

CITY OF LANCASTER

David S. Smith, Mayor

**Municipal Building
104 East Main Street
Lancaster, OH 43130**

**740-687-6600 ~
740-687-6698 (fax)**

mayor@ci.lancaster.oh.us

February 1, 2011

*The Honorable Steve Austria
United States House of Representatives
1641 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515*

The Honorable Steve Austria:

On behalf of the City of Lancaster's Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG), I would like to express a serious concern regarding continuing efforts to eliminate the Community Development Block Grant Program administered under the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. I am requesting your support of the program under its current status.

The CDBG program is a vital funding component to address the city's housing and community needs, priorities, goals, objectives and strategies, with an emphasis on the needs of very low, low, and moderate income individuals and families residing within the city. Numerous CDBG projects have been implemented to meet major objectives for public facilities and improvements, comprehensive downtown revitalization, public infrastructure for economic development, housing rehabilitation, homeownership, and public service activities.

The City of Lancaster is an entitlement community under the CDBG program receiving approximately \$620,000 annually. The City of Lancaster's Community Development Department administers the CDBG program and had prepared the following accomplishment fact sheet covering a five year period.

FACT SHEET
CITY OF LANCASTER, OHIO
CDBG ACCOMPLISHMENTS
2005 - 2009

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG)

- The city leverages its CDBG funds with numerous local, state, federal and private sources. An estimated ratio of every ***one dollar (\$1.00)*** of CDBG funding expended another ***five dollars (\$5.00)*** in private and public funding was leveraged.
- ***43,471*** low and moderate income persons were assisted through the CDBG program in the past five years.
- CDBG funds in the amount of ***\$44,934.00*** were spent on economic development activities such as direct financial assistance to businesses, commercial and industrial improvements, among others.
- CDBG funds in the amount of ***\$1,439,788.88*** were spent on public improvements, such as the development and improvements of public facilities, street and sidewalk improvements, water and sewer improvements, senior centers and child care facilities, and the development of parks and recreational facilities, among others.
- CDBG funds in the amount of ***\$395,042.62*** were spent on public services, such as services for senior and youth projects, health services, employment training, services for abused and neglected children, and services for the disabled, among others.
- CDBG funds in the amount of ***\$920,851.18*** were provided for housing activities, such as construction, rehabilitation, homebuyer assistance, lead-based paint testing and abatement, among others.
- CDBG funds in the amount of ***\$57,340.55*** were provided to housing activities to remove architectural barriers for the elderly and disabled population.

During the five year period, a total of ***\$2,857,957.23*** was expended in CDBG funding with a benefit to ***43,471*** low and moderate income persons.

Additionally, the department recently completed the Community Development Block Grant program's FY 2009 Comprehensive Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) and would like to share with you some examples of the annual number of low and moderate income individuals directly benefitting from the program. These numbers do not take into account the vast number of areas within the city that indirectly benefit from the CDBG funding such as the Downtown Revitalization Program and various infrastructure projects.

During the preparation of the city's CAPER, the city requires agency compliance with a performance measurement system which requires funding agencies to provide detailed information regarding beneficiaries in relationship with the agency's CDBG funding allocation. The Community Development Department reviews the data in depth for compliance with monitoring and eligibility program requirements and the impact with the goals and objectives of the city's Consolidated Housing and Community Development Five Year Plan. Performance measures is an organized process for gathering information to determine how well programs and projects are meeting the community's needs and then using that information to improve performance and better target resources. Numerous benefits are derived from the implementation of the city's performance measurement system. The system ensures the funding agencies and activities makes a difference in the lives of low and moderate income residents; services will be improved; definitive evidence is provided that CDBG resources produces a benefit; and the general public will recognize the benefits the CDBG program dollars produces.

During the city's FY 2009 program year (September 1, 2009 – August 31, 2010), CDBG funding totaling \$542,301.47 was expended to benefit approximately 7,720 low and moderate income individuals that directly received some form of assistance under the CDBG program.

The following chart illustrates the types of assistance provided and the number of individuals benefitting from the program.

LANCASTER COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM DIRECT PROGRAM BENEFICIARIES SEPTEMBER 1, 2009 - AUGUST 31, 2010		
AGENCY	PROGRAM DESCRIPTION	NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS BENEFITTING FROM PROGRAM
FAIRFIELD INDUSTRIES	EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES TO MRDD INDIVIDUALS DURING THE LANCASTER FESTIVAL	27
NEW HORIZONS	RESIDENTIAL AND SUPPORTIVE SERVICES PROVIDED TO INDIVIDUALS WITH CHRONIC AND SEVERE MENTAL ILLNESS	39
LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES	HOMELESS PREVENTION AND COUNSELING SERVICES PROVIDED TO INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE HOMELESS OR ARE "AT RISK" OF BEING HOMELESS	115
LIGHTHOUSE	PROVIDES SHELTER AND COUNSELING SERVICES TO VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	160
COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY	HOMELESS PREVENTION AND COUNSELING SERVICES PROVIDED TO FAMILIES WHO ARE HOMELESS OR ARE "AT RISK" OF BEING HOMELESS	580
INFORMATION & REFERRAL	PROVISION OF HOUSING RESOURCE INFORMATION	382
LANCASTER FIRE DEPARTMENT	EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS TO PROMOTE FIRE SAFETY FOR ELEMENTARY AGED CHILDREN	1351
FAIRFIELD AFFORDABLE HOUSING	PROVISION OF SERVICE COORDINATION TO INDIVIDUALS RESIDING AT LIVINGSTON ARMS SENIOR COMPLEX	42
LANCASTER POLICE DEPARTMENT	EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS TO SUPPLEMENT THE EDUCATIONAL TRAINING UNDER THE DARE PROGRAM	353
FAIR HOUSING	IMPLEMENTATION OF A PROGRESSIVE FAIR HOUSING PROGRAM	50
FAIRFIELD CENTER DISABILITIES	HOME MODIFICATIONS TO REMOVE ARCHITECTURAL BARRIERS FOR HANDICAPPED INDIVIDUALS	45
ACQUISITION ASSISTANCE	MORTGAGE "BUY DOWN" ASSISTANCE TO PROMOTE HOMEOWNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES	12
HOUSING REHABILITATION	REHABILITATION OF DETERIORATED SINGLE FAMILY OWNER OCCUPIED DWELLING UNITS	2
OLIVEDALE SENIOR CENTER	ARCHITECTURAL BARRIER REMOVAL	2450
LANCASTER FIRE DEPARTMENT	PURCHASE OF FIRE EQUIPMENT	340
NOLDER BARR PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS	CONSTRUCTION OF STREET/SIDEWALK RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT	807
FAIRFIELD HERITAGE TRAIL	INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS	326
DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION PROGRAM	BI-ANNUAL REPAYMENT OF A SECTION 108 LOAN FOR A MAJOR DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM	637
HABITAT FOR HUMANITY	MORTGAGE "BUY DOWN" ASSISTANCE TO PROMOTE HOMEOWNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES	2

The Lancaster Community Development Block Grant Program has significantly improved the quality of life in our community, and most importantly, the lives of low and moderate income residents.

Your support of the program is not only appreciated by the City of Lancaster but also by the many individuals and programs represented above.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

*David S. Smith
Mayor, City of Lancaster, Ohio*

*Congressman Austria's Lancaster Office
attn: Bob Clark*

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David S. Smith, Mayor

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104 East Main Street
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February 1, 2011

*The Honorable Sherrod Brown
United States Senator
713 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510*

The Honorable Sherrod Brown:

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*The Honorable Rob Portman
United States Senator
840D Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510*

The Honorable Rob Portman

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