

City of Las Vegas, Nevada
*Substantial Amendment to
Third Program Year Action Plan 2008-09*

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT - RECOVERY (CDBG-R)

June 2009

Funding Under The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009

*Prepared and Submitted by the city of Las Vegas, Department of Neighborhood Services
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Councilwoman Lois Tarkanian, Ward 1 • Councilman Steven D. Ross, Ward 6
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Community Development Block Grant -- R (CDBG)

Executive Summary

Title XII of Division A of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-005, approved February 17, 2009) appropriates \$1 billion to carry out the CDBG program under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5301, et seq.) (the HCDA) on an expedited basis. These funds will be distributed to grantees that received CDBG funding in Fiscal Year (FY) 2008 in accordance with the provisions of 42 U.S.C. 5306. The grant program under Title XII is commonly referred to as the CDBG Recovery (CDBG-R) program.

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. In implementing the Recovery Act, Federal agencies are undertaking unprecedented measures to ensure transparency and accountability in the use of the funds. Concurrently, Federal agencies must ensure that the funds are employed in a prudent manner consistent with applicable program requirements.

The Department desires that CDBG-R grantees carefully evaluate proposed projects for consistency with the overarching goals of the Recovery Act, especially the above-cited purposes. To this extent, 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.. In accordance with the Recovery Act, HUD has imposed a grant period and expenditure deadline of September 30, 2012, to ensure that the use of CDBG-R funds is expedited.

In order to receive the **\$1,376,738** allocation from HUD through the CDBG-R program the city of Las Vegas must submit a Substantial Amendment to its Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Action Plan. This Substantial Amendment presents the activities which will be undertaken by the City through an approved contract with HUD.

City of Las Vegas Available Resources

CDBG-R	\$1,376,738
CDBG	\$1,400,000
City General Funds	\$50,000
Non-Federal Grant Funds	<u>\$10,000</u>
Total	<u>\$2,836,738</u>

The City will utilize other federal and non-federal funding sources in addition to CDBG-R funds where applicable.

Community Development Block Grant – R (CDBG)

Eligible Activities

While grantees have the full range of CDBG eligible activities at their disposal for CDBG-R, Congress clearly intends that CDBG-R funds should primarily be invested in economic development, housing, infrastructure and other public facilities activities that will quickly spur further economic investment, increased energy efficiency, and job creation or retention.

The Recovery Act also makes clear that grantees are to identify projects that can achieve the Recovery Act purposes AND can be quickly implemented. Language at Title XII of Division A of the Recovery Act, which appropriates the CDBG-R funds, states that, "...in selecting projects to be funded, recipients shall give priority to projects that can award contracts based on bids within 120 days from the date the funds are made available to the recipients."

CDBG-R Information by Activity

Proposed CDBG-R Projects

Project name	Budget	Objective	Additional Funding Source
Sidewalk & Street Lights - Huntridge	\$285,000	2000 linear feet of Sidewalk in-fill, 3 new in-fill streetlights, 3 traffic calming devices, and 1 neighborhood monument sign.	None.
Bike Lanes - Ward 5	\$50,000 \$10,000 "Bikes Belong" Grant	Painting bike lanes on existing streets throughout Ward 5, adding asphalt width as needed to accommodate the bike lanes..	Submission of a grant for \$10,000 for additional funding for bike path installation.
Casino Center Pocket Parks	\$467,000	Improve two parcels remaining from the Casino Center and Third Street Realignment project into pocket parks along Casino Center Boulevard and Art. The project includes installation of bike racks and site furniture, benches and Trash Receptacles, low level lighting, hardscape to accommodate display of artwork, and plants and trees	None.
Rotary Park Renovation	\$574,738 \$1,400,000 CDBG \$50,000 General Fund	4.3 Acre park renovation to include the purchase of park furniture, signage, and trash cans, in addition to the construction of two large group Ramada structures, and a six foot high masonry wall to finish the perimeter of the site	CDBG \$1,400,000 plus \$50,000 from the city's general fund
Total	\$2,836,738		

Community Development Block Grant – R (CDBG)

Activity Names and Narratives

Sidewalk & Street Lights – Huntridge Neighborhood

A) Preserving and creating jobs

The Huntridge project will preserve existing construction jobs (4) for local contractors by providing work during a time in which layoffs are the norm rather than the exception

Jobs Created (include permanent, construction and temporary jobs):

Estimated Full Time Positions – N/A

Estimated Part Time Positions – 4 part-time construction jobs.

