

THE CDBG-R SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT

Jurisdiction(s): City of Homestead	CDBG-R Contact Person: Evelin Simpson
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ENSURING RESPONSIBLE SPENDING OF RECOVERY ACT FUNDS

Funding available under the Recovery Act has clear purposes – to stimulate the economy through measures that modernize the Nation’s infrastructure, improve energy efficiency, and expand educational opportunities and access to health care. HUD strongly urges grantees to use CDBG-R funds for hard development costs associated with infrastructure activities that provide basic services to residents or activities that promote energy efficiency and conservation through rehabilitation or retrofitting of existing buildings. While the full range of CDBG activities is available to grantees, the Department strongly suggests that grantees incorporate consideration of the public perception of the intent of the Recovery Act in identifying and selecting projects for CDBG-R funding.

A. SPREADSHEET FOR REPORTING PROPOSED CDBG-R ACTIVITIES

Grantees must provide information concerning CDBG-R assisted activities in an electronic spreadsheet provided by HUD. The information that must be reported in the spreadsheet includes activity name, activity description, CDBG-R dollar amount budgeted, eligibility category, national objective citation, additional Recovery Act funds for the activity received from other programs, and total activity budget. An electronic copy of the spreadsheet and the format is available on HUD’s recovery website at <http://www.hud.gov/recovery>.

B. CDBG-R INFORMATION BY ACTIVITY (COMPLETE FOR EACH ACTIVITY)

- (1) **Activity Name:** (Grantees should follow the same order that activities are listed in the Spreadsheet for Reporting Proposed CDBG-R Activities – this will allow HUD to easily match activity narratives with the information provided in the spreadsheet.)

Washington Avenue Street Way Improvements (Activity Number 03K)
Administration (Activity Number 21A)

- (2) **Activity Narrative:**

In addition to the Spreadsheet for Reporting Proposed CDBG-R Activities, grantees must provide a narrative for each activity describing how the use of the grantee’s CDBG-R funds will meet the requirements of Title XII of Division A and Section 1602 of ARRA. The grantee’s narrative must also state how CDBG-R funds will be used in a manner that maximizes job creation and economic benefit in relation to the CDBG-R funds obligated, and will address the Recovery Act, by:

- Preserving and creating jobs and promoting economic recovery;
- Assisting those most impacted by the recession;
- Providing investment needed to increase economic efficiency;
- Investing in transportation, environmental protection, or other infrastructure that will provide long-term economic benefits;
- Minimizing or avoiding reductions in essential services; or
- Fostering energy independence.

Washington Avenue Street Way Improvements:

The City of Homestead has been granted an allocation of \$212,274 in CDBG-R funding. The City intends to use the CDBG R funds to construct the Washington Avenue Street Way Improvements Project, which will improve pedestrian access and drainage, install street lighting, roadway improvements, landscaping and irrigation. The project area is Washington Avenue from NE 2nd Street to Mowry Drive. The area is adjacent to a new Park and Ride facility for the South Miami-Dade Busway, which provides express bus service throughout Miami-Dade County.

The National Objective for this project is “L/M Income Area Benefit” and encompasses the entire City of Homestead, which is 68 percent LMI. The activity number is “03K: Street Improvements.”

The project is designed and ready to proceed to bidding.

The proposed budget is as follows:

CDBG R Funding:	\$191,047
Other City Funding:	\$497,630
CDBG R Admin.:	<u>\$ 21,227</u>
TOTAL	\$709,904

In accordance with provisions of the CDBG-R funding, the following narrative addresses the merits of the Washington Avenue Street Way Improvements Project as it relates to American Investment and Recovery Act of 2009.

1. Preservation and Creation of Jobs and Promotion of Economic Recovery

The Project is expected to create construction jobs, according to the following estimate:

Roadway Items: Roadway work to install pavers, curbs, gutters, and adjust the existing street to match new roadway improvements will create or retain approximately 5 FTEs for a period of four months.

