

NYS Housing Trust Fund Corporation
Office of Community Renewal

Regional CFA Workshops



Office of Community Renewal Programs

- NYS Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Programs
 - Economic Development
 - Small Business
 - Public Facilities / Other Public Works
 - Public Infrastructure (water/sewer/stormwater)
- New York Main Street (NYMS)
- Urban Initiatives (UI)
- Rural Area Revitalization Projects (RARP)

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

2011 CFA Results

Community Development Block Grant Programs

	Economic Development	Small Business	Public Facilities	Public Infrastructure	Housing
Total amount funded	\$5.4 million	\$3.5 million	\$1.9 million	\$12.4 million	\$16.9 million
# of projects funded	14	20	4	22	39
# of regions funded	7	8	4	8	8

New York State CDBG Program

- Develop viable communities by providing decent housing and a suitable living environment, as well as expanding economic opportunities, principally for persons of low- and moderate-income.
- NYS must ensure that at least 70% of its CDBG grant funds are used for activities that benefit low- and moderate-income (LMI) persons (at or below 80% of median) and meet one of the following National Objectives:
 - Benefit low- and moderate-income persons or families; or
 - Aid in the prevention or elimination of slums or blight; or
 - Meet an urgent community development need

Eligible CDBG Applicants

Non-entitlement areas - *units of local governments* (villages, cities and towns) with populations of less than 50,000 and counties with populations of less than 200,000.

- *Eligible applicants must apply on behalf of a business seeking NYS CDBG funds.*

2012 CDBG CFA Funding Activities

Economic Development

- Provide financial assistance to for-profit businesses for an identified CDBG eligible activity which will result in the creation/retention of permanent, private sector job opportunities principally for persons from LMI families.
- NYS CDBG can fund up to 40% of a total project cost
- A minimum of 1 FTE job must be created/retained for every \$15,000 in NYS CDBG funds.
- NYS CDBG funds should be used as gap funding to induce project completion.

2012 CDBG CFA Funding Activities, cont.

Small Business Assistance

- Provides resources to communities to foster small business development as a vehicle for sustainable economic development and growth. For the purposes of this program, a small business is defined as a commercial enterprise with 25 or fewer FTE employees at the time of application.
- NYS CDBG can fund up to 40% of a total project cost
- A minimum of 1 FTE job must be created/retained for every \$25,000 in NYS CDBG funds.
- A minimum of 20% owner equity contribution to the project is required*



* Required equity contribution may be reduced to 10% if project qualifies as “Green”

2012 CDBG CFA Funding Activities, cont.

Public Facilities/Other Public Works

- Program activities include, but are not limited to, structures to house or serve special-needs populations; senior services; child care centers; removal of architectural barriers for the disabled (installing lifts, automatic doors, ramps, etc.); and multi-purpose buildings housing several qualifying activities where benefits are provided principally to low and moderate income persons.
- Grant funds may also be used for standalone public works activities such as sidewalks, streets, parking, open space, and publicly owned utilities.
- NYS CDBG funds can be used for construction or renovation of facilities, but cannot be used to cover the day-to-day operational costs, nor can funds be used for buildings that are primarily for the general conduct of government business (e.g. town halls).

2012 CDBG CFA Funding Activities, cont.

Public Infrastructure

- Program activities consist of, but are not limited to, water source development, storage, and distribution; sanitary sewage collection and treatment; flood control and storm water drainage. Projects may include ancillary public works components such as sidewalks, streets, parking, open space, and publicly-owned utilities.
- Eligible projects may include the repair or replacement of existing systems, construction of new systems, or expansion of existing systems into areas previously unserved that are in compliance with the NYS Smart Growth Public Infrastructure Act (Chapter 433 of the Laws of 2010) and principally benefit low- and moderate-income persons.

Project Funding Limits

- **Town, Cities or Villages:**

- Economic Development **\$100,000 - \$750,000**
- Small Business Assistance **\$25,000 - \$100,000**
- Public Infrastructure (water/sewer/stormwater only) **\$600,000**
- Public Facilities/Other Public Works **\$400,000**

- **Counties:**

- Economic Development **\$100,000 - \$750,000**
- Small Business Assistance **\$25,000 - \$100,000**
- Public Infrastructure/Public Facilities (including public works) **\$750,000**

- **Joint Applicants:**

- Public Infrastructure (water/sewer/stormwater only) **\$900,000**

*Maximum awards are not intended to serve as
target figures for requests for assistance!*

Project Cash Disbursement Methods

- CDBG funds are used to reimburse eligible expenditures.
- A recipient must complete the environmental and historic requirements covering all project activities and obtain OCR's approval of its Request for Release of Funds, before expending or encumbering CDBG funds for any activity except those listed as exempt under 24 CFR 58.34, or which fall under the categorical exclusions set forth in 24 CFR 58.35(b).

New York Main Street (NYMS)

2011 CFA Results

New York Main Street	
Total amount funded	\$8.7 million
# of projects funded	22
# of regions funded	7

New York Main Street Program

The New York Main Street (NYMS) Program was created by the New York State Housing Trust Fund Corporation (HTFC) in 2004 to provide resources for the purpose of assisting New York's communities with Main Street and downtown revitalization efforts.

NYMS endeavors to stimulate reinvestment in properties located within mixed-use commercial districts by providing resources for neighborhood revitalization and investing in projects that provide economic development and housing opportunities.

Eligible NYMS Applicants

Eligible applicants for the NYMS Program include cities, towns, villages or counties and organizations incorporated under the NYS Not-for-Profit Corporation Law, which includes community-based organizations, business improvement districts, and other similar entities that have been providing relevant service to the community for at least one year prior to application.

Eligible NYMS Target Areas

Applicants are encouraged to identify well-defined Main Street areas to maximize the impact that the local program will have on the community.

Projects must be located in an eligible target area. An eligible target area shall mean an area:

- (i) that has experienced sustained physical deterioration, decay, neglect, or disinvestment;
- (ii) has a number of substandard buildings or vacant residential or commercial units; **and**
- (iii) in which more than fifty percent of the residents are persons whose incomes do not exceed ninety percent of the area median income for the county or MSA in which the project is located, **or** which is designated by a state or federal agency to be eligible for a community or economic development program.

NYMS Project Funding Limits

Applicant may request between \$50,000 and \$250,000.

Building Renovations

Recipients may provide matching grants for exterior facade and storefront renovations or interior renovations for commercial and residential units.

\$50,000 per building with an additional \$10,000 available per residential unit assisted up to a per building maximum of \$100,000 or 75% of the total project cost.

Streetscape Enhancements

Up to \$15,000 may be used for permanent streetscape enhancement activities, such as: planting trees, installing street furniture and trash cans; and performing other supportive activities to enhance the NYMS target area.

Project Cash Disbursement Methods

- NYMS funds are used to reimburse eligible expenditures.
- Prior to the commitment or expenditure of NYMS program funds, the environmental effects of each activity must be assessed in accordance with the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQR) and the potential impact/effect on historic properties by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation.

Urban Initiatives (UI)

Urban Initiatives (UI) Program

The purpose of the Urban Initiatives program is to provide financial/technical resources to New York communities for the restoration and improvement of housing, commercial areas and public/community facilities in urban neighborhoods.

The UI program provides applicants flexibility in determining the exact nature of their revitalization efforts and program priorities.

Eligible UI Applicants

Eligible applicants include not-for-profit corporations or charitable organizations, which are either incorporated under the not-for-profit corporation law (together with any other applicable law) or, if unincorporated, are not organized for the private profit or benefit of its members. The applicant must have been engaged primarily in relevant community preservation activities for at least one year prior to application.

Eligible UI Target Areas

Eligible areas for Urban Initiatives projects are neighborhoods within cities, towns or villages with a population of 20,000 or more.

Projects must be located in an eligible target area. An eligible target area shall mean an area:

- (i) that has experienced sustained physical deterioration, decay, neglect, or disinvestment;
- (ii) has a number of substandard buildings or vacant residential or commercial units; **and**
- (iii) in which more than fifty percent of the residents are persons whose incomes do not exceed eighty percent of the area median income for the county or MSA in which the project is located, **or** which is designated by a state or federal agency to be eligible for a community or economic development program.

UI Project Funding Limits

Applicants may request between \$50,000 and \$200,000 to undertake housing preservation and community renewal activities in distressed neighborhoods .

Projects may preserve existing housing units, generate new housing units, upgrade commercial and retail areas and create innovative approaches to neighborhood and community revitalization which improve cultural and community facilities.

Project Cash Disbursement Methods

- UI funds are used to reimburse eligible expenditures.
- Prior to the commitment or expenditure of UI program funds, the environmental effects of each activity must be assessed in accordance with the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQR) and the potential impact/effect on historic properties by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation.

Rural Area Revitalization Projects (RARP)

Rural Area Revitalization Projects (RARP) Program

The purpose of the RARP program is to provide financial and technical resources to New York communities for the restoration and improvement of housing, commercial areas and public and community facilities in rural areas of the state.

The RARP program provides applicants flexibility in determining the exact nature of their revitalization efforts and program priorities.

Eligible RARP Applicants

Eligible applicants include not-for-profit corporations or charitable organizations, which are either incorporated under the not-for-profit corporation law (together with any other applicable law) or, if unincorporated, are not organized for the private profit or benefit of its members. The applicant must have been engaged primarily in relevant community preservation activities for at least one year prior to application.

Eligible RARP Target Areas

Eligible areas for Rural Area Revitalization projects are cities, towns or villages with a population of 25,000 or less.

Projects must be located in an eligible target area. An eligible target area shall mean an area:

- (i) that has experienced sustained physical deterioration, decay, neglect, or disinvestment;
- (ii) has a number of substandard buildings or vacant residential or commercial units; **and**
- (iii) in which more than fifty percent of the residents are persons whose incomes do not exceed ninety percent of the area median income for the county or MSA in which the project is located, **or** which is designated by a state or federal agency to be eligible for a community or economic development program.

RARP Project Funding Limits

Applicants may request between \$50,000 and \$200,000 to undertake housing preservation and community renewal activities in distressed neighborhoods .

Projects may preserve existing housing units, generate new housing units, upgrade commercial and retail areas and create innovative approaches to neighborhood and community revitalization which improve cultural and community facilities.

Project Cash Disbursement Methods

- RARP funds are used to reimburse eligible expenditures.
- Prior to the commitment or expenditure of RARP program funds, the environmental effects of each activity must be assessed in accordance with the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQR) and the potential impact/effect on historic properties by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation.

Questions?

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