



COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Bob Kiss and City Council
FROM: Margaret Bozik, Assistant Director for Community Development
DATE: September 21, 2011
RE: Consolidated Annual Performance & Evaluation Report

The enclosed Consolidated Annual Performance & Evaluation Report describes what was accomplished with expenditures of \$2.3 million during the past fiscal year of federal funds received from the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (through the Community Development Block Grant, HOME Investment Partnership Act and Lead Hazard Reduction programs) as well as Burlington Housing Trust Fund monies. The Appendix to the Report is not included, but is available online.

There will be a Public Hearing on this Report – and to hear citizen comments on housing and community development needs generally – at your meeting on September 26, 2011. The Report has been posted online for public review and comment. Highlights of the Report are described below:

- o Technical assistance, loans and entrepreneurial training reached 296 businesses and entrepreneurs this year. These activities supported the start-up of 15 new businesses, the expansion of 16 businesses, the creation of 6,320 new sq. ft. and the renovation of 50,500 sq. ft. of commercial space, and led to the creation of 182 new permanent FTE jobs plus 105 temporary / seasonal jobs.
- o Over the past three years, CDBG-funded economic development activities led to an annual increase of \$640,356 in new property tax revenues.
- o The Thayer Commons / Avenue Apartments project broke ground on June 13. The development will include 33 affordable rental units for families, around 60 rental units for seniors and 47 market rate rental units. This project is anticipated to produce \$385,000 annually in new property tax revenues and 800 construction jobs.
- o Renovations were completed at Three Cathedral Square, the 108-unit downtown senior housing project. Those renovations included a “Green Retrofit” and the installation of new rooftop solar panels, allowing the sale of surplus power back to Burlington Electric.
- o Construction was completed on the Salmon Run project, preserving the affordability of 36 units and converting 25 existing market rate units to perpetually affordable units, along with \$4.8 million of associated renovation. Work continued on the City Neighborhoods project, which includes refinancing and major rehabilitation of 40 scattered site affordable rental units.
- o The continued affordability of 37 units housing low-income persons with disabilities at Wharf Lane and 51 units housing low-income families at Bobbin Mill has been ensured. Renovations at Wharf Lane will begin in the upcoming year.

- o The Burlington Lead Program completed testing on 28 housing units; carried out Lead Hazard Control activities on 64 housing units; trained 395 individuals on the VT Essential Maintenance Practices Lead Law (EMP) and 163 individuals on the EPA Renovation, Repair and Painting Rule (RRP); trained 9 low-income individuals as Lead Abatement Workers; and conducted 75 outreach and education events that reached over 2,400 people.
- o Utility assistance, home sharing, access modifications, home- and center-based senior services, and other housing retention assistance helped over 3,000 residents remain housed and living independently.
- o The Moran Plant received a local zoning permit, preconstruction services were hired and work began on construction documents.
- o CDBG was part of the match for transportation infrastructure improvements. Downtown Side Streets were bid in December 2010 and began construction in May 2011. The Waterfront North project leveraged an additional \$210,000 in grants and submitted 85% engineering and design plans to VTrans. The Scenic Byways program has created 6 interpretive panels throughout Burlington as well as a joint county website, audio interpretation using cell phones, maps and brochures that promote the Byways.
- o CDBG also served as the match for an American Battlefield Protection Program grant. These funds have helped address the 1812 burial ground that lies beneath the Old North End. The city has removed 14 burials that were in conflict with redevelopment projects; a cultural landscape inventory of the Burlington's War of 1812 battlefield and associated sites is complete; and development of a Burial Ground Delineation & Archeological Management Plan is underway.
- o Citizen-generated neighborhood projects funded by CDBG this year included the new Callahan community garden as well as improvements to the baseball field at Roosevelt Park; the Myrtle Street, Starr Farm, Lakeview and Champlain community gardens; the Bike ReCycle facility; the Northgate playground; the Barnes kitchen, the Flynn playground, the Hunt youth farm, and the Edmunds Middle school landscaping; and the Rte. 127 Bike Path entrance.
- o CDBG-funded agencies provided shelter and services to 2,214 homeless residents; groceries and meals for 4,635 residents, including meals for children during afterschool programs; high quality early care and education for 126 children from working families; afterschool and summer programming for over 1,000 city youth, including academic and summer English Language services; crisis and support services for 192 victims of sexual assault as well as prevention education for students and clients of other agencies; free tax preparation for 1,586 low-income working Burlington taxpayers; credit and budgeting education for 121 residents; and access to affordable prescription medications for 575 residents. Improvements to the Safe Harbor Dental Clinic now allow homeless and low-income residents to get x-ray dental screenings.

This past year, CEDO managed 24 CDBG subgrants to community nonprofits, five CDBG-funded CEDO programs and 14 CDBG-funded neighborhood grant projects. With federal cuts to CDBG, the local scope of our CDBG program may not be sustainable. (Attached is a chart showing funding levels over time.) The future of the city's CDBG program will be discussed at a Public Forum scheduled for tomorrow, September 27, from 5:30 to 8:30 in Contois Auditorium.