Streetlights: Installation of streetlights will create approximately 3 FTEs for a period of one month.

Landscaping: Installation of landscaping will create approximately 3 FTEs for a period of two weeks.

Irrigation: Installation of irrigation will create approximately 3 FTEs for a period of one month.

Assistance to Those Most Impacted by the Recession

The City anticipates that the purchase of materials and supplies for the project will provide economic stimulus. In particular, the plant material will most likely be purchased from nurseries located in South Miami-Dade County, which will provide benefit to area residents and business owners.

Along this section of Washington Avenue, there are three businesses: a hardware store, a martial arts studio, and a gymnasium/health club. The streetscape project will provide a safer and more attractive environment for motorists and pedestrians arriving to these businesses, and should help encourage business growth in a blighted neighborhood.

2. Assisting Those People Most Impacted by the Recession

The project will provide an opportunity for local contractors to hire additional workers or to retain the workers they currently employ. This will provide some assistance to people who have been impacted by the recession.

3. Provision of Investment Needed to Increase Economic Efficiency

The project will have limited effects on economic efficiency, but may encourage residents to frequent neighborhood businesses. In addition, the improvements should provide benefit to the adjacent South Miami-Dade Busway and Park and Ride parking lot by encouraging greater usage.

4. Investment in Transportation, Environmental Protection, or Other Infrastructure to Provide Long-Term Economic Benefit

The project is adjacent to a new Park and Ride facility for the South Miami-Dade Busway. Construction of the Washington Avenue Street Way Improvements Project will enhance pedestrian and motor vehicle access to the Park and Ride facility. Better lighting, landscaping, and attractive, wide sidewalks along Washington Avenue all encourage use of the South Miami-Dade Busway. Increased use of this public transportation option will reduce fuel consumption and alleviate traffic congestion.

The project will also install important landscaping features that will offer environmental protection. First, the curbs and drains will follow design guidelines to properly channel stormwater runoff into the storm sewers. Second, the project will install a number of plants that will provide environmental benefits, including 6 oak trees, 12 royal palm trees, shrubs, and a number of flowering plants.

The life span of this project is around 30 years and should continue to provide economic benefit for that time period.

5. Minimization or Avoidance of Reductions to Essential Services

This project does not address the provision of essential services.

6. Fostering Energy Independence

Providing a safe and attractive entryway to the South Miami-Dade Busway will encourage the residents of Homestead to use express bus services, which will result in energy efficiencies.

Administration:

Ten percent of CDBG-R funds will be directed to fund administrative services related to implementation of CDBG-R.

- (3) Jobs Created: (Report the number of full- and part-time jobs estimated to be created and retained by the activity (including permanent, construction, and temporary jobs)).

As discussed under (2) 1, the City anticipates the following number of jobs to be created or retained, all in construction:

Streetscaping Component	Number of Jobs	Job Duration in Months
Roadway Improvements	5	4
Streetlights	3	1
Landscaping	3	0.5
Irrigation	3	1
TOTAL	14	1.6

The “Job Duration in Months” total reflects an average tenure for all jobs.

- (4) Additional Activity Information: (A description of how the activity will promote energy conservation, smart growth, green building technologies, or reduced pollution emissions, if applicable.)

The project will promote energy conservation, smart growth and will reduce pollution emissions by encouraging Homestead residents to use mass transit -- the South Miami-Dade Busway that is located adjacent to the project area.

- (5) Responsible Organization: (Contact information for the organization that will implement the CDBG-R activity, including its name, location, and administrator contact information)

The responsible organization is as follows:
The City of Homestead

790 North Homestead Blvd., Homestead, FL, 33030

Contact: Evelin Simpson, Accounting Manager
(305) 224-4547

C. PUBLIC COMMENT

Provide a summary of public comments received to the proposed CDBG-R Substantial Amendment.

Note: A Proposed CDBG-R Substantial Amendment must be published via the usual methods and posted on the jurisdiction's website for no less than 7 calendar days for public comment.

Response: