

Charleston County News Release

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Charleston County Celebrates National Community Development Week

Council declares April 9-15 as Community Development Week in Charleston County

This week, Charleston County will celebrate National Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Week. The purpose of this week is to showcase the many ways that CDBG-funded activities significantly improve the quality of life throughout the County and, most importantly, the lives of the County's low-income residents.

Charleston County Council signed a resolution proclaiming the week of April 9-15 as Community Development Week in Charleston County, and all citizens are urged to join in recognizing the Community Development Program and its partners.

For 10 years, Charleston County Government's CDBG program has served as a vital resource to help meet the unique community development, affordable housing and economic development needs of Charleston County.

Charleston County's CDBG program has provided funding to address a wide range of county issues, assisting over 57,000 Charleston County residents in 2006-2007 alone.

"Through our efforts and partnership agreements with local non-profit agencies, activities have ranged from the transportation of food and commodities by the Lowcountry Food Bank to the provision of housing education and homeownership training by the Trident Urban League," said Jenise Jefferson, Charleston County's Community Development Manager. "These funds have made it possible for many citizens to improve their living condition and, therefore, their quality of life."

The CDBG program is one of the main sources of funding and assistance that Charleston County Government uses to partner with non-profit agencies and charitable organizations. Such agencies that apply to the Community Development Program have access to CDBG funds to leverage programs and address needs in various communities within Charleston County.

However, the federal funding grant allocation to Charleston County has been significantly reduced over the past 10 years, which has impacted the number of activities and projects that can be conducted. In the 10 years of available funding, the allocation for the unincorporated areas of Charleston County has declined by 61 percent.

| Funding Year | Unincorporated Charleston County CDBG Allocation |
|---------------------|---|
| 1997 | \$1,700,000 |
| 1998 | \$1,568,000 |
| 1999 | \$1,523,175 |
| 2000 | \$1,510,509 |
| 2001 | \$1,587,617 |
| 2002 | \$1,508,256 |
| 2003 | \$1,202,000 |
| 2004 | \$1,172,678 |
| 2005 | \$1,115,828 |
| 2006 | \$1,000,599 |
| 2007 | \$1,038,419 |

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| Total Reduction In 10 Years | \$661,581 |
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The agencies and projects that submitted applications and were awarded CDBG funding for 2006-2007 are the following:

| <i>Organization Name</i> | <i>Type of Activity</i> | <i>Activity Description</i> |
|--|---------------------------------|---|
| <i>Charleston Bank Consortium</i> | First time Homebuyer Assistance | Provide perspective homeowners with closing cost and down payment assistance to purchase their first home. |
| <i>Charleston County Housing Rehabilitation Program</i> | Housing Rehabilitation | Rehabilitation of single family owner occupied housing |
| <i>East Cooper Community Outreach</i> | Community Facility | Funds for dental supplies and operational support to provide dental procedures to LMI households county-wide. |
| <i>East Cooper Meals on Wheels</i> | Social Service | Provide hot, nutritionally balanced meals to the elderly homebound or physically limited in preparing meals for themselves. |
| <i>Family Services</i> | First Time Homebuyer Assistance | Provide payments toward down payment and closing costs and provide counseling and credit workshops. |
| <i>Good Neighbor Center- Women and Children's Shelter</i> | Homeless Shelter | Support for operation of women and children's center. |
| <i>Lowcountry Food Bank, Inc.</i> | Social Service | Transport 1.6 million pounds of food by tractor trailer to the food banks/distribution center where it will be sorted and made available to charities that feed the poor and homeless in Charleston County. |
| <i>Old Bethel Neighborhood Association</i> | Community Facility | Provide recreational and other community facilities to the residents of the McClellanville community. |
| <i>Rural Mission, Inc.</i> | Housing Development | Provide homeownership opportunities by building homes for very low income families. |
| <i>Town of Awendaw</i> | Housing Rehabilitation | Leverage funding with Housing Trust funds Program and Berkeley Electric Round-Up Program to rehabilitate or replace five (5) owner occupied housing in the township. |

| <i>Organization Name</i> | <i>Type of Activity</i> | <i>Activity Description</i> |
|--|----------------------------------|--|
| <i>Town of Hollywood</i> | Construction of Community Center | Construct an 8,400 square feet building to consist of restroom facilities to meet ADA standards, kitchen, laundry room, meeting room, and porch with concession stand. |
| <i>Town of Hollywood</i> | Housing Development | Engineering, architectural and plans for development of affordable rental housing for families and seniors. |
| <i>Town of Lincolville</i> | Infrastructure | Construction of interconnect water lines. |
| <i>Town of Mount Pleasant</i> | Infrastructure | Ditch piping for an underground drainage system and fire hydrants and construction of sidewalks. |
| <i>Town of Ravenel</i> | Park & Recreation | Purchase and install playground equipment at Ravenel Hall. |
| <i>Tri-County Immunization Palmetto Project</i> | Social Service | Educate caregivers and adolescents on vaccinations for preventable diseases to circumvent low immunization rates in adolescents. |
| <i>Trident Urban League, Inc.</i> | Housing Counseling | Educate the public about fair housing laws, landlord mediation and housing counseling, homebuyer counseling utilizing workshops and public media. |

For more information on Charleston County's CDBG program, contact Jenise Jefferson, Charleston County's Community Development Manager at (843) 202-6978 or jjefferson@charlestoncounty.org.