

LEXINGTON COUNTY

THE CDBG-R SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT

Jurisdiction(s): Lexington County	CDBG-R Contact Person: Rhonda Dean
Jurisdiction Web Address: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• http://www.lex-co.com/Departments/CommunityDevelopment/CDBG/Index.html	Address: 212 South Lake Drive, Suite 401 Lexington, SC 29072
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The County of Lexington was allocated \$385,185 in Community Development Block Grant Recovery (CDBG-R) program funds under Title XII of Division A of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009. The purpose of the CDBG-R program is to carry out eligible activities under the CDBG program, on an expedited basis, that will maximize job creation and economic benefit. The County utilized the \$362,308 in CDBG-R funds for public infrastructure improvements. The project consisted of paving Bitternut Court, an unpaved road in the County. The substantial amendment to the Consolidated Plan 2008 Action Plan was modified to utilize \$22,840 in CDBG-R funds to demolish three (3) residential structures in the City of West Columbia. The structures have been condemned and are a detriment to public health and safety. These projects are consistent with the Lexington County Five Year Consolidated Plan (2010-2014), which identifies adequate and safe infrastructure and housing as priorities.

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

Activity: Clearance and Demolition

Eligibility Citation: 570.201 (d)

National Objective Citation: 570.208 (b) (2) Slum/Blight, Spot Basis

CDBG-R Project Budget: \$22,840

Additional Recovery Funds: \$0

Other Leveraged Funding: \$8,660 – Community Development Block Grant

Total Activity Budget: \$31,500

Priority Need: Provide and/or support adequate, safe, and affordable housing

Outcome Measures: Sustainability

Activity Narrative:

The County of Lexington proposes to modify the substantial amendment to the Consolidated Plan 2008 Action Plan to utilize the \$22,840 in CDBG-R funds to demolish three (3) residential structures in the City of West Columbia. The structures have been condemned and are a detriment to public health and safety. They are located in low and moderate income neighborhoods and contribute to the decline of the community.

Investing CDBG-R funds in the clearance and demolition activities will reduce blight from the communities and eliminate any health and safety concerns. The removal of the structures would also lessen the potential crime issues, since dilapidated houses are often used for illegal activities.

Jobs Created:

Jobs created by the proposed activity will be related to the clearance and demolition of three (3) residential structures. It is estimated that five (5) positions will be retained as a result of this activity.

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 removal of blighted structures will increase the economic efficiency and stabilization of the neighborhoods. The project will also eliminate the health and safety concerns created by the blighted structures and improve the quality of life for all residents.

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

**City of West Columbia
Donna Smith, Director of Economic Development
200 N. 12th Street
West Columbia, SC 29169
Telephone: (803)939-8614
Fax: (803)939-8634
Email: dsmith@westcolumbiasc.gov**

Activity: **Public Infrastructure and Improvements- Street Improvements**

Eligibility Citation: **570.201 (c)**

National Objective Citation: **570.208 (a) (1) Low Mod Area**

CDBG-R Project Budget: **\$385,148**

Additional Recovery Funds: **\$0**

Other Leveraged Funding: **\$0**

Total Activity Budget: **\$385,148**

Priority Need: **Ensure adequate and safe infrastructure to meet basic needs of residents**

Outcome Measures: **Availability/Accessibility and Sustainability**

Activity Narrative:

The County of Lexington proposes to substantially amend its Consolidated Plan 2008 Action Plan to utilize the \$385,148 in CDBG-R funds to make infrastructure improvement to Bitternut Court, an unpaved road in the County. Improvements will include road paving and drainage improvements. The County will utilize these funds that will both meet the requirement of ARRA and provide infrastructure improvements for communities. The project would provide a safe, dependable road surface in these areas and improve conditions for emergency vehicles and other traffic.

