

**2007 Action Plan
Statement of Community Development Objectives
and Projected Use of Funds for 2007**

Introduction

The CDBG Program was established by the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974. The primary objective of this program is to develop viable urban communities by providing decent housing, a suitable living environment and economic opportunities, principally for lower income persons (defined as 80 percent or less of the City of Jonesboro area median household income).

The City of Jonesboro, Arkansas is beginning its eleventh year with Community Development Block Grant Program. The Program Year 2007 Annual Plan represents the first year of the City of Jonesboro's second Five Year Consolidated Plan submitted for fiscal years 2007 - 2011. It is prepared in compliance with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development guidelines for submission for Federal entitlement funds.

The City began its First year program July 1, 1997, Second year July 1, 1998, and the Third year July 1, 1999. In August 1999 the City received approval from HUD to change our fiscal year to January 1 of each year. Therefore, our third year program was for six months and our fourth year program began on January 1, 2000 and ended on December 31, 2000. Our fifth year and all subsequent program years begin as of January 1, of each year.

Through the CDBG Program, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) provides funds to local governments for a wide range of community development activities for low-income persons. Funds can be used for a wide array of activities, including: housing rehabilitation, acquisition of land for affordable housing or community development projects, public supportive services, and removal of architectural barriers for the elderly or disabled. In order for an activity to be eligible for CDBG funding, it must be shown to address one of the following national objectives:

- Benefit people with low incomes (up to 80 percent of median)
- Aid in the prevention or elimination of slums and blight; or
- Meet an urgent need (such as earthquake, flood or hurricane relief)

City of Jonesboro CDBG Priority Objectives

Improve the livability and quality of life in the City of Jonesboro.

- Housing - Rehabilitation/Homeownership
- Neighborhood Revitalization/Beautification
- Economic Development/Job creation
- Public Services - Non-Housing Special Needs

The projected allocation for the fiscal year 2007 consists of a total \$564,191.00 of support from the HUD Community Development Block Grant. The City does not receive HOME, HOPWA, or ESG funds at this time.

This plan has been prepared according to the existing regulations governing the Community Development Program and the Consolidated Plan format. The activities and programs described herein are aligned with the Strategic Plan, as outlined in the 2007-2011 Five Year Consolidated Plan.

The City of Jonesboro is committed to the proper implementation of a balanced Community Development Program that maximizes benefits to low and moderate income persons both directly and through the improvement of their immediate neighborhoods. Through the provision of decent housing, a suitable living environment, and the expansion of economic opportunities we intend to change the face of our low income neighborhoods and provide our citizens with the needed resources to assist them in breaking generational poverty. This year's primary focus is on housing, neighborhood revitalization, and supportive services for our low income residents. We will be providing new opportunities for homeownership and rehabilitation, emergency and transitional housing rehabilitation, neighborhood improvements, and a broad range of public and social services.

While the needs of the City of Jonesboro continue to exceed the financial resources available through the Community Development Block Grant Program and the City's financial means, this funding makes it possible for Jonesboro to provide meaningful housing improvements, public improvements, and the community development activities. It is through these activities that we address the quality of life issues that are essential in achieving a truly beneficial level of neighborhood specific community development.

The following pages define the distribution of funds and outline the proposed projects and activities to be undertaken with the federal fund allocation.

STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES

In the 2007 Program year the City is placing considerable emphasis on the Housing, Neighborhood Revitalization and Public Service priorities listed in the Consolidated Plan. This year's projects and activities will increase the accessibility of affordable housing, help preserve our existing affordable housing stock, improve neighborhood safety, and improve the quality of life for our homeless, elderly, disabled, and low income citizens through a wide variety of supportive services. Through the implementation of the (2007) Eleventh Year Community Development Program, as described below, the City of Jonesboro intends to achieve as many of the Five Year Consolidated Plan's community development objectives as possible:

Housing/Housing Related

- Homeowner Rehabilitation - Assist in the improvement of housing conditions for LMI homeowners, thereby preserving our existing affordable housing stock.
- Homeownership Assistance - Increase the viability for potential homeownership through the provision of homeownership assistance programs.
- Transitional Group Home - Rehabilitation – Fund the rehabilitation of transitional group housing units serving the mentally ill who are potentially/at risk of becoming homeless.

