

**Town of West Hartford
CDBG-R Substantial Amendment
American Recovery and Reinvestment Act**

Jurisdiction: <u>Town of West Hartford, Connecticut</u>	CDBG-R Contact Person: Edward Sanady, CDBG Coordinator
Jurisdiction Web Address: http://www.westhartford.org	Address: 50 South Main Street, West Hartford, CT 06107
	Telephone: 860-561-7565 Fax: 860-561-7577 Email: ed@westhartford.org

Summary of Substantial Amendment

Community Development Block Grant Program - Recovery Act Funding (CDBG-R)

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has allocated \$294,161.00 in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (CDBG-R) funds to the Town of West Hartford. HUD program regulations related to the use of CDBG-R funds call for funded activities to:

1. promote energy efficiency
2. have a positive, lasting impact on the community in which the funding is utilized
3. create suitable living environments
4. provide decent affordable housing
5. create economic opportunities, primarily for persons of low and moderate income
6. be underway within 120 days of completion of the grant agreement

On June 5, 2009 West Hartford will submit to HUD a substantial amendment to its 2005 to 2009 Five-Year Consolidated Plan and to its 2008 to 2009 Annual Action Plan. This amendment will outline West Hartford's planned use for the additional \$294,161.00 in CDBG-R funding.

These funds will be added to West Hartford's previously approved 2008 to 2009 Housing Rehabilitation Program budget. West Hartford's Housing Rehabilitation program provides financial and technical assistance to eligible West Hartford homeowners seeking to complete approved home improvement projects on their homes. Financial assistance is available (as a combined grant and low-interest loan) to eligible homeowners to:

- reduce lead hazards
- promote energy efficiency
- correct housing code violations
- remove architectural barriers which restrict mobility and accessibility

Individuals with a disability or anyone who may need special assistance in order to understand and/or comment on this amendment should contact Edward Sanady in West Hartford's Department of Human & Leisure Services.

For the allocation of CDBG-R funding HUD has waived the usual thirty-day comment period associated with the allocation of regular CDBG funding. Instead, the allocation/substantial amendment must be published clearly on the grantee's web site and a seven-day comment period has been established.

The Town of West Hartford welcomes comments on the proposed use of this CDBG-R funding. All such comments must be submitted prior to 4:30 PM, Thursday, June 4, 2009. Comments and questions should be directed to: Edward Sanady, West Hartford Town Hall, Room 306, 50 South Main Street, West Hartford, CT 06107, 860-561-7565; e-mail: ed@westhartford.org

A. SPREADSHEET FOR REPORTING PROPOSED CDBG-R ACTIVITIES

The Town of West Hartford has prepared the electronic spread sheet developed by HUD; see below. The spreadsheet includes the activity name, activity description, CDBG-R dollar amount budgeted, eligibility category, national objective citation, any identified additional Recovery Act funds for the activity receives from other programs, and the total activity budget.

Jurisdiction/Grantee Name: Town of West Hartford, Connecticut		CDBG-R Formula Grant Amount: \$294,161.00				Date: 5/28/05	
Activity Name	Activity Description	Eligibility (Regulatory or HCDA Citation)	Nat Obj Cite.	CDBG-R Project Budget (\$)	Additional Recovery Funds (\$)	Other Leveraged Funding (\$)	Total Activity Budget
Housing Rehabilitation Program	Financial and technical assistance to eligible West Hartford homeowners seeking to complete approved home improvement projects on their homes, with a the focus prioritized as follows: reduce lead hazards, promote energy efficiency, correct housing code violations, and remove architectural barriers	570.202 (b-9)	LMC	\$294,161	0	0	\$294,161
				CDBG-R BUDGET TOTAL:			\$294,161

B. CDBG-R INFORMATION BY ACTIVITY

West Hartford has allocated its full CDBG-R award of to a single activity; Housing Rehabilitation

1. **Activity Name:** Housing Rehabilitation Program
2. **Activity Narrative:** West Hartford has allocated its full CDBG-R award to its existing 2008 Housing Rehabilitation Program (<http://www.west-hartford.com/TownServices/TownDepartments/CommunityServices/HousingServices/HousingRehab1.htm>).

In partnership with the West Hartford & Bloomfield Health District, who performs Health Code and Property & Maintenance code inspections, West Hartford's Housing Rehabilitation Program provides income eligible residential property owners with financial and technical assistance when completing certain, approved home improvements. Financial assistance is given to participants through a formula-based combination of grant funds and loan funds. All grants and loans are secured through a lien and a lifetime mortgage deed filed with the West Hartford Town Clerk. Grant obligations are reduced annually based on the LMI resident's continued residency in the rehabbed dwelling unit.

The prioritized focus of the improvements call for the eligible homeowners to:

- reduce lead hazards
- promote energy efficiency
- correct housing code violations
- remove architectural barriers which restrict mobility and accessibility

HUD has defined for CDBG-R recipients priorities to be considered for this funding. West Hartford's use of CDBG-R funding addresses these priorities as follows:

- **promotion of energy efficiency** - nearly all of the dwelling units worked on under West Hartford's Housing Rehabilitation include energy efficiency improvements within the scope of services; new heat plants, new hot water systems, insulation installation, replacement windows, solar panel installation (plans underway to begin including this activity within the scope of services)
- **have a positive, lasting impact on the community in which the funding is utilized:** – completion of a substantial home improvement project for an LMI households, when done it is done in an organized, high-quality and affordable manner, is considered the single best way to improve one's living environment (this is the essence of West Hartford's Housing Rehabilitation program).
- **create suitable living environments:** – (SAME RESPONSE AS ABOVE) completion of a substantial home improvement project for an LMI households, when done it is done in an organized, high-quality and affordable manner, is considered the single best way to improve one's living environment (this is the essence of West Hartford's Housing Rehabilitation program).
- **provide decent affordable housing:** – (SAME RESPONSE AS ABOVE) completion of a substantial home improvement project for an LMI households, when done it is done in an organized, high-quality and affordable manner, is considered the single best way to improve

one's living environment (this is the essence of West Hartford's Housing Rehabilitation program).

- **create economic opportunities, primarily for persons of low and moderate income:** this activity only has this effect in a peripheral manner; if someone's basic housing needs are met they are in a better position to pursue improved personal economic resources.
- **be underway within 120 days of completion of the grant agreement:** – this program is an active CDBG program within West Hartford's 2008 Annual Action Plan and its implementation can happen almost immediately once the CDBG-R application is completed and approved by HUD.

3. **Job Creation:** West Hartford is not specifically targeting this objective as prioritized through the ARRA –CDBG-R guidelines. West Hartford will not specifically track this characteristic as part of its CDBG-R expenditures. Job However, in expanding its Housing Rehabilitation Program West Hartford will indirectly help to support the retention of countless existing jobs that might otherwise be eliminated as a result of negative economic conditions.
4. **Additional Activity Information:** because the West Hartford Housing Rehabilitation Program so strongly emphasizes energy efficiency improvements, West Hartford's use of CDBG-R funds will have a direct, favorable impact on the promotion of energy conservation. Additionally, if incorporated into West Hartford's Housing Rehabilitation Program, the installation of solar panel energy systems will exemplify CDBG-R's emphasis on implementing green building technology and educing pollution emissions.
5. **Responsible Organization:** West Hartford Department of Human and Leisure Services
 - Contact person – Edward Sanady, CDBG Coordinator (ed@westhartford.org)
 - Address - 50 South Main street, West Hartford, CT 06107
 - Telephone - 860-561-7565 FAX – 860-561-7577

C. PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment is being solicited until 9:00 AM, June 5, 2009. All comments should be directed to the responsible organization listed in #5, above.