project: Owner Occupied Home Rehabilitation: Water Connections in Plain View Estates

This project involves the service connection of approximately 39 houses to public water infrastructure for the first time benefitting approximately 140 people. The homes are located in Plain View Estates, a primarily low to moderate income neighborhood located in the unincorporated areas of Eastern Travis County. The project will include the design, engineering, surveying, environmental review, construction and related costs for project management and eligibility determination. Only income eligible home owners at or below 80% of the Area Median Family Income, as defined by HUD, will be connected to the public infrastructure.

Public Comment Period

The County will hold a public hearing and a HUD required 7 day public comment period to receive comments on the proposed project. Written comments will be accepted beginning May 22, 2009 at 8:00 a.m. and ending May 29, 2009 at 5:00 p.m. The public can mail their

comments to CDBG Program, Travis County HHSVS P.O. Box 1748, Austin, TX 78767 or e-mail them to Christy Moffett at christy.moffett@co.travis.tx.us.

Public Hearing

The public may also provide their comments by attending a Public Hearing on Tuesday, May 26, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. at the Travis County Granger Building, Commissioners Courtroom, 314 W. 11th St, Austin, TX.

Availability of Draft Document

Beginning May 22, 2009, this document will be available for download on the Travis County CDBG page www.co.travis.tx.us/CDBG or available for review at any of the seven Travis County Community Centers:

South Rural Community Center	3518 FM 973, Del Valle
Travis County Community Center	15822 Foothills Farm Loop, Bldg D, Pflugerville
West Rural Community Center	8656-A Hwy 71 W., Suite A, Oak Hill
Northwest Rural Community Center	18649 FM 1431, Jonestown
East Rural Community Center	600 W. Carrie Manor, Manor
Palm Square Community Center	100 N. IH-35, Suite 1000, Austin
Post Road Community Center	2201 Post Road, Suite 101, Austin

CDBG-R Substantial Amendment

Jurisdiction: Travis County, Texas	CDBG-R Contact Person: Sherry E. Fleming and Christy Moffett
Jurisdiction Web Address: http://www.co.travis.tx.us/CDBG (URL where CDBG-R Substantial Amendment materials are posted)	Address: P.O. Box 1748, Austin, TX, 78767 Telephone: (512)854-4100 Fax: (512)854-4115 Emails: Sherry.Fleming@co.travis.tx.us Christy.moffett@co.travis.tx.us

Travis County proposes to amend the Program Year 2008 Action Plan for the purpose of fulfilling the application requirements to receive Community Development Block funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (CDBG-R). Making proper application to HUD by June 5, 2009, will result in Travis County receiving an allocation of \$226,300 to be used for water line connections for a neighborhood.

CDBG-R Information by Activity

(1) Activity Name:

Owner Occupied Home Rehabilitation: Plain View Estates Water Connections

(2) Activity Narrative, Proposed Accomplishments and Leveraged Funds:

Activity Narrative: This project involves the service connection of approximately 39 houses to public water infrastructure for the first time benefitting approximately 140 individuals. The homes are located in Plain View Estates, a primarily low to moderate income neighborhood located in the unincorporated areas of Eastern Travis County that have experienced water shortages in their personal wells and requires some to truck in water. Connections will only be provided to income eligible low to moderate home owners at or below 80% of the Area Median Family Income as defined by HUD.

The project will include the design, engineering, surveying, environmental review, construction and related costs for project management and eligibility determination. Work will be completed by a design consultant and construction contractor, and the project will be managed by the Travis County Transportation and Natural Resources Department, CDBG Senior Engineer.

Proposed Accomplishments: Proposed improvements to be undertaken will assist approximately 39 housing units tie into public infrastructure for the first time benefitting approximately 140 individuals. The Travis County's 2006-2010 Consolidated Plan places a high priority on water improvements as well as home rehabilitation.

Outcome measures: Create a sustainable living environment through accessibility to water

Target Date for Completion: September 30, 2011

Other Recovery Act funding to be used in conjunction with the Activity: \$0

Total Activity Budget from all funding sources: \$226,300

Description of how project meets the requirements of Title XII of Division A and Section 1602 of ARRA:

- (1) *Priority to projects that can award contracts based on bid within 120 calendar days from the date funds are made available to the recipients; and for infrastructure projects, the recipients shall give preference to activities that can be started and completed expeditiously:*

The County reviewed all projects received from 2006-2008, the new projects submitted for consideration for 2009, and previously funded projects to determine, what if any, met the criteria for CDBG-R. The review indicated the following:

- No infrastructure projects could be completed with the allocated amount.
- None of the projects had the design or environmental phases completed; therefore, all projects must have enough funding allocated to them to cover costs spanning project development through construction completion.
- An infrastructure project would need additional dollars over future years to be completed.
- No projects funded in the past were underfunded so no additional dollars were needed to return the project to full capacity.
- Public service projects, that had not been funded previously, struggled to meet the spirit of the Recovery Act, and funding a public service project further reduced the money available to community development projects.

From the list of all projects, the five that seemed the most feasible were carefully evaluated, and in turn, one of them fit the selection criteria the best. The project selected 1)

is able to commit approximately \$73,000 within 120 days of award to engage a design consultant through negotiation, 2) most closely aligns with the spirit of an infrastructure project and 3) meets the priorities in the 2006-2010 Consolidated Plan. The construction funds will be procured after the design phase is completed. Additionally, this project is self-contained, manageable within the time allotted and benefits people who have experienced a financial impact that prohibits them from paying for the connection to the water infrastructure installed previously.

Travis County will ensure effective and timely use of CDBG-R funds, as well as oversight and monitoring of the administration of all CDBG-R funds by selecting a project managed by the Department with the greatest capacity to move quickly, by participating in pre-construction meetings as necessary to explain expectations, procedures and Federal requirements, review progress reports and other documentation and by meeting regularly with project management staff to ensure compliance.

(2) *A written description of how the use of CDBG-R funds for the activity will maximize job creation and economic benefit in relation to the CDBG-R funds obligated, and will address the Recovery Act, is as follows (categories that do not apply will be marked N/A):*

(a) *Preserving and creating jobs and promoting economic recovery:*

This project estimates the preservation or creation of six jobs, and maximizes economic benefit because it connects a neighborhood into existing infrastructure and allows them to access water. This investment eliminates the expensive act of trucking in water or drilling a deeper well and frees up additional funds for other living expenses. Additionally, this investment provides a secure source of water allowing the neighborhood to remain viable and prevent further deterioration and slum or blight.

(b) *Assisting those most impacted by the recession:*

Due to a variety of factors including the economic down turn, families have found it difficult to save the money to connect to the infrastructure installed in 2007 with County General Revenue funds.

This project assists those most impacted by the recession, low to moderate income families, who are living pay check to pay check, experiencing reduced hours at work or lay offs and cannot set aside enough savings to pay for the connection to the water line.

(c) *Providing investment needed to increase economic efficiency:*

N/A

- (d) *Investing in Transportation, environmental protection, or other infrastructure that will provide long term economic benefits:*

While this project is not considered an infrastructure project by CDBG definitions, it supports the use of public infrastructure and make the past investment viable. If the public infrastructure portion of the project had been funded with CDBG dollars, the connections would have been included as a part of the larger project. Without this improvement, families will need to continue to truck in water, dig deeper wells or abandon their homes to find a more suitable living environment thus providing a long term economic benefit to the neighborhood and the public through the avoidance of slum and blight and the development of a colonia-like area in the middle of an urban county.

- (e) *Minimizing or avoiding reductions in essential services:*

N/A

- (f) *Fostering energy independence:*

N/A

- (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)).

At this time, it is estimated that 1 temporary part- time job and 4 to 5 construction jobs will be created or retained as a result of this project. The temporary position will be in charge of conducting the income eligibility of the beneficiaries of the project, and the construction jobs will complete the work to tie the homes to the water line.

Please note that these numbers are estimates as the County awaits further guidance about the requirements for job creation related to CDBG-R.

- (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.)

Not Applicable

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

Travis County, Transportation and Natural Resources Department
411 W. 13th Street, 11th Floor, Austin, TX 78701
Project Manager: Lee Turner, CDBG Senior Engineer
Phone: 512-854-7598
E-mail: lee.turner@co.travis.tx.us

A design consultant and construction contractor will be selected to perform the work related to this project. Staff will post the winning design consultant firm and construction company on the CDBG website and as required on www.recovery.gov, when known.

Public Comment

Because CDBG-R guidelines call for an expedited process, the public comment period for a substantial amendment was shortened from 30 to 7 days through a waiver provided by HUD. The proposed action plan amendment was posted on the Internet and was available at the seven Travis County Community Centers beginning May 22, 2009, for 7 calendar days to receive public comment. The comment period was advertised on Travis County's website, the seven community centers and television channel. In addition, notifications by mail and e-mail were sent to service providers, to citizens who had previously attended public hearings, to the community liaison departments of schools districts and to neighborhood associations. The announcements were available in English and Spanish.

The public comment period ends, May 29, 2009, at 5 pm, and one public hearing will be held on Tuesday, May 26, 2009 at the Travis County Commissioners Courtroom at 9 am.

Summary of public comments received to the proposed CDBG-R Substantial Amendment.
TO BE ADDED AFTER THE PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD.