



Important Upcoming Dates:

- April 21—May 9 Draft Plan on display (Public Comment Period)
- May 15—Action Plan submitted to HUD
- June Mandatory training for first time funding awardees.
- July 1, 2008 Beginning of FY 2008-2009 Program Year.

CDA One-Year Action Plan Submittal On Display for Public Comment April 21– May 9

CDA is required to submit a One-Year Action Plan to HUD that furthers the goals and objectives of the 5-year consolidated plan. The submittal also serves as an application for funding and is due to HUD May 15. The plan is still being developed however, it is anticipated to be available for public review and comments from April 21 through May 9. All comments received will be incorporated in the final submittal to HUD.

There are three specific objectives that HUD requires the plan to address. They are:

1. Create a suitable living environment
2. Provide decent housing
3. Create economic opportunities

The consolidated plan lists the cities priorities as:

1. Housing

2. Public Facilities
3. Infrastructure
4. Public Services
5. Anti-Crime
6. Youth Programs
7. Senior Programs
8. Economic Development
9. Planning

Besides meeting the HUD objectives and City of



View the Draft On Line at:
www.cityofyoungstownoh.org

Email Comments to:
CDA_Director@cityofyoungstownoh.com

Youngstown priorities, the plan must also show that spending will be measured to specific HUD outcomes. The HUD outcomes are:

1. Improve availability or accessibility of units or services
2. Improve affordability not just of housing but also of other services
3. Improve sustainability by promoting viable communities

The draft will be on display at the Community Development Agency, office located at 9 W. Front Street on the 2nd floor and at the City Council Clerk's office at 26 S. Phelps Street 6th floor. The draft will also be posted on the City of Youngstown website.

Request for CDA Funding Exceed Available Funds

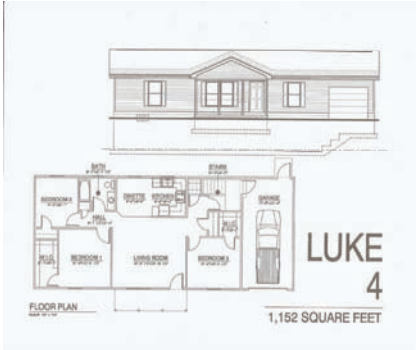
Once again the applications for funding requests received by CDA have exceeded the funds available. CDA received 26 applications for CDBG funds totaling \$2.75 million. The funding that will be available after administrative expenses and debt repayment is anticipated to be \$1.4 million. CDA received five applications for HOME funding totaling \$1.45 million. The total

HOME fund grant is \$774,948. The Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) is the smallest grant that CDA administers and shares a similar excess demand as the other grants. Nine requests totaling \$270,085 were received by CDA and will have only \$174,886 to allocate. Needless to say once again CDA and City Council will have tough decisions to make to get the most with less.

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Habitat for Humanity continues to provide affordable, energy efficient housing. Four new homes planned on the East Side



Since the Mahoning County affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International was incorporated in 1989, they have built or rehabilitated 25 houses in Mahoning County in partnership with low-income families.

Now there are plans to build four new houses on the City's East side along Marantha just off Jacobs Road. The lots for the project were donated to Habitat and the public utilities infrastructure is already in place. The floor plans call for a four-bedroom model with 1,300 square feet and a three-bedroom model of 1,152 square feet. Both models have full basements and attached garages. The sites are landscaped

and driveways paved. Habitat's original housing style did not include garages. But at the encouragement of the City of Youngstown, they have incorporated that amenity into all of their plans.

Habitat sells the Energy Star rated houses at cost, (usually \$60,000 to \$72,000) holds the mortgage, charges no interest and requires no down payment. That makes monthly mortgage payments, which include taxes and insurance, about \$350 per month. And because the homes are energy efficient, and come equipped with Energy Star rated appliances, the average homeowner saves about \$460 per year on utilities. Obviously this is putting homeownership within affordable range for low-income families.

All funding for building materials comes from individuals, churches, corporations and civic organizations, as well as the partner/owner mortgage payments.

Aside from the mechanical trade work, which is done by local Trade Union Apprentice Programs, all the construction work is provided by countless volunteers as well as owner/partner families. Sweat equity is a big part of developing a sense of pride and ownership for owner/partners. This unique "hand up" rather than a "hand out" approach converts non-productive land into taxable properties and improves the look and value of old neighborhoods. It also provides partner/owner families with the dignity and self-respect that results from owning one's own home.

"Program income is subject to the same regulations that govern CDBG funds"



Your Money: The ABC's of Program Income

"Program Income" is any gross income received that was directly generated from the use of CDBG funds. Examples include; payments of principal and interest, sale of loans, proceeds from the sale or lease of



equipment or property, and income from the use or rental of real property constructed or improved with CDBG funds. If program income is generated by an activity that is only partially assisted with CDBG funds, the income shall be prorated to reflect the percentage of CDBG funds used. HUD regulations

also state that program income is subject to all applicable regulations that govern the use of CDBG funds. It must also be spent or used before drawing down additional grant funds. Lastly, any program income on hand at the end of a program agreement or subsequently received must be returned.

