

2024 Program Descriptions

1. Ten Year Housing Plan/Strategic Initiatives - Middle Neighborhoods

Cleveland's Middle Neighborhood Initiative is focused on delivering unique and specific strategies to areas often overlooked by the City of Cleveland and its community development ecosystem. Though often misunderstood as representing the "middle" of incomes, socio-economic class or home values the reality is that the Initiative as uncovered three subsets of neighborhoods each representing different populations, incomes and neighborhood characteristics. Within Cleveland approx. 90 block groups that are home to on average household incomes of \$40,549 or 72% AMI, and another 88 block groups contain households with average incomes of 45,082 or 80% AMI. Only 16% of Cleveland's Middle Neighborhoods are between the 80-120% AMI threshold that defines the national middle. As such the majority of the Middle Neighborhood targeted areas are made up of low income households. Within these areas the average home value ranges from \$52-\$80 sqft by comparison stable home values are typically defined as \$100-150f sqft. These neighborhoods have consistently depressed home values that are often the results of historic redlining and contemporary discriminatory housing practices. Cleveland's Middle Neighborhoods are home to 43% white, 47% black and 8% Hispanic populations, reflecting the general population of Cleveland and revealing that our targeted areas can provide support to create equitable community development practices. Overall the targeted populations for Middle Neighborhoods work are truly representative low- and moderate-income communities. The Middle Neighborhood Initiative has developed grant and loan tools to target these important areas of Cleveland.

The Department of Community Development administers grants and loans allocated by the City to the Middle Neighborhoods projects and programs and participates in coordination work to align resources with the goals of the Middle Neighborhoods Initiative.

1. Ten Year Housing Plan/Strategic Initiatives – Banking Relations

Bank Relations continues to foster partnerships with banks, nonprofits, federal regulators, and advocacy groups to increase lending and access to safe and affordable banking services for residents and businesses in the City of Cleveland, especially for low- and moderate-income households. Additionally, we leverage the City's Ordinance to achieve this goal through monitoring and enforcing Cleveland's 1994 Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) as well as State and Federal laws. The City of Cleveland's CRA Program and banking services ordinance began in 1991 to increase access to credit and related services in the City of Cleveland especially to minority and low-income persons and businesses in city neighborhoods.

Objectives of the program are to:

- Review data on loans, investments and services in the city of Cleveland,
- Negotiate Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) with area lenders,
- Monitor the progress of financial institutions toward meeting the goals and objectives stated in their agreements
- Create partnerships that provide for the exchange of information
- Create partnerships that leverage resources to expand lending to those that traditionally lower rates of lending in Cleveland through programs that provide:
 - Gap Financing

Ten Year Housing Plan/Safe Housing Initiatives – Banking Relations (cont'd)

- Public/Private Shared Loans
- Loan Loss Reserve
- Down Payment Assistance
- Interest Rate Subsidies
- Certificate of Deposit Backed Initiatives
- Other eligible approaches

Develop a process to evaluate applications for receipt of city deposits based on their service and investment in Cleveland neighborhoods, to residents and for businesses..

2. Ten Year Housing Plan/Strategic Initiatives - Abatement Demolition and Board Up

The Department of Building and Housing will administer a demolition program for condemned structures that pose a threat to the health/safety of Cleveland Residents.

3. Ten Year Housing Plan/Strategic Initiatives - Project Clean

Seasonal work crews are hired during the spring and summer to clean and cut vacant blighted city-owned lots, primarily in low/moderate income areas. These lots are targeted for redevelopment through the city's land reutilization program. The purpose of the City Land Bank is to acquire vacant and abandoned tax delinquent residential property and to market the property to individuals, developers and non-profit organizations for productive reuse. Funding supports the use of vacant, city-owned property as garden sites, provision of gardening supplies, and technical assistance to developers of neighborhood gardens. Produce generated is distributed among the Cleveland residents maintaining the sites and is donated to local food pantries.

4. Ten Year Housing Plan/Strategic Initiatives - Citywide Grants

This program provides activity grants to City-wide organizations for CDBG eligible services, public facility activities, economic development activities and real estate development activities in strategic geographic areas and neighborhoods. The primary objective is to fund activities that stabilize existing housing, provide housing opportunities for low-income residents, and improve the quality of life in Cleveland neighborhoods. City-wide organizations that either operate programs that provide a direct benefit to low- and moderate-income residents or help support City programs that provide the direct benefit to low- and moderate-income residents.