Neighborhood Revitalization/Beautification

- Community Centers – Address neighborhood safety and security through lighting and community center I.D. systems.
- Senior Center – Provide funding to assist with accessibility and parking issues for seniors.

- Demolition of Substandard Housing and Clearance – The elimination of slum and blight, its prevention from recurrence of blighting influences in our low income neighborhoods.
- Code Enforcement – Assist with costs directly related to enforcement of local codes and demolition/clearance activities in low income areas.

Public Services - Non-Housing Special Needs – Fund public service programs addressing youth, seniors, disabled, mentally ill, homeless prevention, other special needs populations, and assist in the building of capacity of service providers.

Planning/Administration/Implementation

Administration - CDBG administrative costs are necessary for project management, compliance reporting, and overall planning and implementation.

Through the execution of our Eleventh Year program the City of Jonesboro proposes to strengthen the new and expanded programs introduced last year. The City will continue with the demolition of substandard housing, and complete park improvements thereby improving the living conditions in our low income neighborhoods. Accessibility to affordable housing, homeowner assistance, neighborhood revitalization, and assistance to the agencies providing public services addressing the core needs of our low income citizens has become our primary focus.

In addition, the City will be participating in new collaborations with low income citizens to further our efforts to address the needs of their individual neighborhoods. Through the 2007 CDBG program funds the City will be serving our low income and the special needs populations including youth, elderly, Hispanic and the disabled and otherwise disadvantaged.

Our primary goal is to promote, sustain and preserve an excellent quality of life in the City of Jonesboro. Through the Community Development Objectives cited above we are continuing to conduct our activities in a manner designed to benefit our most vulnerable populations.

PROJECTED USE OF FUNDS

The City of Jonesboro's 2007 allocation is \$564,191.00 for the Eleventh Year Community Development Program. The plan was developed using an all inclusive citizen participation process in compliance with the regulations set forth in 24 CFR Part 91. The City has evaluated all projects, conducted public hearings, held citizen advisory committee meetings, invited public comments and suggestions, and obtained the Mayor and City Council approval for the expenditures of the following projects:

1. Homeowner Rehabilitation	Emergency Owner Occupied Rehabilitation	80,000
2. New Homeowner Assistance	Assist with closing fees after education requirements are met	5,000
3. Rehabilitation Administration	Various inspection fees (i.e. termite) and staff salaries	11,566
4. Public Facility Improvements	Replacement of 1970 bathroom fixtures at Mid-South Health Systems – Non-Profit.	36,225
5. Demolition & Clearance	Elimination of slum and blight	20,000
6. Code Enforcement	Condemnation/Demolition	10,000
7. Public Fclty. Imp. Harlan Henry Senior Center	Accessibility/Parking	45,000
8. Public Fclty. Imp. Parker Park	Security and Lighting	45,000
9. Public Fclty. Imp. Allen Park	Security and Lighting	70,000

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10.	Public Fclty. Community Centers – Allen Park, Parker Park, Earl Bell and City Youth	Security I. D. System	11,000
11.	Public Services - Housing/Financial Education	Counseling including credit repair, foreclosure, financial training, new homeownership assistance. - JURHA	25,000
12.	Pub. Serv. Youth/elderly/disabled/ Low income individual education	Continuing educational/self development/outreach programs and classes – Foundation of Arts	22,500
13.	Public Services - Community Services and outreach	Administration Assistance - Hispanic Community Center	12,500
14.	Public Services - Youth Mentorship	Mentor/Education: Helping Enhance Learning Processes - City Youth Ministries	9,600
15.	Public Services Homeless/Potentially Homeless	Continuing Dental Health Care for mentally ill – Mid-South Health	5,000
16.	Public Services Homeless/Potentially Homeless	Continuing Subsistence – Emergency one time only utility/rent assistance – Mid-South Health	5,000
17.	Public Services - Service Provider Assistance/Education	Capacity Building Annual Conference - FOCUS	5,000
18.	Unprogrammed Funds	Community Development Projects	33,000
19.	Planning & Administration	CDBG Program Administration & Planning	112,800
		Total	564,191

The above listed activities are the proposed and approved projects for the 2007 Program Year. The Mayor and City Council approved the 2007 Action Plan, the specific projects and their amounts by Resolution thereby approving the allocated funds of \$564,191.00.

