

## Wake County CDBG-R Plan

As part of 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), Wake County received \$380,721 in Community Development Block Grant-Recovery (CDBG-R) grant funds from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The purpose of Recovery Act funds is to stimulate the economy through measures that modernize the Nation's infrastructure, improve energy efficiency, and expand educational opportunities and access to healthcare.

The requirements of CDBG-R funds are similar to the CDBG grant funds that Wake County receives annually through the Affordable Housing Action Plan. The funds must be used to benefit low and moderate-income families and neighborhoods. The federal government is strongly encouraging grantees to use CDBG-R funds for hard development costs associated with infrastructure and public facilities activities that provide basic services to residents or activities that promote energy efficiency and conservation through rehabilitation or retrofitting of existing buildings. The proposed CDBG-R budget is summarized below. Project explanations follow the budget:

### **Proposed CDBG-R Budget (project explanations follow):**

Administration	\$ 27,721
Cornerstone Building HVAC System Upgrade	\$ 38,000
Crosby Garfield Building Electrical/Fire Alarm	<u>\$ 315,000</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 380,721</b>

### **Administration**

Wake County plans to use \$27,721 of the CDBG-R grant to pay for County Staff costs associated with carrying out the proposed projects.

### **Cornerstone Building HVAC System Upgrade**

Wake County plans to use \$38,000 in CDBG-R funds for Cornerstone, to pay for the upgrade of HVAC equipment, which has exceeded its useful life and is scheduled to be replaced. Cornerstone is a County-owned building located at 220 Snow Avenue in Raleigh. The facility offers intensive community based services for homeless people who have a severe mental illness and less intensive walk-in services to other persons who are homeless. Cornerstone operates a grant funded Community Outreach Team, a Project for Assistance in Transitioning from Homelessness (PATH) Grant, and manages the Housing First Shelter Plus Care rental assistance program for chronically homeless individuals. Cornerstone also administers a Traveler's Aid grant from the Department of Transportation. Cornerstone serves approximately 500 people each month, 70 of which receive intensive case management services.

### **Crosby-Garfield Electrical & Fire Alarm System Upgrade**

The County plans to use \$315,000 in CDBG-R funds to upgrade the electrical and fire alarm systems at the Crosby-Garfield building, a County-owned facility located at 568 East Lenoir Street in Raleigh. The building houses various services groups that provide support, training and other services to meet the educational, developmental and social needs of families and children, including 4-H Youth Development, Learning Together, Head Start, and Strengthening the Black Family.

4-H Youth Development is part of the Family and Youth Success Division of Wake County's Human Services Department, and occupies a portion of the building. It is the nation's oldest and largest youth-serving organization offering a wide range of programs, activities and opportunities from animal and gardening activities to prevention programs and youth leadership opportunities.

Learning Together provides culturally diverse and inclusive learning services to 75 children with and without disabilities. Wake County SmartStart, an organization that ensures children are prepared for success in school and life, is a funding partner of the Child Mental Health services offered by Learning Together.

Head Start is a daycare program funded by the US Department of Health and Human Services. The Head Start Center at Crosby Garfield provides daycare 120 children with disabilities and/or from low-income families.

Strengthening the Black Family's mission is to improve the quality of life for families in Wake County and beyond with special emphasis on black families. The organization seeks to ensure the survival and strengthening of black families while underscoring those traditional values, which serve to strengthen all families. Strengthening the Black Family operates Project Direct, which is a diabetes education program that is a partnership between the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the NC Department of Health and Human Services, Wake County and the local community.

These projects are a good match with CDBG-R funds because they meet many of the goals of the stimulus funding. The projects will create jobs through construction; this is a primary goal of the stimulus funds. Another goal for stimulus funds is to pay for hard costs as part of the construction and to improve energy efficiency and promote conservation through rehabilitation or retrofitting of existing buildings. Both of these projects meet this goal.

The Wake County Board of Commissioners will consider the amendment and plan at the June 1, 2009 meeting. All plans and amendments must be submitted to the US Dept. of Housing and Urban Development by June 5, 2009.