

**City of Jonesboro, Arkansas**

**2003**

**ACTION PLAN**

**OCTOBER 21, 2002**

**JONESBORO, ARKANSAS  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM  
2003 (SEVENTH YEAR)  
ACTION PLAN  
STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES  
AND PROJECTED USE OF FUNDS  
OCTOBER 21, 2002**

The City of Jonesboro, Arkansas is beginning its Seventh Year Community Development Block Grant Program. The City began its first year program July 1, 1997, its second year program July 1, 1998, its third year program July 1, 1999, its fourth year program January 1, 2000, its fifth year program January 1, 2001, and its sixth year program January 1, 2002. In August 1999 we 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 ends on December 31, 2000. Our fifth year and subsequent programs begins as of January 1, of each year. We have carried out a number of community improvement projects in the past six years.

The City of Jonesboro expects to provide meaningful site improvements, public improvements, and community development activities in the seventh year program, essential to achieve a wholesome level of community development programs at the neighborhood level. The needs of the City of Jonesboro continue to far exceed the financial resources available through the Community Development Block Grant Program and the Cities financial means.

The City of Jonesboro is working on the implementation of a well-rounded Community Development Program that maximizes benefits to low and moderate income persons and/or eliminates slums and blight and prevents the recurrence of blighting influences.

The present Statement has been prepared in light of the existing regulations governing the Community Development Program and the Consolidated Plan format.

**1. STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES**

Through the implementation of the Seventh Year Program, as described below, the City of Jonesboro intends to achieve as many of the following community development objectives as possible.

1. To design and carry out a Community Development Block Grant Program annual increment with maximum feasible benefit to persons of low and moderate incomes.
2. To eliminate slums and blight and to prevent the recurrence of blighting conditions wherever they exist within the City of Jonesboro.
3. To provide parks and recreation services to the children and citizens of our community primarily in the low and moderate-income areas.

4. To minimize displacement of site occupants through the program, recognizing that should displacement occur, the City would provide technical and financial assistance to relocate the displaced person's in replacement housing.

Among the many available Community Development Objectives, these are the ones that the City of Jonesboro will strive to satisfy by carrying out its Seventh Year Community Development Program, as described herein.

In carrying out the Seventh Year Program the City of Jonesboro will conduct its activities in a manner designed to benefit it's low and moderate-income persons and areas.

The City of Jonesboro proposes to begin and carry out the improvements different than presented in it's first, second, third, fourth, fifth and sixth year programs. The drainage improvements have been completed which were needed, and the sewer improvements have been completed. We propose to continue with demolition and park improvements. The Committee and City feels that we need to strive to develop our park system to help the kids in our community.

## II. PROJECTED USE OF FUNDS

The City of Jonesboro expects to receive \$681,000 for the Seventh Year Community Development Program.

The City of Jonesboro has evaluated all projects, held two public hearings, held citizen committee meetings, and approved said expenditures for the following projects by the City Council.

1. **Demolition of Substandard Housing** — provide the means to tear down an additional 20 substandard housing units that are an eyesore and have created health and safety problems. This project will help eliminate slum and blight conditions in Jonesboro.
2. **E. Boone Watson Community Center Improvements** — construction of community center parking and lighting improvements for the central part of Jonesboro and purchase playground equipment.
3. **Allen Park Improvements** — purchase and installation of new park water spray ground equipment, and soccer goals and baseball backstops.
4. **North Main Street Park Improvements** — propose to purchase and install a 1500 sf. composite playground equipment and site furnishings including benches, fountains, grills, etc.
5. **Parker Park Improvements** — propose to purchase and install three (3) pavilions, install security lighting, and construct a 2000 sq. ft. storage building.
6. **Earl Bell Center Park Improvements** — propose to renovate existing swimming Pool and bathhouse with ADA approved swimming facilities.

7. **Fairview Park Improvements** — propose to purchase and install (2) sets of composite playground equipment and install security lighting.
8. **Administration** — provide the normal and customary administrative costs for the Seventh Year, 2003 Community Development Program.

The above listed activities are the proposed and approved projects for the Seventh Year-2003 program year. The Mayor and City Council approved the action plan and projects by Resolution on October 21, 2002 and allocated \$681,000 for the following projects:

1. Demolition of Substandard Housing	\$ 30,000
2. E. Boone Watson Center Improvements	\$ 102,000
3. Allen Park Improvements	\$ 110,000
4. North Main Street Park Improvements	\$ 50,000
5. Parker Park Improvements	\$ 86,850
6. Earl Bell Center Park Improvements	\$ 100,000
7. Fairview Park Improvements	\$ 100,000
8. Program Administration	\$ 102,150
<b>Total Project Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 681,000</b>

The proposed projects listed above were approved by the City and will be submitted to HUD by November 15, 2002, for approval by HUD by January 1, 2003. These projects are designed with maximum feasible benefit for low and moderate-income persons, and for elimination of slum and blight conditions. The demolition of sub-standard housing represents approximately 4% benefit to slum and blight conditions. Administration is \$102,150. Which represents 15% of total funds. This constitutes an amount of \$578,850 or 85% of the activities benefiting low and moderate-income persons. We will continue to strive in meeting the national objectives.

### III. EFFECTIVENESS

The 2003 Action Plan coincides with the national objectives and the Consolidated Plan completed and approved in 2002. We are continuing to stay with the priority needs of the City. Our first citizen advisory committee meeting for this year was held on June 20, 2002 to discuss our current projects and to plan for our 2003 program. The City of Jonesboro held its first CDBG Public Hearing on June 20, 2002 to receive input on the 2003 Seventh Year Program activities and to discuss the 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001 and 2002 program progress. Notices were published in the Jonesboro Sun Newspaper concerning the public hearing date and time. We developed estimated expenses for the proposed projects during the time from 7-20-02 to the next Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting that was held on September 23, 2002 to discuss and select the proposed 2002 projects. The Committee proposed several projects to be presented at a Second Public Hearing held on October 14, 2002. The purpose of that public hearing was to present the proposed projects to the citizens and receive input on those proposed projects and any other projects from the year's 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001 and 2002. A notice of the public hearing on June 20, 2002, and for October 14, 2002 was published in the Jonesboro Sun Newspaper. Citizens were urged to attend the Public Hearing. The City

wanted to make the citizens aware of the City's programs, prior to the City approving it's plan and submitting it to the Department of Housing and Urban Development for approval. The City Council approved the 2003 action plan on October 21, 2002.

Copies of the complete 2003 Statement and Action Plan are available for public review and inspection during normal business hours Monday through Friday in the offices of the Mayor of Jonesboro, Arkansas and the Community Development Grants Coordinator, located at City Hall, 515 West Washington, Jonesboro, Arkansas.