These projects were selected after careful consideration of the City of Jonesboro's needs in relation to HUD's national objectives. As reflected in the table below Jonesboro has a higher percentage of poverty, and lower percentage of homeownership than our county, state, and nation. Therefore, the City has chosen to select the programs that will most directly address the immediate areas of need.

According to the US Census Bureau

	Jonesboro	Craighead Cnty	Arkansas State	United States
Persons below POVERTY percent, 1999	17.4%	15.4%	15.8%	12.4%
HOMEOWNERSHIP rate, 2000	57.7%	63.9%	69.4%	66.2%

<http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/05/05031.html>

The projects are designed with maximum feasible benefit for our homeless and low and moderate-income citizens.

The City will continue to strive to meet the HUD national objectives as we increase the number of opportunities for our citizens to move from homelessness and/or poverty to housing, the possibility of homeownership and self sufficiency.

EFFECTIVENESS

The 2007 Action Plan coincides with the national objectives and the 2007-2011 Consolidated Plan. The City of Jonesboro included in its consideration not only the information obtained during public hearings but various agency and public collaborations, studies, focus groups, and surveys performed throughout the City.

Our citizen advisory committee meetings included project updates, problem resolution, current need, long term goals, and the actual development of this Action Plan. The CAC met at length to determine which public service projects best fulfilled our immediate objectives as stated in the Consolidated Plan and set the amounts based on said objectives. With the full approval of the CAC they then recommended that complete plan be presented to the Mayor and City Council for their approval.

The department continues to face the challenges produced by its inherited backlog of projects, eligibility, and compliance issues. Extensions were requested and granted. Notice of availability of the 2007 CDBG proposed projects were published on June 10, 2007 in the Jonesboro Sun newspaper for a 30 day public review.

The Little Rock office of HUD has worked diligently with the City of Jonesboro through continual technical assistance providing possible options that assisted in making the needed changes required to meet specific deadlines. The Citizen's Advisory Committee met and proposed the needed revisions. A second Public Hearing was held to discuss these changes and request public comments and suggestions. Notices were published in the Jonesboro Sun Newspaper concerning all public hearing dates and times. Both the changes and 2007 program were approved through City Council resolutions.

Copies of the complete 2007 Action Plan are available for public review and inspection during normal business hours Monday through Friday in the offices of the Department of Community Development located next to City Hall at 519 West Washington, Jonesboro, Arkansas.

Monitoring

The City of Jonesboro intends to use the existing delivery/reporting system to achieve its production and service goals. While this includes managing in-house programs, many programs and services will be contracted out to sub-grantees. The City plans to conduct an on-site monitoring assessment of the program activities of each sub-recipient in order to insure strict compliance with program guidelines as stated in their contractual agreement. The monitoring process includes quarterly reports, a review of contract compliance, program, capacity, performance, and timeliness.

Financial monitoring occurs on a quarterly basis with a review of invoices and supporting documentation to insure that all costs correspond to project services as outlined in the recipient's contract budget. The quarterly report includes additional information including client data, project activities, progress in meeting goals/objectives and specific achievements.

At the end of the contract year, the department compiles all the client demographic data and prepares a comprehensive statistical report that becomes part of the CAPER.

The City of Jonesboro includes the following statement on every bid document in order to encourage minority business participation:

Minority Business participation:

Minority Business Policy – It is the policy of the City of Jonesboro that minority business enterprises shall have the maximum opportunity to participate in the city purchasing process. Therefore the City of Jonesboro encourages all minority businesses to compete for, win and receive contracts for goods, services, and construction. The City also encourages all companies to subcontract portions of any City contract to minority business enterprises.

**Year One - 2007 Action Plan
Goals, Objectives, and Performance Indicators**

The following are the specific Goals, Objectives, and Indicators to be addressed during the 2007 Program Year

AFFORDABLE HOUSING - GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND STRATEGIES

- 1 Goal: Improve livability and availability of affordable housing**
 - 1.1 Objective 1: Improve low income homeowner housing conditions
 - 1.1a -Provide funding for emergency homeowner rehabilitation repairs
 - 1.1b -Explore the possibility of obtaining volunteer assistance in repairs
 - 1.1c -Determine the availability of volunteer organizations, funding, and donations to assist in painting and minor repairs.
 - 1.2 Objective 2: Increase new homeownership opportunities
 - 1.2a -Continue First Time New Homeownership Program
 - 1.2b -Assist in the expansion of homeownership, credit repair, foreclosure education to create new homeowners and retain current homeownership
 - 1.3 Objective 3: Assist developers in determining incentives and financial partnerships to promote more affordable housing projects
 - 1.4 Objective 4: Support and assist existing emergency shelters and transitional living housing
 - 1.4a -Provide support for rehabilitation of current shelters

BARRIERS TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING - GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND STRATEGIES

- 2 Goal: Address barriers to affordable and fair housing**
 - 2.1 Objective 1: Increase the number of qualified new homeowners through homebuyer education

LEAD-PAINT HAZARDS - GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND STRATEGIES

- 3 Goal: Increase lead safe housing stock**
 - 3.1 Objective 1: Maintain standards for lead-based paint abatement in all housing rehabilitation projects

SUITABLE LIVING ENVIRONMENT - NON HOUSING COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND STRATEGIES

- 1 Goal: Improve Livability, create better functioning, and more attractive neighborhoods**
- 1.1 Objective 1: Improve appearance and eliminate blight in low income neighborhoods
 - 1.1a - Demolition and Clearance
 - 1.2 Objective 2: Address needs of low income neighborhoods public facilities
 - 1.2a - Public Facilities maintenance and repair
 - 1.2b - Improve Parks and Recreation Facilities
 - 1.3 Objective 3: Provide public services to address the needs of low income citizens
 - 1.3a - Fund needed services for qualified low income citizens
 - 1.4 Objective 4: Improve low-income neighborhood livability through citizen participation in Neighborhood Revitalization
 - 1.4a - Explore the advantages of creating neighborhood revitalization strategy areas, determine their viability, and implement if considered
 - 1.4b - Investigate the need and public interest in local neighborhood networks, watches, and block clean up programs.

SPECIAL NEEDS - HOMELESSNESS GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND STRATEGIES

- 1 Goals: Increase housing and service opportunities extended to homeless persons**
- 1.1 Objective 1: Support and assist existing emergency shelters and transitional living housing
 - 1.1a -Provide support for rehabilitation and/or services for existing shelters
 - 1.2 Objective 2: Address homeless prevention activities
 - 1.2a -Provide technical assistance for and/or actual funding assistance to non-profits addressing homeless prevention activities
 - 1.3 Objective 3: Collaborate with homeless providers
 - 1.3a -Provide staff assistance for homeless counts
 - 1.3b -Develop partnerships with non-profits to expand current services
 - 1.3c -Attend quarterly meetings with service providers in Jonesboro

ANTI-POVERTY STRATEGY

- 2 Goal: To assist in the reduction of households with incomes below the poverty line.**
- 2.1 Objective 1: Support services to prevent homelessness.
 - 2.1a -Support services such as emergency rental assistance, assistance with utilities, financial education, foreclosure resolution programs, and other services.
 - 2.1b -Survival services needed to enable households to survive on their limited incomes are also critical.

OTHER SPECIAL NEEDS - GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND STRATEGIES

- 3** **Goal: Explore the possibility of expanding services and/or access to services for our special needs population.**
- 3.1 Objective 1: To work with services providers to assist special needs groups' access needed services.

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Resolution:

To Be Inserted

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Certifications

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