



COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

ROOM 32 • CITY HALL • BURLINGTON, VERMONT 05401
(802) 865-7144 • (802) 865-7142 (TTY) • (802) 865-7024 (FAX)

www.cedoburlington.org

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Bob Kiss and City Council
FROM: Margaret Bozik, Assistant Director for Management, Planning & Communications
DATE: September 8, 2009
RE: Consolidated Annual Performance & Evaluation Report

The enclosed Consolidated Annual Performance & Evaluation Report describes what was accomplished with expenditures of \$3.4 million during the past fiscal year of federal funds received from the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (through the Community Development Block Grant, Section 108 Guaranteed Loan, HOME Investment Partnership Act and Lead Hazard Reduction programs) as well as Burlington Housing Trust Fund monies. (The Appendix to the Report is not included, but is available online.) There will be a Public Hearing on this Report – and to hear citizen comments on housing and community development needs generally – at your meeting on September 21, 2009. The Report has been posted online for public review and comment. Highlights of the Report are described below, particularly as they relate to CEDO's purpose as set forth in the City Charter:

CEDO is charged to work on behalf of the city to stimulate investment, and to attract, retain, and encourage the development of both existing and new economic enterprises. This year:

- Economic development activities supported the start-up of 34 new businesses, helped to retain/expand 23 businesses, and led to the creation of 457 new permanent FTE jobs (plus 812 construction jobs, 97 temporary jobs and 173 seasonal jobs).
- Even in this down economy, CDBG expenditures on economic development leveraged over \$41 million in private and other public investment and supported increased annual property tax and city rent revenues of \$510,780. Housing development funded by CEDO added another \$62,000 in increased annual property tax revenues.
- Highlights include the renovation of the vacant four-story Hinds Lofts building; Heritage Flight's reconstruction of an old guard hanger at Airport Industrial Park into a LEED-certified building, providing additional capacity to hire Aviation Tech graduates from the Burlington Tech Center; a new BioScience Industry organization; and the Career Jams on the waterfront and at Champlain College, with 50 exhibitors, 12 lectures, over 2,500 attendees and 30 resulting jobs.

CEDO is charged to develop, coordinate, implement, and administer a comprehensive program to address the city's housing needs. This year:

- At 88 King Street, 17 affordable plus 3 market rate new rental units became available, together with new office space for the HomeOwnership Center and rental programs of the Champlain Housing Trust.
- Predevelopment work continued on the creation of 20 affordable plus 10 market rate new rental units on the city-owned property at Browns Court and on new mixed-income apartments for 60 senior households and 40 low- and moderate-income families on the state-owned Thayer School (DMV) site on North Avenue. These projects are collectively anticipated to produce \$130,000 in new annual property tax revenues.
- Work continued at Salmon Run to preserve the affordability of 36 units and convert 25 existing market rate units to perpetually affordable units, along with \$4.8 million of associated renovation.
- The Burlington Housing Authority completed new transitional housing for victims of domestic violence at Sophie's Place with funding from the city's HOME program.

- CDBG-funded agencies provided utility assistance, home sharing, home- and center-based senior services, and other housing retention assistance to help over 6,000 residents remain housed and living independently.

CEDO is charged to develop, coordinate, implement, and administer waterfront development activities other than those activities which the Planning Commission and the city council must exercise under the Vermont Planning and Development Act. This year:

- At the Moran Plant, assessment and remediation of environmental contamination continued, including testing to better understand the environmental conditions in and around the building, a boundary and topographic survey, construction of underwater dams in the former intake and outflow sluiceways to permanently separate the building from Lake Champlain, and removal of environmental hazards and other debris (including asbestos, mercury, lead, and guano). A green building and planning consultant was hired to work with the project's architecture and engineering team to design an energy efficient and sustainable building and site.
- Construction is underway on phase 1 of the College Street Waterfront Access Project improvements, which include new decking at the boathouse, upgrading the paths to the boathouse, sheet pile retaining walls and new sidewalk on Lake Street between Main and College Street. A preferred design has been selected and a scoping report completed on improvements to address waterfront access and mobility north of the College Street corridor.

CEDO is charged to coordinate and facilitate citizen participation in economic and community development with community organizations, city commissions, and the Neighborhood Planning Assemblies. This year:

- As always, citizens selected through the NPAs reviewed all CDBG applications and made funding recommendations that were accepted by the Mayor and City Council.
- Citizen-generated neighborhood projects funded by CDBG and completed this year included renovations to the Heineberg Senior Center, the McClure MultiGenerational Center, three community gardens and Roosevelt Park as well as the creation of the Middle School/Babe Ruth field at Calahan Park.

CEDO is charged to administer Community Development Block Grants and Urban Development Action grants and to manage such grants-in-aid programs in accordance with the laws and regulations pertaining thereto. This year:

- CEDO administered 22 CDBG subgrants to 19 different community nonprofit agencies and the library.
- CDBG-funded agencies provided shelter and services for over 1,800 homeless people; high quality early care and education for 124 children from low-income families; financial education for 52 residents living on fixed-incomes; literacy services for 141 residents with limited English proficiency; afterschool and summer programming for over 700 city youth; crisis and support services for over 500 victims of sexual assault; and access to affordable prescription medication for over 50 residents.
- CEDO completed the application to receive \$238,821 in CDBG funding under the Recovery Act.

CEDO is charged to recommend to the city council, and to solicit on behalf of the city council, grants-in-aid funds for the City. This year, CEDO successfully applied for:

- A \$2 million Section 108 loan, a \$1 million Brownfields Economic Development Initiative (BEDI) grant, and \$220,000 in other grant funding to support redevelopment of the Moran Plant.
- \$287,000 to support other brownfields assessment and remediation activities.
- An anticipated \$1.3 million in Neighborhood Stabilization Program monies.

CEDO is charged to develop, coordinate, implement, and administer economic and community development strategies and projects for the city. This year, CEDO participated in:

- A successful effort to expand use of the city's Tax Increment Financing District.
- A community-based research group examining the use of waste heat from the McNeil Plant to provide residential and commercial energy through a District Energy Service.
- The city's effort to establish a Clean Energy Assessment District, with repayment for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects tied to the improved property to provide a longer period for return on investment.