5. Ten Year Housing Plan/Strategic Initiatives - CDC Activity Grants

The Community Development Corporation (CDC) Activity Grant Program supports non-profit, neighborhood-based organizations that are engaged in CDBG-eligible housing activities, commercial development and related public service activities. Seventeen (17) neighborhood-based development organizations received grants in PY2022. Through a Request For Proposals agencies propose activities that are appropriate for their service area; and that are consistent with the Connecting Cleveland 2020 Citywide Plan and other approved neighborhood plans. Proposals must describe program staffing, steps agencies will take to arrive at measurable accomplishments and benchmarks that can be reported on a quarterly basis. Funding will cover a 12-month performance period and will be comprised of Departmental and Neighborhood Development Activity allocations. Eligible activities include:

Ten Year Housing Plan/Strategic Initiatives - CDC Activity Grants *(cont'd)*

- Single-Family Rehabilitation, Residential Rehabilitation Referral, Design Review, Public Information,
- Small Business Technical Assistance, Design Review & Public Information,
- Public Services, and
- Interim Assistance.

The primary objective is to fund activities that stabilize existing housing, provide housing opportunities for low-income residents, and improve the quality of life in Cleveland neighborhoods. Community Development Corporations can either operate programs that provide a direct benefit to low- and moderate-income residents or help support City programs that provide the direct benefit to low- and moderate-income residents.

6. Ten Year Housing Plan/Safe Housing Initiatives - Home Repair Program

The Division of Neighborhood Services will provide direct assistance to low to moderate-income occupants for rehabilitation, repair and maintenance of owner-occupied residential structures. Assistance is provided in the form of grants, rebates, loans or forgivable loans. Programs offered include:

- Repair-A-Home (RAH)
- Senior Housing Assistance Program (SHAP)
- Homeowner Rehab Gap Financing (AAH)
- Furnace Repair
- Furnace Replacement
- Hot water Tank Replacement
- Tree Trimming
- Gutter Program
- Exterior Paint Program
- Model Block Program
- Other programs proposed or under development

Repair-A-Home (RAH) - The program is designed to assist low to moderate-income homeowners with code required repairs to their primary residence. The primary residence must be classified either as a one (1) or two (2) family dwelling only. The residence must be repaired or rehabilitated per the City's Priority Scope of Services. The repairs are provided to the eligible homeowner through a 50% forgivable loan through the City. The Program is available on a citywide basis. All applicants must own and occupy their primary residence for a minimum of one (1) year, and be current on their property taxes. The program is designed to assist low or moderate-income (80% of median income) homeowners or rental properties be rented to low or moderate-income (80% of median income) tenants.

Senior Housing Assistance Program (SHAP) - The program is designed to assist low-income seniors or disabled homeowners with the repair of two (2) critical health and safety repairs to their primary residence. The primary residence must be classified either as a one (1) or two (2) family dwelling unit, and work will only be done in the unit occupied by the homeowner. Eligible repairs could include roof and gutters, porch(s), whole house electrical, whole house plumbing,

Ten Year Housing Plan/Safe Housing Initiatives - Home Repair Program (cont'd)

wheelchair ramp or lift. The repairs are provided to the eligible homeowner in the form of a grant. The average grant amount for each item repaired for a single-family structure is \$12,000 and \$14,000 for each item repaired in a two-family structure.

Furnace Repair Program - The program is designed to assist low-income homeowners with minor furnace repairs. The primary residence must be classified either as a one (1) or two (2) family dwelling only. The repair is only provided to the unit of the eligible homeowner in the form of a grant. The program is available on a citywide basis by calling Community Housing Solutions.

Furnace and Hot Water Tank Replacement Program - The program is designed to assist low-income (50% of median income) homeowners with emergency furnace replacement or hot water tank replacement. The primary residence must be classified either as a one (1) or two (2) family dwelling only. The replacement is only provided to the unit of the eligible homeowner in the form of a grant. The program is available on a citywide basis by calling Community Housing Solutions (CHS). This is a collaborative program between the Department of Community Development and Community Housing Solutions.

Tree Trimming - The program is designed to assist low-income seniors or disabled homeowners with hazardous tree or branch removal that is on their own property. The primary residence must be classified either as a one (1) or two (2) family dwelling only. The repair is provided to the eligible homeowner in the form of a grant. This is a collaborative program between Cleveland Departments of Aging, Public Works and Community Development. The program will only remove major tree nuisances that threaten safety or damage. Minor tree nuisances are not eligible.

Gutter Program - The program is designed to assist elderly and disabled adults with cleaning their gutters to aid in increasing the life of the existing roof. Assistance is available as a grant. The gutter cleaning season will be in two cycles: October 1 through November 30 and April 1 through June 30. Gutters will not be cleaned from December through March due to weather and July through August due to excessive amount of leaves on the trees. Gutters should be intact and in good repair. A visual assessment will be done to determine the present condition.

Exterior Paint Program - This Paint Program provides a valuable incentive to homeowners and tenants to maintain the exterior of their home and aid in reducing lead based paint hazards. To be eligible, an applicant must be a City resident and live in a one or two family structure that is being painted, and be of either low- or moderate-income. The Paint Program provides grants of up to \$1,500 for exterior paint and paint supplies for owner occupants and up to \$750 for tenants. Funds granted will not exceed the cost of the exterior paint and supplies. Labor is not included. The entire property must be painted to qualify for the program. Paint vouchers are used to process payment to paint vendors. Lead regulations must be followed when houses are painted. To ensure compliance, a pre-inspection is conducted to verify property needs to be painted and that safe work practices will be followed. A certified Risk Assessor must do the final clearance exam. Final clearance as defined by the regulations is a visual clearance of the work site completed by a State Certified Lead Risk Assessor. All painting must be completed and inspected by October 31, to be eligible for reimbursement in the same year. Requests for reimbursement

Ten Year Housing Plan/Safe Housing Initiatives - Home Repair Program (cont'd)

must be accompanied by a copy of the original receipts dated after application approval. Income guidelines is 100% of Area Median Income.

Model Block Program - The Model Block initiative is based upon the premise that a concentration of vacant building rehabilitation and existing owner's investment in exterior enhancement. The Model Block program will provide a source of public investment capital to remove blight and preserve neighborhood buildings in focused areas. The program will have two components:

- Occupied Residential Property Exterior Work. A matching grant for occupied neighborhood residential property to support exterior repairs that address blighted conditions that could result in code violations; and

Vacant Property Acquisition and Stabilization. A grant to assist with purchase and stabilization of vacant properties planned for rehabilitation. For Occupied Residential Property Exterior Work awards will be limited to \$30,000 per residential unit. For Vacant Property Acquisition and Stabilization awards will be limited to \$50,000 per residential unit.

7. Ten Year Housing Plan/Safe Housing Initiatives - HUD Competitive Lead Grants

The Lead Hazard Control Grant Program was created to protect children from lead-based paint hazards. The program is designed to maximize the combination of children protected from lead poisoning and housing units where lead-hazards are controlled. All identified interior and exterior lead-based paint hazards are to be controlled so that the housing unit will achieve "clearance" in order to confirm that all hazards have been properly addressed. The clearance process includes both a visual evaluation and dust-wipe sampling. The scope of work eligible for the program will be determined by the Lead Inspection/Risk Assessment completed by the Risk Assessor. If the total cost of the unit is greater than the average unit cost, the occupant/landlord is encouraged to contribute to the cost with in-kind work or additional financial resources. All programs participants are encouraged to provide assistance to the project by either performing some of the required measures and/or making a financial contribution of \$600.00 or more per unit.

8. Ten Year Housing Plan/Safe Housing Initiatives - Citywide Grants

Department of Aging provides support to the Department of Community Development's SHAP Program, CHORE program, and other programs under Home Repair programs in the form of applicant identification, applicant intake and associated program support with Department of Aging staff. Assistance will come in the form of grants, rebates, loans or forgivable loans.

9. Ten Year Housing Plan/Safe Housing Initiatives - Housing Repair and Rehab Administration

These are the program delivery costs incurred by the Department of Community Development in the form of staff costs, and other related direct or indirect costs.