Lien Forward Ohio

The Mahoning County Treasurer began selling bundles of delinquent property taxes in 2004 to an investment firm, American Tax Funding. The profits generated from these tax lien sales formulated the creation of Lien Forward Ohio, which is a partnership of the City of Youngstown and Mahoning County. Lien Forward

Ohio's goal is to return vacant, abandoned, tax-delinquent land to productive use. Lien Forward offers clients who qualify free or reduced-cost attorney services and financial aid toward costs associated with property acquisition. Clients consist of homeowners, non-profit organizations and business owners. Contact Lien Forward at (330) 259-1040.



Neighborhood Planning Spotlight: Arlington Heights

**“Develop a
Neighborhood
strategy for every
neighborhood ”**

Youngstown Metropolitan Housing Authority’s (YMHA) newest redevelopment, the Arlington Heights neighborhood, is nearing completion. The project is funded mainly through a \$20 million HOPE VI grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The redevelopment effort has also become a collaboration of other public private investment including support from the State of Ohio Department of Transportation, the Ohio Housing Finance Agency, as well as the City of Youngstown. The redevelopment will create a new neighborhood with a mix of public housing, owner occupied housing, rental housing, and elder housing. The final phase will include a new recreational center with

multi-purpose playing fields on the site of the former Chase swimming pool.

This neighborhood redevelopment will serve to enhance many of the cities existing assets such as Youngstown State University, the Downtown, and the Forum Health St. Elizabeth Hospital complex.

The area was known as Westlake Crossing and was the site of the first federal housing project in the county. Westlake Crossing was significant to many new immigrants to Youngstown as a center of mission activity aimed at easing the settlement

process. In later years Westlake gained a reputation as a dangerous neighborhood. This investment in a new environment will undoubtedly have a positive impact on the neighborhood’s safety.



Economic Developments

Downtown living project underway. The Realty Building located on the corner of Market Street and Federal Street has begun the conversion from office building to apartment living. A delayed in starting the project began while waiting for the State

Historic Tax Credit Program to award funding. The nearly \$6 million dollar project should be completed in the summer of 2009.

Atlanta Developer proposing student housing project. A leader in student housing development is proposing to construct an additional 440 beds of

student housing near the campus of YSU. The Atlanta company has developed over 13,000 units of student housing throughout the nation. The company is currently developing site specific due diligence and preliminary design for a multi-million dollar Youngstown project.

Highlight on a Successful Program: Youngstown Cityscape

Cityscape was originally formed in 1998 as Streetscape, a grassroots downtown beautification project. The organization has steadily gained a broader community based support for financing and volunteerism. Cityscape’s mission is to revitalize downtown and the gateways through mainly aesthetic improvements. Each year in June

downtown Youngstown blooms with vibrant color and life at the hands of nearly 300 volunteers who are cleaning and planting. In 2004 Cityscape began branching out of the downtown and taking on or assisting with other beautification projects citywide. The organization is partnering with other grassroots organizations, property owners, major

institutions, and business to undertake a planning and design project for Wick Park. This project could be a catalytic revitalization endeavor for the surrounding north side neighborhoods. For additional information about Cityscape call 330 742-4040

Community Development Agency

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HUD's mission is to increase homeownership, support community development and increase access to affordable housing free from discrimination. To fulfill this mission, HUD will embrace high standards of ethics, management and accountability and forge new partnerships--particularly with faith-based and community organizations--that leverage resources and improve HUD's ability to be effective on the community level.



CDA's Mission is to positively impact on the quality of life for city residents while remaining sensitive to their needs and concerns. To accomplish this, CDA will efficiently and effectively administer resources to help eliminate slum and blight in neighborhoods, foster suitable and positive living environments, and expand economic opportunities. Resources will be amplified by partnering with organizations having similar missions. Services will be provided in a manner that is fair, consistent, compliant and professional, with respect for the dignity of the citizens served.

Youngstown 2010 Update

- The City of Youngstown has become one of the latest **Tree City USA** communities as designated by the Arbor Day Foundation for 2008!



- International coverage of Youngstown 2010 continues with a recent visit by two researchers from the Japanese government. The Research Institute of Construction & Economy in Tokyo, Japan was interested in infrastructure concerns that the 2010 Plan addresses due to similar situations happening

across Japan. Also, CNN Money was in town on April 3rd to discuss the 2010 Plan.

- The Garden District Crime Watch (formerly known as the South Portland Crime Watch) has expanded its coverage area to include the entire Garden District neighborhood. This idea was one of several suggested initiatives and projects listed in the Garden District plan which was recently adopted by City Council.
- A new organization is forming to help create

and sustain healthy neighborhoods across Youngstown and Warren. The Mahoning Valley Organizing Collaborative (MVOC) will be working with neighborhood groups,



churches, YSU, the Youngstown Planning Department and many other organizations for years to come.