Jobs Retained (include permanent, construction and temporary jobs):

Estimated Full Time Positions – N/A

Estimated Part Time Positions – N/A

B) Assisting those most impacted by the recession:

This project has arisen due to comments/requests from the residents of this neighborhood which has been greatly affected by the recession. The Huntridge project is designed to enhance the neighborhood, creating a safer, more walkable community as well as provide ADA access to an area where none currently exists. Through this project, we hope to empower a closer-knit community that takes pride in their neighborhood

C) Providing investment needed to increase economic efficiency - N/A

D) Investing in transportation, environmental protection, or other infrastructure that will provide long-term economic benefits:

This project involves installing traffic calming devices in order to make the neighborhood safer. Additionally, providing a sidewalk network throughout the neighborhood will encourage residents to walk or ride their bicycles to places, when otherwise they might have used a motor vehicle

E) Minimizing or avoiding reductions in essential services – N/A

F) Fostering energy independence

Providing a sidewalk network promotes alternative modes of transportation (walking, biking, etc.) when otherwise motor vehicle use would be necessary

Additional Activity Information (Describe how the project will promote energy conservation, smart growth, green building technologies or reduced pollution emissions):

The Huntridge project will provide a sidewalk network which promotes alternative modes of transportation (walking, biking, etc.) when otherwise motor vehicle use would be necessary, thereby conserving energy.

Responsible Organization:

Jorge Cervantes, Director

Public Works Department

City of Las Vegas

400 Stewart Avenue, 4th Floor City Hall

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Community Development Block Grant – R (CDBG)

Bike Lanes in Ward 5

A) Preserving and creating jobs

Bike Lanes-Ward 5 will preserve existing construction jobs (2) and prevent staff reductions for existing construction companies and the City of Las Vegas by generating a short-term construction need.

Jobs Created (include permanent, construction and temporary jobs):

Estimated Full Time Positions –

Estimated Part Time Positions –

Jobs Retained (include permanent, construction and temporary jobs):

Estimated Full Time Positions –

Estimated Part Time Positions – 2 construction jobs will be retained

B) Assisting those most impacted by the recession

Those hardest hit by the recession have limited resources and have to seek alternative modes of travel. This project will make alternative modes of travel more accessible to those individuals.

C) Providing investment needed to increase economic efficiency – N/A

D) Investing in transportation, environmental protection, or other infrastructure that will provide long-term economic benefits

The Bike lanes - Ward 5 Project will create permanent bike lanes along over four miles of existing roadway. This will create a safer transportation corridor and promote alternative modes of transportation.

E) Minimizing or avoiding reductions in essential services – N/A

F) Fostering energy independence

The Bike lanes - Ward 5 Project promotes alternative modes of transportation and creates safe path for bicycle users, which promotes less motor vehicles use, equating to a possible decrease in automobile emissions.

Additional Activity Information (Describe how the project will promote energy conservation, smart growth, green building technologies or reduced pollution emissions):

The Bike lanes - Ward 5 Project promotes alternative modes of transportation and creates a safe path for bicycle users, which fosters the use of less fossil fuels and thereby helps conserve energy.

Responsible Organization:

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Casino Center Pocket Parks

A) Preserving and creating jobs

The improvement parcels although they are very small in size (less than 9000SF total), will require a level of maintenance once complete. This maintenance will preserve or create new jobs based on current City workload. The additional inventory will require additional maintenance. The contract award to the Design-Build Team will add to the firm's workload, preserving existing employment and creating new jobs. The two improvement parcels and the work to develop, construct, and maintain will promote the economic recovery.

Jobs Created (include permanent, construction and temporary jobs):

Estimated Full Time Positions – N/A

Estimated Part Time Positions – N/A

Jobs Retained (include permanent, construction and temporary jobs):

Estimated Full Time Positions – N/A

Estimated Part Time Positions – 15 part time construction jobs retained

B) Assisting those most impacted by the recession

All areas of the work force have been affected by the recession. This project will create jobs from the designer through many of the subcontractor trades. Once the project is built, jobs to perform the daily maintenance will also be required. This project will assist all who have been impacted by the recession.

C) Providing investment needed to increase economic efficiency

In the current recession, the city is able to develop more project per dollar based upon lower bid prices. Prices for projects are lower, and more efficient in the design, development and construction.

D) Investing in transportation, environmental protection, or other infrastructure that will provide long-term economic benefits

Investing in transportation, environmental protection or infrastructure will assist in an economic recovery and will be a long term benefit. Development prices are low and the pace of construction has slowed-down, making it a great time to catch-up on the infrastructure. Building infrastructure during this time period, will allow the city produce more product and with a generally higher quality of work. These are some of the long term economic benefits for developing in the current recession.

