

**SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT TO THE CONSOLIDATED PLAN
2008 ACTION PLAN FOR CDBG-R FUNDS**

CITY OF WILLIAMSPORT, PENNSYLVANIA

May 26, 2009

Purpose of the Consolidated Plan

The City receives federal entitlement grants from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the Community Development Block program (CDBG) and the HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) program. The City of Williamsport, PA has prepared a five year Consolidated Plan as required by HUD in order to strategically implement these two federal programs that fund housing, community development, and economic development activities within the municipality. The five-year Consolidated Plan serves as a planning document for the City of Williamsport to achieve its goals for all housing, community development and planning programs. The City also submits an annual action plan to identify how the funds received from HUD will be spent over the upcoming program year, taking into consideration the regulations governing the programs to meet locally identified needs.

Substantial Amendment to the 2008 Action Plan for CDBG-R Funds

The City has been designated to receive \$339,198 under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act) for the CDBG program. The purposes of the funding available under the Recovery Act are to stimulate the economy through measures that modernize the Nation's infrastructure, improve energy efficiency, expand educational opportunities and access to health care. In order to receive the designated CDBG-R funding, HUD requires that the City complete a substantial amendment to the 2008 Action Plan.

CDBG-R Activities

The City will allocate its CDBG-R funds to the following activities:

Memorial Avenue Street Reconstruction **\$51,179**

The reconstruction of Memorial Avenue from Grier Street to Seventh Avenue will include milling of the existing bituminous surface course and placement of new bituminous surface course, storm sewer inlets, some new sidewalks, curb ramps and street trees.

No other Recovery Act funds are budgeted for this activity.

The activity is for a basic eligible activity under public facilities and improvements - 570.201 (c). This activity meets the national objective of benefiting low and moderate income persons under an area benefit - 570.208 (a) (1) (ii). The service area for this activity is located in Census Tract 3, Block Group 6. The percentage of low to moderate

income persons who are served in this area is 56.9%

Grier Street Reconstruction

\$74,180

The reconstruction of Grier Steet from Memorial Avenue to West Fourth St. will include milling of the existing bituminous surface course and placement of new bituminous surface course, storm sewer inlets, curbing, reconstruction of shoulders, some new sidewalks, curb ramps and street trees.

No other Recovery Act funds are budgeted for this activity.

The activity is for a basic eligible activity under public facilities and improvements - 570.201 (c). This activity meets the national objective of benefiting low and moderate income persons under an area benefit - 570.208 (a) (1) (ii). The service area for this activity is Census Tract 3, Block Group 6. The percentage of low to moderate-income persons who are served in this area is 56.9%.

Charles Street Reconstruction

\$78,847

The reconstruction of Charles St. from Wyoming Street to Iona Place will include milling of the existing bituminous surface course and placement of new bituminous surface course, storm sewer inlets, curbing, reconstruction of shoulders, some new sidewalks, curb ramps and street trees.

No other Recovery Act funds are budgeted for this activity.

The activity is for a basic eligible activity under public facilities and improvements - 570.201 (c). This activity meets the national objective of benefiting low and moderate-income persons under an area benefit - 570.208 (a) (1) (ii). The service area for this activity is Census Tract 6, Block Group 1. The percentage of low to moderate-income persons who are served in this area is 62.5%.

Lloyd Street Reconstruction

\$101,073

The reconstruction of Lloyd St. from Memorial Avenue to Terrace Place will include milling of the existing bituminous surface course and placement of new bituminous surface course, storm sewer inlets, curbing, reconstruction of shoulders, some new sidewalks, curb ramps and street trees.

No other Recovery Act funds are budgeted for this activity; however, \$60,000 of 2007 CDBG funds have been allocated to this activity. The total cost of this activity is \$161,073.

The activity is for a basic eligible activity under public facilities and improvements - 570.201 (c). This activity meets the national objective of benefiting low and moderate-income persons under an area benefit - 570.208 (a) (1) (ii). The service area for this activity is Census Tract 3, Block Group 5. The percentage of low to moderate-income persons who are served in this area is 54.5%.

General Administration

\$33,919

The City is permitted to allocate up to 10% of the CDBG-R grant for general administration and planning activities related to the project.

Distribution and Use of CDBG-R funds to meet the requirements of Title XII of Division A and Section 1602 of the Recovery Act

In selecting activities for CDBG-R funding, the City determined that a contract for the Street Reconstruction project could be awarded within 120 calendar days from the date the funds are available to the City. The City will begin bidding these projects in early June and will award contracts for construction when the City has received approval from HUD to use the CDBG-R funding for these activities.

Use of CDBG-R Funds to Maximize Job Creation and Economic Benefit

The use of the CDBG-R funds for the City’s Street Reconstruction project will invest in infrastructure improvements that will provide long-term economic benefits. The project will provide construction jobs to workers who may be unemployed or laid off. The construction industry in the Williamsport area, as in the nation, has experienced a downturn in activity as well as job losses due to the economy. Providing these job opportunities will help to stabilize and stimulate the local economy, conforming to the purpose of the funding made available under the Recovery Act.

Jobs Estimated/Retained

The CDBG-R Street Reconstruction project will be bid as one contract and awarded to one construction firm that will subcontract out some of the work, if necessary. As such, it is estimated that a total of 30 permanent jobs will be created and/or retained for the CDBG-R Street Reconstruction project.

Energy Conservation, Smart Growth, Green Building Technologies, Reduced Pollution Emissions

The Street Reconstruction project approved for CDBG – R funds will incorporate the following green building technologies:

- The existing bituminous surface course, milled by the contractor, is crushed and recycled.
- The steel inlet frames and grates are removed and recycled and replaced with bicycle safe inlet grates that will help to promote bicycling through the neighborhood.

In addition, the curb ramps and new sidewalks will improve pedestrian access and increase the walkability of these neighborhoods. The street trees will improve the air quality and cut the noise of traffic.

City of Williamsport, PA Contacts for CDBG-R Funding Information

The CDBG-R substantial amendment will be posted on the City website at: www.cityofwilliamsport.org and available for public review at the Office of Economic and Community Development, Williamsport City Hall, 245 West Fourth St., 2nd Floor,

Williamsport, PA and at the James V. Brown Public Library, 19 East Fourth St., Williamsport, PA. Questions and comment regarding the substantial amendment may be directed to John J. Grado by telephone 570-327-7516, email at cddirector@cityofwilliamsport.org, or by mail to John J. Grado, Director, Department of Economic and Community Development, City Hall, 245 West Fourth St., Williamsport, PA 17701.