

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), General Fund and Home Investment Partnership Funding Accomplishments 2014-2015

“Building Communities Transforming Lives”



Community Development Department 1225 Lady Street, STE 102, Columbia, SC 29201 803-545-3373

Community Development

Our Mission

The Community Development (CD) Department is committed to making the City of Columbia and its neighborhoods a better place to *live, work and play*.

Community development is the fuel that supports the local economy by providing resources and opportunities for growth. The CD Department administers federal, state and local funds and ensures compliance; increases homeownership and builds neighborhood capacity through excellent customer service. Partnerships with banks, neighborhoods and organizations allow us to improve the quality of life and continue to make Columbia a *World Class City*.

The City of Columbia strives to provide safe, decent and affordable housing, a suitable living environment and economic opportunities especially for low to moderate income individuals and communities. Through Entitlement Grant funding awarded annually by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the Department has been instrumental in the City of Columbia meeting the national objectives set by HUD to;

National Goals

Federal law requires that housing and community development grant funds primarily benefit low-and moderate-income persons in accordance with the following U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) goals:

- ✚ **Provide a suitable living environment**
- ✚ **Provide decent housing and**
- ✚ **Expand economic opportunities**

During this reporting period, a series of public forums were held in each City Council district, stakeholder and neighborhood meetings, and public hearings were held to solicit community input and comments in preparation of FY2015-2019 Five Year Consolidated Plan and FY2015-16 Annual Action Plan. Public notices were published in the *State Newspaper* (April 10, 2015), City's Website, and available at the Community Development Department, 1225 Lady Street.

In Fiscal Year 2014-2015, the City received \$2,866,124 million in new funding; made available \$1,241,621 from previous year and carry-over funds through these three formula grants, and \$1,657,035 in program income and revolving loan fund. A total of \$5,764,775 was allocated and total of \$4,265,979 was expended from the three entitlement grants and program income.



Accomplishment/Awards

In 2014, Columbia had many accomplishments and awards that measure the performance of the Community Development Department's commitment to serving all the many components that makes a sustainable community. The following items are accomplishments or awards:

- ✚ **ACTION (Assisting Citizens to Improve Our Neighborhoods) Grant II** – Eight (8) Neighborhoods listed below were awarded grant funds totaling **\$5,839.31**. The funds were used for beautification/sign projects, community awareness and neighborhood pride and promotion.

Colonial Park

Eau Claire Community Council

Elmwood Park Neighborhood

Hollywood-Rose Hill

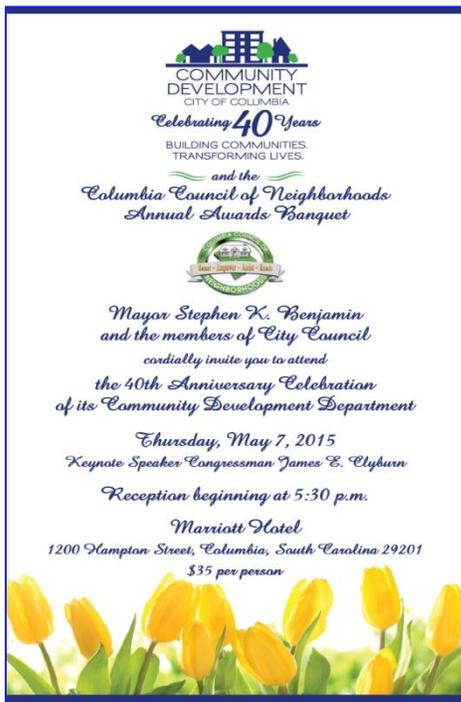
Prescott Terrace Community Club

Seminary Ridge

Hyatt Park/Keenan Terrace

South Meadowfield Neighborhood

- ✚ On March 7, 2015 “All Access Columbia” combined Community Development’s three (3) signature community events [Neighborhood Leadership Summit (NLS), Access Columbia – Financial Literacy, and Ownership, Maintenance, Gardening of Homeownership (OMG)] into one All Access Columbia Conference. Over 200 citizens participated in this day-long event that was free to the public.



- ✚ On May 7, 2015 the Community Development Department celebrated its 40th Anniversary of services to the community through Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding. The grand event was held at the Marriott Hotel in downtown Columbia in conjunction with the Columbia Council of Neighborhoods Annual Awards Banquet with guest speaker, the Honorable Congressman James E. Clyburn, U.S. House of Representatives Assistance Democratic Leader in 112th Congress. Over 400 citizens, community leaders, city, state, local and HUD officials were in attendance. Additionally, on May 18, 2015 the Community Development Department held a public screening of “Community Development 40 Years – Building Communities, Transforming Lives” at the local Nickelodeon Theater.



Public Service

- ✦ Meals, home health and personal care for elderly (**Senior Resources**) served **64 clients** and provided **5,295 meals** to seniors during this past fiscal year
- ✦ Assist Children's Home residents with Transitional Housing for youth 18-24 years of age (**Epworth Children's Home**) served **37 young people**, during the 2014 reporting period.
- ✦ Fair Housing Initiative to low and moderate income communities through training, forums, outreach (**Greater Columbia Community Relations Council**) served **292 persons**.
- ✦ Operation Employment education program for homeless or at-risk veterans. Provided training, Work Keys, Assessments, and Transportation. Employment training for homeless or at risk veterans (**Fast Forward**) served **89 participants**, by operation employment
- ✦ Community outreach for underserved young women in zip code 29203 & 29204 and free afterschool program for low wealth students @Arden & Hyatt Park Elementary (**Columbia College**) served **487 students**, in Project LEAD and The Clubhouse.

Please see The Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) 2014, for full details.

Infrastructure and Capital Improvements

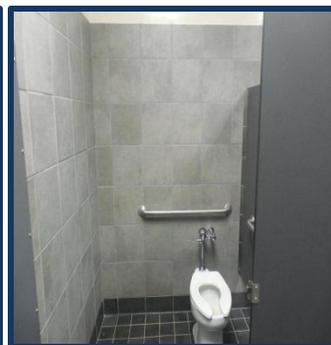
(Lyon Street Neighborhood)

- ✦ Road improvement project to repair the Lyon Street Neighborhood include Liberty Hill Avenue, McDuffie Avenue, Youmans Street, Lady Street and FM Young Avenue. A total of \$125,873 in CDBG was invested for this capital improvement project which is a great asset to the Lyon Street Redevelopment project in which six (6) single-family homes have been constructed with over \$700,000 investment of HOME funds and are ready for occupancy.



(Capital Improvement Project-Bellfield Cultural Arts Center Improvements Phase II)

- ✦ Phase II included renovation for ADA compliant. A total of \$366,704 in CDBG funding was invested for this project for improvements for disabilities access.



 **ADA COMPLIANT**

2014-2015 Housing Programs

The City of Columbia Community Development Department continues to prioritize the creation of quality, affordable housing as an integral component of its development programs. The City has created partnerships with several local banks (BB&T, NBSC, Security Federal, First Citizens, South State Bank and Palmetto Citizens Federal Credit Union). The City's various housing initiatives seek to develop new partnerships with local lenders for leveraged private dollars. The Community Development Housing Loan office have been diligently working with residents to encourage homeownership. The Loan Officers continued to provide credit counseling and homeownership one-on-one sessions and participated in various local events to educate the public on homeownership. They have provided the counseling to over 350 applicants.

Housing Programs	Number Closed	City Contribution	Amount Leveraged (Partner Banks & FHLB)	Total Sales
Affordable Housing	2	\$253,000	0	\$253,000
City Lender I	4	\$94,600	\$338,400	\$433,000
City Lender II	26	\$800,431	\$3,046,619	\$3,847,050
Gap Purchase	4	\$80,900	\$354,600 (Partner Bank and FHLB)	\$435,500
Employee	3	123,502	369,507	493,009
Totals	36	\$1,352,433	\$4,109,126	\$5,461,559

The Community Development Department of Columbia, SC is eager to assist those wishing to become homeowners. With this in mind, Community Development Staff has been promoting our programs with an intense marketing campaign. Utilizing over \$52,000 dollars of funds generated through contributions from our banking partners, this campaign has included ads placed on downtown buildings, parking facilities, billboards, public transit, television, and ads displayed at area home shows. In addition to these ads, staff continues to promote our programs by distributing brochures and marketing items at events held throughout the year.

