

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Community Development Office
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Mission, Goals and Objectives

The mission of the CD Office is to promote healthy neighborhoods and a diverse urban community, through support of viable, community-oriented programs which provide affordable housing, expand economic opportunities, enhance suitable living environments, and support thriving neighborhoods, particularly for persons of low and moderate income (defined as 80% or less than the median income). The Office strives to accomplish this mission through active citizen involvement in the assessment, policy formation, program operation and evaluation processes, and in teamwork with other City staff and community organization. The CD Office is the development investment arm of the Department of Planning and Community and Economic Development. The Office works with community-based groups to develop policy plans, projects, and related activities to strengthen neighborhoods and expand opportunities for low- and moderate-income households throughout the community. The Office invests in non-profit community groups that:

- improve affordable housing,
- expand businesses which create jobs,
- manage neighborhood centers and community gardens,
- improve community service facilities, or
- implement strategic neighborhood-building projects.

The Office also administers a homebuyer's assistance program using HOME funds, the affordable housing component of the inclusionary zoning program, and the TIF 10% process.

The activities are described in two service components entitled "Neighborhood Development" and "Community Opportunities," which are funded through a series of Federal, State, and local funds.

Focus

Neighborhood Development: The basic purpose of this service is to strengthen neighborhood-focused, revitalization efforts which improve housing, expand economic opportunities, and improve services in lower income neighborhoods. These neighborhoods are defined as those census tracts within the City where 51% or more of their households have incomes of 80% or less than the median of the area.

The Office provides proposal development, project planning, technical, and financial assistance to community groups which promote homeownership within these neighborhoods, improve existing owner-occupied housing, help neighborhood-oriented businesses grow, provide neighborhood center facilities and programs, and promote neighborhood revitalization activities. Staff participate in neighborhood resource teams, and other special project activities to support neighborhoods.

Focus

Community Opportunities: The basic purpose of this service is to strengthen the community-based self-help systems which address the issues and opportunities for lower income or disadvantaged groups to better develop economic independence, or suitable housing, or viable community organizations.

The Office provides project and program application development and planning, technical and financial assistance to groups which seek to broaden community-wide opportunities in the areas of affordable housing and non-Section 8 housing assistance, assistance to special needs households such as homeless persons and those with AIDS, business growth and micro business development, community services facilities and renovation, and agency capacity building.

The CD Office staffs the CDBG Commission, administers several forms of project application and selection process involving both capital and operating funds, and works closely with other departmental units on neighborhood development and revitalization activities. The Office has served as the lead agency for the development of the City's comprehensive housing affordability strategies and the five-year Community and Neighborhood Development (Consolidated) Plan. The broad goals and specific outcomes for these two services and this year's funded projects are enumerated in the City's adopted budget, are available from the CD Office, or are visible on the program's website at www.cityofmadison.com/cdbg. The CD Office, in partnership with other City agencies, provides staff support for the IZ Oversight Committee and the Housing Affordability Subcommittee.

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