Investing CDBG-R funds in neighborhood infrastructure provides long-term economic benefit to the neighborhood by improving and sustaining the quality of life for residents. Improving a road from dirt to pavement increases economic efficiency because it reduces

the cost of maintaining a dirt road. The environment would be greatly improved because as long as it remains a dirt road, whenever it rains, silt and sediment leave the roadway and deposit into ditches, streams, etc., and when it is dry, every passing vehicle creates a flume of dust. Once the road is paved, this silt and sediment process is greatly reduced and the dust is eliminated. A smooth riding surface also reduces wear and tear on vehicles, thereby saving the owners money that could be expended in other ways providing long-term benefits.

Jobs Created:

Jobs created by the proposed activity will be related to construction. It is estimated that crews of 25 consisting of equipment operators, foremen, laborers, pipe layers, truck drivers will be working on this activity. The number of jobs created will depend on the number of workers already employed by the contractor. Contractors would be able to maintain current workers and possibly re-hire workers who were laid off due to the economy. The general contractor will probably hire sub-contractors that will consist have crews of 4-5 workers each for tree removal, pavement marking, trucking and landscaping, and miscellaneous activities. The total number of construction jobs provided by this activity is expected to range from 25 – 50.

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

Street paving promotes energy conservation because of less friction due to the roughness of a dirt road and the smoothness of a paved road. Smart growth would be in place, simply by paving the road. It would reduce pollution emissions, both air and water, by means of reducing dust, silt, and sediment erosion.

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

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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:

The official public notice of the substantial amendment to the Consolidated Plan 2008 Action Plan and the opportunity for public comment was posted May 26, 2009 on the County's website.

During the comment period, copies of the substantial amendment were available on the County's website, the 4th floor of the County Administration Building, and at the Main Library. The notice was also sent to local agencies and to each municipality to display in a visible location for the public. No comments were received during the 7-day public comment period.

On July 22, 2010, the public notice of the substantial amendment to the Consolidated Plan 2008 Action Plan with modifications to the Activity Narrative and the CDBG-R Activity Data Spreadsheet was published in the *Lexington Chronicle* and posted on the County's website.

The modifications included revising the language that the County's project would consist of paving four (4) unpaved roads in the County. The County will use the \$385,148 in CDBG-R funds to paving Bitternut Court, an unpaved road in the County.

On December 13, 2011, the public notice of the substantial amendment to the Consolidated Plan 2008 Action Plan with modifications to the Activity Narrative and the CDBG-R Activity Data Spreadsheet was posted on the County's website.

The modifications included using CDBG-R funds to demolish three (3) residential structures in the City of West Columbia. The structures have been condemned and are a detriment to public health and safety.

Copies of the modification to the substantial amendment will be available for review at the Lexington County Administration Building, 4th floor and online at:

<http://www.lexco.com/Departments/CommunityDevelopment/CDBG/PlansAndReports.html>

The County requested that comments be emailed to Rhonda Dean at rdean@lex-co.com or mailed to County of Lexington Community Development Block Grant Program, 212 South Lake Drive Suite 401, Lexington, SC 29072. Written comments were accepted for the substantial amendment to the Consolidated Plan 2008 Action Plan through December 20, 2011.

CDBG-R
Activity Data Spreadsheet

Jurisdiction/Grantee Name: Lexington County, SC		CDBG-R Fomula Grant Amount: \$385,148				Date: 12/13/11	
<i>Activity Name</i>	<i>Activity Description</i>	<i>Eligibility (Regulatory or HCDA Citation)</i>	<i>National Objective Citation</i>	<i>CDBG-R Project Budget (\$)</i>	<i>Additional Recovery Funds (\$)</i>	<i>Other Leveraged Funding (\$)</i>	<i>Total Activity Budget</i>
Public Facilities and Improvements	Funds will be used to pave approximately 5,293 linear feet on Bitternut Court, an unpaved road in the County.	24CFR570.201c	24CFR570.208(a)(1)	\$362,308	\$0	\$0	\$362,308
Clearance and Demolition	Funds will be used to demolish three (3) residential blighted structures in the City of West Columbia.	24CFR570.201 (d)	24CFR570.208 (b) (2)	\$22,840		\$8,660	31,500