

**39-R-09**

**A RESOLUTION**

**Authorizing the Interim City Manager to Submit the  
Substantial Amendment to the  
*City of Evanston Consolidated Plan 2008 Action Plan for the  
Community Development Block Grant Recovery Program***

**WHEREAS**, the Congress of the United States did pass the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009*, which created the "Community Development Block Grant Recovery Program" (CDBG-R) under Title XII of Division A that Act, and designated one billion dollars (\$1,000,000,000.00) to carry out the CDBG program under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 on an expedited basis. Funds will be distributed to grantees that received CDBG funding in Fiscal Year 2008 in accordance with provisions of 42 U.S.C. 5306; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Evanston is a grantee by definition in said Act and, as such, is eligible to make application to the United States Department of Housing & Urban Development (hereinafter, "HUD") for five hundred and twenty-three thousand, eight hundred twenty-eight dollars (\$523,828.00) under said grant program by submitting a Substantial Amendment to the *City of Evanston Consolidated Plan 2008 Action Plan* (hereinafter, the "Substantial Amendment") by June 5, 2009; and

**WHEREAS**, HUD strongly urges grantees to use CDBG-R funds for hard development costs for infrastructure activities and public improvements, and to give preference to "shovel-ready" projects for which contracts can be awarded rapidly and work can be started within one hundred twenty (120) days of receipt of funding, and requires that all CDBG-R funds be expended by September 30, 2012; and

**WHEREAS**, HUD discourages use of CDBG-R funds to initiate projects that may not be completed by the September 30, 2012, deadline or that will require the commitment of future year CDBG "regular" entitlement funds, and requires identifying a discrete use for the CDBG-R funds with a separate contract agreement because of the separate quarterly reporting requirements of the use of all CDBG-R funds; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed Substantial Amendment was discussed at a public meeting of the Housing and Community Development Act Committee on May 19, 2009, and posted on the City of Evanston's website for seven (7) as required; and

**WHEREAS**, said Committee recommends approval by the Evanston City Council of the proposed Substantial Amendment.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EVANSTON, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS:**

**SECTION 1:** That the foregoing recitals are hereby found as fact and made a part hereof.

**SECTION 2:** That the Substantial Amendment to the *City of Evanston Consolidated Plan 2008 Action Plan* for the Community Development Block Grant Recovery Program, attached hereto as Exhibit A and made a part hereof, is approved.

**SECTION 3:** The Interim City Manager of the City of Evanston is hereby authorized to transmit said Substantial Amendment to the *City of Evanston Consolidated Plan 2008 Action Plan* for the Community Development Block Grant Recovery Program to the United States Department of Housing & Urban Development, and to provide any additional information as may be required.

**SECTION 4:** That this resolution 39-R-09 shall be in full force and effect from and after the date of its passage and approval in the manner provided by law.

  
Elizabeth B. Tisdahl, Mayor

Attest:

  
Rodney Greene, City Clerk

Adopted: May 26, 2009

Exhibit A

**Substantial Amendment to the  
*City of Evanston Consolidated Plan 2008 Action Plan* for the  
Community Development Block Grant Recovery Program**

# CDBG-R SUBMISSION TEMPLATE & CHECKLIST

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 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. This template sets forth the suggested format for grantees receiving funds from CDBG-R. A complete submission contains the information requested below, including:

- (1) The CDBG-R Substantial Amendment (template attached below)
- (2) Spreadsheet for Reporting Proposed CDBG-R Activities (see <http://www.hud.gov/recovery>)
- (3) Signed and Dated Certifications (see <http://www.hud.gov/recovery>)
- (4) Signed and Dated SF-424.

Grantees should also attach a completed CDBG-R Substantial Amendment Checklist to ensure completeness and efficiency of review (attached below).

# THE CDBG-R SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT

Jurisdiction(s): City of Evanston	CDBG-R Contact Person: Sarah Flax Address: Evanston Civic Center 2100 Ridge Ave, Rm 3900 Evanston, IL 60201 Telephone: 847-866-2928 ext 2268 Fax: 847-448-8120 Email: sflax@cityofevanston.org
Jurisdiction Web Address: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• www.cityofevanston.org</li></ul>	

## **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 location, 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.)

(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.

(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)).

(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.)

(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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## City of Evanston Substantial Amendment Narrative – CDBG-R

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

(1) Activity Name: Fleetwood-Foster Park & Playground Improvements Project-Phase 1B

(2) Activity Narrative:

The City of Evanston planned a major renovation of the park and recreation facilities surrounding the Fleetwood-Jourdain Community Center. The City has already invested significant capital improvement and CDBG funds to renovate the building. This facility is located in census block group 8092 in one of Evanston's neighborhoods with the highest percentage of low- and moderate-income residents. This neighborhood is in the City's CDBG Target Area and has been heavily impacted by mortgage foreclosures and is one of the neighborhoods targeted by the City's application for Neighborhood Stabilization Program funds to the State of Illinois.

The community center and surrounding playgrounds, park, basketball and tennis courts are very heavily used. Programs include after-school care, summer day camps, the Fellowship of African-American Men's youth basketball program, Junior Wildkits football, the senior nutrition program, a community theatre that features productions highlighting the Black experience, and a wide variety of community meetings including ward meetings, block clubs, etc.

