



COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Miro Weinberger and City Council
FROM: Marcy Krumbine, Assistant Director for Community Development
DATE: September 19, 2012
RE: Consolidated Annual Performance & Evaluation Report

The enclosed Consolidated Annual Performance & Evaluation Report (CAPER) describes what was accomplished with expenditures of \$1.04 million dollars during the past fiscal year of federal funds received from the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), 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 upon request.

The Council authorized submission of the annual Action Plan on May 16, 2011 for program year beginning July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012. The CAPER reports on the accomplishments during those months. The report is due to HUD ninety days after the program year is complete.

There will be a Public Hearing on this Report at your meeting on September 24, 2012. The Report has been posted online for public review and comment. Highlights of the Report are described below:

Highest overall priority of affordable housing:

- The Thayer Commons / Avenue Apartments project first two phases were completed this past year and included 33 affordable rental units for families, around 33 rental units for seniors and 47 market rate rental units. There are an additional 36 senior units under construction.
- Construction was completed on the Salmon Run project, preserving the affordability of 36 units and converting 25 existing market rate units to perpetually affordable units, along with \$4.8 million of associated renovation.
- Work also continued on the City Neighborhoods project, which includes refinancing and major rehabilitation of 40 scattered site affordable rental units. Construction was completed on 26 units and 24 are occupied.
- The City, working with HUD, the Burlington Housing Authority, the Vermont Housing Finance Agency, Housing Vermont and the property owner, succeeded in ensuring the continued affordability of 37 units housing low-income persons with disabilities at Wharf Lane and 51 low-income families at Bobbin Mill. Renovations at Wharf Lane are underway and a BHA/Housing Vermont partnership plans to acquire and renovate the Bobbin Mill in 2012-2013.
- The Burlington Lead Program completed testing for Lead-Based Paint hazards on 10 housing units; performed Lead Hazard Control activities on 23 housing units; trained 356 individuals on the VT Essential Maintenance Practices Lead Law (EMP); trained 122 individuals on the EPA Renovation, Repair and Painting Rule (RRP); trained 30 individuals (program staff and partners) in the Essentials

for Healthy Homes Practitioners; and conducted 68 Outreach and Education events that reached over 848 individuals.

- Utility assistance, home sharing, access modifications, home- and center-based senior services, and other housing retention assistance helped over 2,500 residents remain housed and living independently.

Second overall priority of economic opportunity:

- CEDO provided technical assistance to 214 business owners and entrepreneurs, resulting in the start-up of 7 new businesses, the expansion of 5 businesses, the creation of 33 new permanent FTE jobs, the retention of 82 jobs, the creation of 60,000 new sq. ft. and the renovation of 4,500 sq. ft. of commercial space.
- The Intervale Center provided technical assistance, equipment rental, business planning and marketing assistance for Intervale farmers and additional support to farmers who all suffered catastrophic losses from flooding in 2011. Mercy Connections provided entrepreneurial training for 14 women interested in starting a Burlington business, and 6 students submitted business plans.
- Four agencies provided high quality early care and education for 123 children from working families.
- Free tax services helped over 1,000 low-income working Burlington taxpayers access tax credits and rebates while saving over \$300,000 in fees, and credit and budgeting education helped 203 residents to improve their credit, decrease debt and reduce spending.

Third overall priority of a suitable living environment:

- CDBG-funded agencies provided shelter and services to 3,015 homeless residents; groceries and meals for 5,082 residents, including meals for children during afterschool programs; afterschool and summer programming for over 760 city youth, including academic and summer English Language services; crisis and support services for 821 victims of sexual assault as well as prevention education for students and clients of other agencies.
- Renovations were completed to the Myrtle Street and Starr Farm Community Gardens. The new Callahan Community Garden was completed. Two neighborhoods, Farrington and Rose Street, completed neighborhood clean-up projects.
- CDBG was part of the match for transportation infrastructure improvements. Downtown Side Streets began construction in May 2011 and were completed in October. The Waterfront North project leveraged an additional \$80,000 in grants and submitted 95% engineering and design plans to VTrans. The Scenic Byways program has created 6 interpretive panels throughout Burlington as well as a joint county website, audio interpretation using cell phones, and maps and brochures that promote the Byways. Work continues on the update to the Byways plan. Design and specs for a new pedestrian oriented map for downtown were completed.
- CDBG also served as the match for an American Battlefield Protection Program grant. These funds have helped address the 1812 burial ground that lies beneath the Old North End. The City has removed 14 burials that were in conflict with redevelopment projects. A cultural landscape inventory of Burlington's War of 1812 battlefield and associated sites is complete, and development of a Burial Ground Delineation & Archeological Management Plan is still underway. A Burlington War of 1812 walking tour was conducted in Battery Park (site of the 1812 cantonment) as part of the July 3 Independence Day celebrations, and brochures were distributed.

This past year, CEDO managed 25 CDBG subgrants to community nonprofits, five CDBG-funded CEDO programs and 3 neighborhood projects. With federal cuts to CDBG, the local scope of our CDBG program may not be sustainable. We will be discussing ways to move forward with limited funding in the coming weeks.