Through Community Development families have access to a wide range of financial and homeownership resources. Community Development programs increase homeownership and build neighborhood capacity through Partnerships with banks, neighborhoods and organizations. So everyone, "keep looking" for the signs of Community Development.

Our Impact
More than 3,600 clients served
Over \$14.5 million in outstanding loan balances
And a Delinquency rate of only 1%



Community Development



The Community Development Department of the City of Columbia, SC, continues to play an important role in the development of Columbia's neighborhoods. Part of our mission in Community Development is to remove slum and blight from our City. Whenever possible, dilapidated properties are "razed" and the vacant land is redeveloped into new single-family housing sub-divisions or into multi-family rental properties. This type of redevelopment is difficult to accomplish due to the limited availability of large tracts of land within the City limits. By partnering with various agencies, the Community Development Department has been able to provide the funds needed to bring this type of redevelopment to our City.

The City of Columbia, (the lead entity) along with Columbia Development Corporation, Columbia Housing Development Corporation and Eau Claire Development was awarded \$5.315 million, to combat blighted properties. The City of Columbia and its partners have worked to identify over 110 properties for purchase and demolition/clearance in eight communities. An agreement was signed between the City of Columbia, Partnering Organizations and the SCHC on May 01, 2015.



Federal Compliance



The City of Columbia Community Block Grant Funding (CDBG)

CDBG funding is important tools for helping local governments tackle serious challenges facing their communities. The CDBG program has made a difference in the lives of millions of people and their communities across the Nation.

The City of Columbia's HOME Investment Partnership (HOME)

Program provides funding that communities use-often in partnership with local nonprofit groups-to fund a wide range of activities that build, buy, and/or rehabilitate affordable housing for rent or homeownership. The HOME program helps to expand the supply of decent, affordable housing for low and very-low income families within the City.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT CD ENTITLEMENT ADMINISTRATION & COMPLIANCE DIVISION OUTLINE OF SERVICES

The Community Development Department of Columbia, SC provides administration and compliance services for Federal Entitlement Grant programs awarded to the City of Columbia. The EAC Team mission is to maintain 100% compliance through expert communication and superior customer service.

The Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA)

HOPWA program is the only Federal program dedicated to the housing needs of people living with HIV/AIDS. Under the HOPWA program, HUD makes grants to local communities, States, and nonprofit organizations for projects that benefit low-income persons medically diagnosed with HIV/AIDS.

The HOPWA funding provides housing assistance and related supportive services. The City of Columbia's HOPWA program addresses the needs of low-income persons living with HIV/AIDS and their families by providing emergency and permanent housing and supportive services such rental assistance, homeless prevention, health care and mental health services, chemical dependency treatment, nutritional services, case management, assistance with daily living and other services.

40 Years



Building Better Neighborhoods

Special Recognition

For the past 4 decades, the Department and its programs have impacted every neighborhood in Columbia. Through its residential loan programs, the Department has helped to finance more than 3,500 loans. For example, Robbie McClam, a local architect and owner of City Roots, utilized the City Living Loan Program and then encouraged his son to do the same. This program has now served two generations of Columbia residents and stands ready to continue for generations to come. Countless businesses have received either a loan for expansion or a façade loan to improve their properties. Many of the City's parks have been designed constructed or rehabilitated using our funding. Additionally, we have designed and implemented comprehensive training programs for our citizens.

I must salute Terry Bott, the first Community Development Director. He had vision and foresight; because of his leadership, we are sustainable today. In following his lead, I have tried to continue that entrepreneurial spirit; as is evident in all we do. We aren't afraid to step out of our surroundings and the traditional way of doing business, to be bold innovative thinkers. We want to be progressive and set a national standard for all to follow.

I am blessed to be able to come to work every day with a dedicated team. Thank you to the current and past staff; especially to the business and community leaders that have allowed us to be a part of their lives. It is our plan to continue to "Build Communities and Transform Lives".



COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT
CITY OF COLUMBIA

