

In 1974, the Federal Government created the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. Its purpose is to help cities and states meet the needs of their low and moderate income residents by providing better housing, a suitable living environment, and by expanding economic opportunities. Since that time, City staff have sought additional funds from the Department of Housing and Urban Development and others, like the State Division of Housing, to broaden the base of activities and better address those original objectives.

A specially trained staff within the Department of Planning and Development administers the funds, working closely with community groups and other City staff. The funded activities are intended for use either to benefit specific geographic targeted areas of the City, or to directly help income eligible persons Citywide.

### ONGOING OBJECTIVES

The CDBG program is dedicated to improving the quality of life for residents of the City of Madison. community development funding actively supports the efforts of community-based, non-profit agencies to:

- · improve Madison's existing housing.
- stimulate economic development.
- expand and improve the quantity and quality of community services.
- empower and revitalize Madison target area neighborhoods.

### MEETING OUR OBJECTIVES

ere are a few examples of the many different kinds of services and investments the community development programs provide in City neighborhoods.

The City has improved *housing* through the use of community development funds, by helping:

- over 3,000 homeowners stay in their homes through low cost home repairs by Project Home or home improvement loans from the City.
- the start of many alternative homeownership programs, such as the Common Wealth leasepurchase program, the Madison Area CLT, and the Urban League of Greater Madison single-family rent-to-own program.
- the improvement of existing housing by agencies such as Madison Development Corporation and Porchlight.
- the acquisition of housing by groups like Future Madison Housing Fund and Friends Community Housing to stabilize and improve neighborhoods like Vera Court, Darbo-Worthington, and Bassett.

The City has helped create *employment* for lower income persons by helping:

- existing businesses expand and create more jobs through Madison Development Corporation loans and technical assistance. Assisted businesses include Union Cab, The Soap Opera, The Blue Marlin, J. Kinney Florist, Williamson Street Bicycle Works, Mitchell Construction, and Impressions, Inc.
- new businesses grow in business incubators like Madison Enterprise Center and Main Street Industries, and the Genesis Incubator. Tenant businesses have included Ancora Coffee Roasters, The Madison Times, Sonic Foundry, and Wildwood.
- new entrepreneurs learn and start their own businesses through the Community Action Coalition's
  "It's My Business" program, Madison Development
  Corporation's enterprise program or the Small
  Business Development Center business plan
  course.

The City has helped create *focal points* for neighbors to participate in life-enriching programs by offering:

- community gardens where neighbors can grow food and share their gardening skills in 12 different sites operated by the Community Action Coalition.
- neighborhood centers where residents are active in recreational and human service programs, like the Atwood, East Madison, Wexford Ridge and Neighborhood House centers, and the Boys and Girls Club.

The City has helped community agencies to improve their *physical facilities* by supporting:

- acquisition of new space for human service programs, like Family Centers, Inc., Southern Wisconsin Foodbank, Rainbow Project, and Community Coordinated Child Care.
- remodeling of existing space for accessibility like the East YMCA, Briarpatch, and Wil-Mar Neighborhood Center.
- construction of facilities like the Bayview and Kennedy Heights neighborhood centers, and the Warner Park Community and Recreation Center.

The City has helped *empower residents* to make plans and implement projects to improve their neighborhoods, by helping:



- residents and businesses develop strategic plans and identify key projects.
- finance key projects, such as the initiation of a neighborhood center in the Allied Drive-Dunn's Marsh area, the removal of blighting conditions in the Williamson and Atwood Avenue areas, and the investment of equity capital in the conversion of a former pornographic filmhouse into the Barrymore Theatre
- schedule and finance capital projects which would not otherwise be accomplished, such as the advance curbcuts in the Emerson-Eken Park area to help older people stay in the neighborhood, and the construction of an accessible fishing pier in the Brittingham Park area.

## **DEVELOPMENT PROCESS**

ased on a yearly needs assessment and constant community input, the City identifies and targets activities for improvement.

With the help of interested citizens, the City of Madison identifies needs that are not met by regular ongoing City programs. A CDBG Commission, which includes citizens and alderpersons, establishes a Five-Year Plan, adopts annual strategies for fulfilling these needs, and plays a critical role in funding decisions.

In June of each year, agencies and community groups submit to the City proposals that correspond with these goals. Through an ongoing process that continually incorporates citizen input, the Commission evaluates these proposals and recommends funding as part of the Mayor's executive budget.

In December, when the City Council approves a final City budget, the CDBG staff facilitates the actual release of Federal monies, and works with the recipients to implement their proposals.

In addition, the City reserves some resources to help fund certain projects throughout the year:

- a housing development fund and the Madison Affordable Housing Trust Fund.
- a human service office acquisition/rehab fund; and
- a "Futures Fund" for innovative pilot projects.

One out of every three residents of the City of Madison has benefited from the use of community development funds in the Community.

(rev. 7/04)

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CITY OF MADISON

Department of Planning and Development

# **COMMUNITY & NEIGHBORHOOD** DEVELOPMENT **PROGRAM**

Improving Housing, Jobs, and Services for the Residents and Neighborhoods of Madison.

David J. Cieslewicz, Mayor