Renovation of the park and recreation facilities was divided into two phases. Phase 1 includes renovation of the park and playgrounds to the west of the building (also used by Family Focus, a non-profit that houses a wide range of services) and non-profits including Connections for the Homeless, programs for teen parents and grandparents (raising grandchildren), relocating and enlarging the parking lot, relocating and resurfacing the basketball and tennis court and installation of seating and other elements. This work will be completed in July 2009.

Because of funding limitations, over \$400,000 of work planned in Phase 1 was separated into Phase 1B, to be undertaken when funding allows. This includes virtually all of the landscaping and planting in the park/site area, perimeter fencing and landscaping of the playground and courts, landscaping to screen the parking lot, BVAAC and dumpsters, and completion of the entry features from Foster Street.

CDBG-R funds in the amount of \$440,000 will be used for construction costs of Phase 1B, maximizing job creation. Because planning and design are completed, the project will be bid immediately following a review of plans to ensure that all elements planned are American made. Construction will begin by September 1 and be completed by December 31, 2009, creating construction jobs.

Investment in the community center and park in this predominantly LMI neighborhood further addresses the goals of ARRA by improving an area of our city most heavily impacted by the current economic crisis, helping stabilize property values and providing both short and long-term benefit to the neighborhood. Investment in park and playground facilities increases opportunities for exercise and active recreation, leading to improved health and wellness of area residents. Planting additional trees, bushes and ornamental plants improves air quality and has a positive impact on people's emotional well being and improves the environment.

(3) Jobs Created: An estimated one annual Full Time Equivalent job based on a 40 hour work week will be created for every \$100,000 spent, equating to 4.1 FTEs overall. Jobs created

will be construction jobs of varying types including ironworker, electrical, mason, landscaper and laborer. Construction jobs will be created by this project from approximately September 1 through December 31, 2009. The project will have a general contractor and subcontractors. (The City is seeking guidance from the Office of Management and Budget and HUD on what methodology to use to estimate construction job creation and will update this information following receipt of that information.)

- (4) Additional Activity Information: Trees, bushes and other plants installed as part of the landscaping will improve the environment by absorbing CO2 and other pollutants. Deciduous trees planted on the south side of the community center will reduce air conditioning costs in summer, reducing costs and carbon emissions.
- (5) Responsible Organization: This activity will be implemented by the City of Evanston and administered by Sarah Flax, CDBG Grants Administrator, Evanston Civic Center, 2100 Ridge Avenue, Room 3900, Evanston, IL 60201, 847-866-2928, [sflax@cityofevanston.org](mailto:sflax@cityofevanston.org)

(1) Activity Name: Howard Street Improvement Project

(2) Activity Narrative:

The City of Evanston will improve a parking lot at the corner of Howard Street and Chicago Avenue that borders the City of Chicago to provide additional much needed parking for residents of apartments and condominiums in the area and also for commuters taking the Metra or CTA trains. Work will include resurfacing of the lot and perimeter plantings to improve its appearance. Planning and design will be completed in summer of 2009 and construction will be underway in September 2009, creating additional jobs to support the economic recovery.

South Evanston has been a focus of the City's investment in housing and infrastructure. Both HOME and CDBG funds have been used to expand and improve the supply of affordable housing in south Evanston in part because of its access to mass transit (CTA trains and major bus lines and Metra). Construction of the Howard Street Station Apartments, a 221-unit market-rate rental property, was completed in 2008 to attract middle income households to the neighborhood in census block group 8100002, which has an overall population of 76.8%. Improved parking will also support the nearby Howard Street business district to the west of Chicago Avenue.

CDBG-R funds in the amount of \$61,446 will be used to repave/repair the parking lot and replace driveways and adjacent curbs and sidewalks as needed. Perimeter plantings will also be installed and lighting evaluated and improved as needed and as funds allow. CDBG-R funds will be used for construction costs and materials to maximize job creation.

By increasing commuter parking for public transportation, Evanston is supporting transit-friendly development and providing both environmental and long-term economic benefits to the neighborhood. Investment in this part of south Evanston, will help stabilize an area that has been heavily impacted by mortgage foreclosures and by job losses and reinforce the desirability of the neighborhood for middle-income families seeking affordable housing with access to mass transit.

- (3) Jobs Created: An estimated 0.6 Full Time Equivalent jobs will be created by this project. Actual jobs will be construction jobs during the time period from September 1 through December 31, 2009. Job types may include landscaper, concrete and asphalt laborer and

others based on final plans. (The City is seeking guidance from the Office of Management and Budget and HUD on what methodology to use to estimate construction job creation and will update this information following receipt of that information.)

- (4) Additional Activity Information: This improvement supports use of public transportation and will reduce automobile emissions and promote energy conservation.
- (5) Responsible Organization: This activity will be implemented by the City of Evanston and administered by Sarah Flax, CDBG Grants Administrator, Evanston Civic Center, 2100 Ridge Avenue, Room 3900, Evanston, IL 60201. 847-866-2928. [sflax@cityofevanston.org](mailto:sflax@cityofevanston.org)
- (1) Activity Name: CDBG-R Administration. The City will use 10% of its CDBG-R allocation, or \$52,382, for grant administration and compliance, including Davis Bacon, and quarterly reporting as required by ARRA.

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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:

Public comment period will open on May 20 at noon and run until noon on May 27, 2009. Public comments will be included following the close of the public comment period.

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