10. Ten Year Housing Plan/Affordable Housing Expansion and Preservation - Housing Trust Fund

The Housing Trust Fund will provide a source of public capital for investment in housing development projects that will increase the supply of new or rehabilitated units that are affordable to lower income households. Awards are underwritten subject to HUD HOME

Ten Year Housing Plan/Affordable Housing Expansion and Preservation - Housing Trust Fund (cont'd)

regulations to fund the reasonable gap in order to make to project feasible. Consideration for projects whose requests exceed the maximum will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis based on project complexity, strategic importance, and available funding. Housing Trust Fund allocations will generally be in the form of secured loans, which can be subordinate to other financing sources. Repayment terms will be structured to the needs of each project. Some loans may include terms related to forgiveness upon meeting conditions related to project completion and maintenance of affordability. All housing development projects receiving assistance through the Housing Trust Fund must comply with the requirements of the Cleveland Green Building Standard. This will assure that all future Housing Trust Fund projects are designed and built using practices that reduce building operating costs, prevent unhealthy living environments, conserve energy and natural resources and contribute to improved regional land use patterns. Eligible Projects:

- New construction or substantial rehabilitation residential projects with construction costs of at least \$25,000 per unit.
- Units to be developed may be rental or for sale to income eligible households at affordable rent or sales price.
- Transitional and supportive housing facilities designed to assist the homeless are eligible.
- Proposals for scattered site projects should be part of the implementation of a model block or other comprehensive neighborhood revitalization plan.

CHDO Set-Aside- At least 15 percent of HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) funds must be set aside for specific activities to be undertaken by a special type of nonprofit called a Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO). A CHDO is a private nonprofit, community-based organization that has staff with the capacity to develop affordable housing for the community it serves. A qualified CHDO must act as the owner, developer, or sponsor of a project that is an eligible set-aside activity. These eligible set-aside activities include: the acquisition and/or rehabilitation of rental housing; new construction of rental housing; acquisition and/or rehabilitation of homebuyer properties; new construction of homebuyer properties; and direct financial assistance to purchasers of HOME-assisted housing that has been developed with HOME funds by the CHDO.

11. Ten Year Housing Plan/Affordable Housing Expansion and Preservation - Citywide Grants

The Department funds a number of programs with partners to provide development assistance citywide for housing rehabilitation and small business support. Programs such as:

- CHN Housing Partners, Homebuyer Education Program
- Cleveland Restoration Society- Heritage Home Loan Program
- Community Housing Solutions- Furnace and Home Repair Program
- Community Housing Solutions- Tool Loan Program and Counseling Services

12. Ten Year Housing Plan/Affordable Housing Expansion and Preservation - Fair Housing Administration

The Department funds a number of programs with partners to provide development assistance citywide for housing rehabilitation and small business support. Programs such as:

- Empowering and Strengthening Ohio People (ESOP)- Foreclosure Prevention Counseling
- Housing Research and Advocacy Center- Fair Housing and Investigation Program
- Legal Aid Society of Cleveland- Right to Counsel Cleveland

13. Ten Year Housing Plan/Affordable Housing Expansion and Preservation - Housing Development Office Administration

These are the program delivery costs incurred by the Department of Community Development in the form of staff costs, and other related direct or indirect costs.

14. Ten Year Housing Plan/Supporting Housing Infill Development - Citywide Grants

The Department funds a number of programs with partners to provide development assistance citywide for housing rehabilitation and small business support.

15. Economic Opportunity/Storefront Renovation

The goal of the Storefront Renovation Program is to keep Cleveland's neighborhood retail districts economically strong, visually attractive and competitive in a regional shopping market while also providing goods and services to the surrounding areas' residents. Rebate funds are utilized to provide project rebates to Storefront Renovation Program (SRP) applicants who complete comprehensive exterior renovations on all visible elevations of eligible building types as seen from the main street and/or install new business signage on already rehabilitated buildings in retail districts of the city. Program assistance includes:

- Building Rebate (with or without tenant signage): 50% not to exceed \$50,000
- Architectural Rebate: 100% not to exceed \$5,000
- Sign Rebate: 50% not to exceed \$5,000 per business use (if tenant signage is not included in the building rebate OR for sign-only projects on already renovated buildings)
- Phase I/Phase II environmental rebate

All renovations are completed in accordance with the design standards established in The Cleveland Storefront Renovation Program Design Manual, which is based on the Secretary of the Interior's Standards.

Financial and design assistance provided to commercial property owners and retail business owners to comprehensively rehabilitate buildings in targeted retail neighborhood districts and targeted retail buildings. Improvements will only address the exterior appearance of commercial buildings and, as needed, restore the architectural integrity of the structure according to federal design standards. Non-commercial buildings will also be eligible where a retail storefront will be created. Where mixed use structures are involved (commercial/residential), program focus is the commercial presence of the building in the retail district. Exterior improvements will address maintenance, code and aesthetic items on the building as well as business signage that is within City codes; as well as functionally appropriate for the building. The Program does not address interior, residential code related items and does not result in decent, safe and sanitary units (DSS). Assistance will come in the form of grants, rebates, loans or forgivable loans.

16. Ending Poverty and Racial Disparities/Support the City and County Continuum of Care

As a result of continued high demand for shelter services, CDBG funds are used to supplement Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds. The combined ESG and CDBG homeless services funds for shelter services are allocated through a proposal process carried out in cooperation with the Cleveland/Cuyahoga County Office of Homeless Services.

In 2012, HUD restructured the Emergency Shelter Grant program as the Emergency Solutions Grant program. In addition to the previously eligible homeless shelter services, ESG funds can now also be used to support the types of activities that had previously been funded through the Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP). HPRP was created as part of the stimulus bill to help prevent persons from becoming homeless and to help those who are in shelters to find housing as quickly as possible. Eligible activities include:

- Prevention
- Outreach
- Rapid Re-housing
- Emergency Shelter

17. Ending Poverty and Racial Disparities/ESG Administration

These are the program delivery costs incurred by the Department of Community Development in the form of staff costs, and other related direct or indirect costs.

18. Ending Poverty and Racial Disparities/Alleviating or Addressing Systemic Poverty Public Services

Cleveland had the highest poverty rate among large U.S. cities in 2019, overtaking Detroit, according to data released by the U.S. Census bureau. 46.1% of children (37,700) in Cleveland are living in poverty.

The Department of Community Development seeks to fund public services that address the root causes of poverty, alleviate the impacts of poverty and/or aligns city resources and creates community collaboration to reduce poverty. These services are funded through the Third Party Social Services Program.

The Third Party Social Services Program provides funding through a competitive process to nonprofit agencies and City departments for services that directly impact low to moderate income Cleveland residents. The Department issues a Request for Proposals to current grantees and agencies that have requested applications throughout the year. The Department and a Review Committee that includes designated City Council staff will jointly review applications and make recommendations for funding, using the following criteria:

- The proposed activity must be effective in meeting an identified need, as evidenced by the previous year's performance data;
- Special consideration will be given to activities that stabilize neighborhoods and to initiatives that provide skill-building opportunities for youth, 14-18 years old.
- The agency's staff is capable of carrying out the program, as evidenced by experience and overall performance record in the delivery of services.
- Information in the application allows for a thorough and informed analysis of the proposed activity.
- The cost per person served does not exceed the average cost per person served for similarly funded CDBG programs.

Ending Poverty and Racial Disparities/Alleviating or Addressing Systemic Poverty Public Services (cont'd)

- Program delivery costs which directly benefit the recipients should comprise 80% or more of the proposed budget, while Program administration costs should not exceed 20% of the budget.

Consumer Affairs - Consumer Affairs administers and enforces Cleveland's 1972 Consumer Protection Code, as well as State and Federal laws. Consumer Affairs educates the public regarding scams and fraudulent business practices. It works with media, holds public neighborhood forums, and works cooperatively with private and government consumer agencies. It interacts with various levels of government to impact key consumer issues, ranging from Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) on rate matters to banking practices. This office investigates complaints to determine whether a vendor has engaged in unfair practices with a Cleveland consumer. It then work to resolve the issues that are found and attempt to negotiate a fair settlement of the complaint. Along with investigative field work, the findings may result in prosecution. In refocusing the education aspects of Consumer Affairs a greater emphasis is placed on financial literacy education and programming.

19. Ending Poverty and Racial Disparities/Youth Violence Public Services

The Department of Community Development seeks to fund public services that address the root cause of youth violence, alleviate the impact of youth violence and/or aligns city resources and creates community collaboration to reduce youth violence. Using a public health approach, each youth initiative includes meaningful activity and fosters skills necessary for a success in the workforce, school, home and community. These services are funded through the Third Party Social Services Program.