E) Minimizing or avoiding reductions in essential services

The improvement parcels are not service providers, they are an infrastructure improvement that will add to the livability/sustainability of the City of Las Vegas. The improvement parcels are small hardscape areas, which will promote interaction among the users

F) Fostering energy independence – N/A

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Additional Activity Information (Describe how the project will promote energy conservation, smart growth, green building technologies or reduced pollution emissions):

Energy conservation- The plant material installed in the improvement parcels will be drought tolerant plant material that will assist in water conservation efforts. The improvement parcels are located adjacent to an existing roadway. Cars and trucks using the roadway will release pollution emissions. Proposed within the improvement parcels, are small landscape planters and tree wells. The trees and shrubs installed in these planter areas will assist in the reduction of pollution emission and mitigate the noise caused by the automobiles.

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Rotary Park Renovation

A) Preserving and creating jobs

Rotary Park Renovation will provide needed construction jobs for the local community as well as manufacturing jobs for purchased equipment and structures. Factory orders for products used at the site will help to stabilize and promote employment for the American workforce.

Jobs Created (include permanent, construction and temporary jobs):

Estimated Full Time Positions – N/A

Estimated Part Time Positions – 15 temporary construction jobs

Jobs Retained (include permanent, construction and temporary jobs):

Estimated Full Time Positions – N/A

Estimated Part Time Positions – N/A

B) Assisting those most impacted by the recession

Rotary Park is located in a high risk low income area where most residents have been hit hard by the recession and loss of jobs in the construction industry as a whole. The proposed project will assist in providing local residents with new construction job opportunities.

C) Providing investment needed to increase economic efficiency

Upgrades at the Park will decrease energy utility costs by implementation of newer more efficient technologies, helping to reduce the costs of services.

D) Investing in transportation, environmental protection, or other infrastructure that will provide long-term economic benefits

The project will replace numerous older pollen producing trees with trees that promote a healthier air environment as well as a reduction in water use, reducing both future health related claims and demands on the potable water supply.

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E) Minimizing or avoiding reductions in essential services - N/A

F) Fostering energy independence

High efficiency lighting upgrades on controlled timers will reduce electricity usage and the need for foreign energy sources.

Additional Activity Information (Describe how the project will promote energy conservation, smart growth, green building technologies or reduced pollution emissions):

High efficiency lighting upgrades on controlled timers will reduce electricity usage and the need for foreign energy sources. Reduction in electricity by upgraded high efficiency lighting, potable water reduction with drought tolerant landscape. In addition, this project contributes to Smart Growth as renovation and revitalizing an older mature park reduces the need for development of virgin land distant from the city's core services. Green Building Technologies are incorporated through the use of Recycled materials for installed products, water conserving irrigation measures, high efficient lighting, and shade to reduce heat island effect. Reduction in trips by maintenance staff with improved irrigation systems, improved amenities will encourage pedestrian use by local residents reducing use of automobile emissions.

Responsible Organization:

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Jurisdiction/Grantee Name:		CDBG-R Formula Grant Amount:				Date:	
Activity Name	Activity Description	Eligibility (Regulatory or HCDA Citation)	National Objective Citation	CDBG-R Project Budget (\$)	Additional Recovery Funds (\$)	Other Leveraged Funding (\$)	Total Activity Budget
Sidewalk & Street Lights Huntridge Neighborhood	2,000 linear feet of Sidewalk in-fill, 3 new in-fill streetlights, 3 traffic calming devices, and 1 neighborhood monument sign along 5th and 6th streets between Oakley Boulevard and Charleston Boulevard	570.201 c	570.208 (a)(1)	\$285,000			285,000
Bike Lanes - Ward 5	Painting bike lanes on existing streets throughout Ward 5, and adding asphalt width in some spots, project is still being scoped for feasibility.	570.201 c	570.208 (a)(1)	\$50,000		\$10,000	60,000
Casino Center Pocket Parks	Improve two parcels remaining from the Casino Center and Third Street Realignment project into pocket parks along Casino Center Boulevard and Art. The project includes installation of bike racks and site furniture, benches and Trash Receptacles, low level lighting, hardscape to accommodate display of artwork, and plants and trees.	570.201 c	570.208 (a)(1)	\$467,000			467,000
Rotary Park Renovation	4.3 Acre park renovation to include the purchase of park furniture, signage, and trash cans, in addition to the construction of two large group Ramada structures, and a six foot high masonry wall to finish the perimeter of the site	570.201 c	570.208 (a)(1)	\$574,729		\$1,450,000	2,024,729
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