The Third Party Social Services Program provides funding through a competitive process to nonprofit agencies and City departments for services that directly impact low to moderate income Cleveland residents. The Department issues a Request for Proposals to current grantees and agencies that have requested applications throughout the year. The Department and a Review Committee that includes designated City Council staff will jointly review applications and make recommendations for funding, using the following criteria:

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- Information in the application allows for a thorough and informed analysis of the proposed activity.
- The cost per person served does not exceed the average cost per person served for similarly funded CDBG programs.
- Program delivery costs which directly benefit the recipients should comprise 80% or more of the proposed budget, while Program administration costs should not exceed 20% of the budget.

20. Ending Poverty and Racial Disparities/Poverty and Accessibility Amongst Elderly Public Services

The 2019 data shows a continuation of another concerning trend: an increase in poor seniors. The number and share of people over age 65 who live in poverty grew in Cleveland to 22.7 percent (12,000 seniors).

The Department of Community Department supports City efforts to provide seniors in Cleveland access to benefits, housing, legal services, health assistance, finances, employment and more in order for seniors to continue to live health and productive lives in Cleveland. These services are funded through the Third Party Social Services Program.

The Third Party Social Services Program provides funding through a competitive process to nonprofit agencies and City departments for services that directly impact low to moderate income Cleveland residents. The Department issues a Request for Proposals to current grantees and agencies that have requested applications throughout the year. The Department and a Review Committee that includes designated City Council staff will jointly review applications and make recommendations for funding, using the following criteria:

- The proposed activity must be effective in meeting an identified need, as evidenced by the previous year's performance data;
- Special consideration will be given to activities that stabilize neighborhoods and to initiatives that provide skill-building opportunities form youth, 14-18 years old.
- The agency's staff is capable of carrying out the program, as evidenced by experience and overall performance record in the delivery of services.
- Information in the application allows for a thorough and informed analysis of the proposed activity.
- The cost per person served does not exceed the average cost per person served for similarly funded CDBG programs.
- Program delivery costs which directly benefit the recipients should comprise 80% or more of the proposed budget, while Program administration costs should not exceed 20% of the budget.

21. Ending Poverty and Racial Disparities/Other Public Services

The Third Party Social Services Program provides funding through a competitive process to nonprofit agencies and City departments for services that directly impact low to moderate income Cleveland residents. The Department issues a Request for Proposals to current grantees and agencies that have requested applications throughout the year. The Department and a Review Committee that includes designated City Council staff will jointly review applications and make recommendations for funding, using the following criteria:

- The proposed activity must be effective in meeting an identified need, as evidenced by the previous year's performance data;
- Special consideration will be given to activities that stabilize neighborhoods and to initiatives that provide skill-building opportunities form youth, 14-18 years old.
- The agency's staff is capable of carrying out the program, as evidenced by experience and overall performance record in the delivery of services.
- Information in the application allows for a thorough and informed analysis of the proposed activity.
- The cost per person served does not exceed the average cost per person served for similarly funded CDBG programs.

Ending Poverty and Racial Disparities/Other Public Services (cont'd)

- Program delivery costs which directly benefit the recipients should comprise 80% or more of the proposed budget, while Program administration costs should not exceed 20% of the budget.

Eligible Public Services include, but not limited to:

- Senior Services
- Services for Persons with Disabilities
- Legal Services
- Youth Services
- Transportation Services
- Substance Abuse Services
- Services for Victims of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, or Stalking
- Employment Training
- Crime Awareness
- Fair Housing Activities
- Tenant/Landlord Counseling
- Child Care Services
- Health Services
- Abused and Neglected Children
- Mental Health Services
- Screening for Lead Based Paint/Lead Hazards
- Subsistence Payments
- Rental Housing Subsidies
- Security Deposits
- Housing Counseling
- Neighborhood Cleanups
- Food Banks
- Housing information and referral services
- Housing Counseling
- Other Public Services

22. Community Engagement

The goal of the initiative is to deploy Community Engagement Specialists by neighborhood to improve the quality of life of residents and the City's housing stock. The program will be focused on healthy homes and linking residents and landlords to resources, education and training once trust is built.

Activities - Under the oversight of the Community Engagement Specialists Manager (Program Manager), the Community Engagement Specialists (CES) will work out of Community Development Corporations (CDCs) offices and report to the CDC Executive Director or their designee so that they can benefit from the knowledge and network of the CDCs. The main roles and responsibilities of the CES includes: working with the Department of Community Development, Bureau of Housing Development, Bureau of Residential Improvement, Program Manager, CDC team, and Council member to determine which areas of neighborhood have the most need; identifying external and internal housing issues; building trust with residents and

Community Engagement (cont'd)

landlords, and provide technical assistance; connecting residents and landlords with internal and external resources; administering the paint program in the field with support from the Home Maintenance Program Administrator; and conduct classes and forums for home owners and landlords on a quarterly basis, with support of Program Manager.

23. Ending Poverty and Racial Disparities/Housing for Persons with HIV/AIDS

The Department of Public Health will contract with neighborhood-based service providers in a five-county area to develop long-term comprehensive strategies and incentives to promote community awareness about AIDS, and to provide resources to address the housing needs of persons with AIDS and related diseases and their families.

24. Neighborhood Improvement/Community Gardens

Summer Sprout coordinates the use of vacant lots owned by the City, neighborhood agencies and private owners as community gardens. The Department of Community Development will enter into a contract with a non-profit organization for the administration of the program.

Eligibility guidelines require that potential locations are designated by the City, the Cleveland Schools, or a non-profit organization (or if private, have permission from the private owner), and have a minimum of five gardeners pledged to work on the site. Once authority to use the land has been obtained, an application requesting participation in the Summer Sprout program is sent to the non-profit organization administering the program. The application records the name, address and phone number of the potential gardeners. When approved, the gardeners' site is plowed or rototilled in the Spring (at the beginning of the season) or in the Fall (at the end of the season). Gardeners at each site are provided: vegetable seeds, plants, humus, soil amendments as needed, and fertilizer. Gardeners are required to maintain sites and to clear them by tilling in the Spring or Fall. The non-profit organization administering the program will provide technical assistance to gardeners, including advice on proper garden development and maintenance, gardening techniques, and problem solving. Costs include: plowing or rototilling of each site, providing seeds, plants, humus/fertilizer/soil amendments as needed, partial payment of water fees, and lead testing of new garden sites. Gardeners will receive organized help with garden leader meetings, leadership training, a bi-monthly newsletter, and on and off site technical assistance. In addition, the non-profit organization administering the program will provide workshop opportunities, education services and libraries for the Summer Sprout gardeners. Funding supports the use of vacant, city-owned property as garden sites, provision of gardening supplies, and technical assistance to developers of neighborhood gardens. Produce generated is distributed among the Cleveland residents maintaining the sites and is donated to local food pantries.

25. Neighborhood Improvement/City-Owned Public Facilities- City-owned public facilities that are not for the general conduct of government can be created or improved to serve low and moderate-income persons, low and moderate income areas and/or address slum and blight.

The Department of Community Developments is responsible for two such City-owned public facilities:

- North Point Transitional Housing- 1506 Superior Avenue, Cleveland, OH
- Five Pointe Community Center, also known as the Collinwood Community Services Center- 813 East 152nd Street, Cleveland, OH

26. Neighborhood Improvement/Other Neighborhood Public Facilities

The City is also seeking to support the creation of the Mercado on West 25th Street in the Clark-Fulton neighborhood. The Mercado is a public facility to support public service activities and small business incubator type space for businesses to service a Low/Mod Area.

27. Neighborhood Development Activity Grants

The Neighborhood Development Activities Program (NDA) budget of approximately \$7,400,000 or \$435,294 per ward, supports community development and other CDBG-eligible activities benefiting low and moderate income persons and low and moderate income areas in the City. NDA activities are generally categorized as:

- a. Single-Family Rehabilitation,
- b. Homeownership Assistance
- c. Residential Rehabilitation Referral,
- d. Small Business Technical Assistance,
- e. Special Economic Development Activities,
- f. Design Review,
- g. Public Information,
- h. Public Services,
- i. Interim Assistance,
- j. Public Facilities,
- k. Acquisition,
- l. Demolition,
- m. Public Infrastructure, and
- n. Other eligible CDBG-activities.

The Department of Community can also fund activities under the NDA in order to fund programs and initiatives that are eligible CDBG-activities and are supported by City policy.

28. General Administration

Direct general administration costs for staff salaries and benefits expenses, as well as direct operating expenses for federal entitlement funded employees. Also included are Indirect Costs and associated public information and planning activities.

