



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 18, 2013
RE: Consolidated Annual Performance & Evaluation Report

The enclosed Consolidated Annual Performance & Evaluation Report (CAPER) describes what was accomplished with expenditures of \$1,056,493 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 7, 2012 for program year beginning July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013. 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 23, 2013. 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 was divided into three phases. The final phase, completed this year by Cathedral Square, resulted in 36 units for seniors.
- Champlain Housing Trust purchased South Meadow in the fall of 2012. Within three years of the acquisition, the property will undergo these changes:
 - 64 affordable apartments, using Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC)
 - 52 “market rate” apartments.
 - 32 condos for homeownership, some “market rate” and some permanently affordable with resale restrictions through CHT’s signature shared equity program
- Work was completed on the City Neighborhoods project, which includes refinancing and major rehabilitation of 40 scattered site affordable rental units. All units are occupied by income-qualified households.
- 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 complete and a BHA/Housing Vermont partnership acquired Bobbin Mill this past year.

- The Burlington Lead Program completed testing for Lead-Based Paint hazards on 60 housing units; performed Lead Hazard Control activities on 48 housing units; trained 341 individuals on the VT Essential Maintenance Practices Lead Law (EMP); trained 7 low income Section 3 individuals as lead workers, trained 3 program staff in lead Inspector/Risk Assessors and 1 staff member in lead Project Designer; and conducted 86 Outreach and Education events that reached over 1106 individuals.
- Utility assistance, home sharing, home- and center-based senior services, and other housing retention assistance helped almost 2,500 residents remain housed and living independently.

Second overall priority of economic opportunities:

- CEDO provided technical assistance to 171 business owners and entrepreneurs, resulting in the start-up of 3 new businesses, the expansion of 2 businesses and the creation of 28 new permanent FTE jobs.
- CEDO's technical assistance also helped one local business, the Vermont Flight Academy formally receive 501 c 3 status from the IRS and develop and implement an accredited 4-year degree program in Pilot Training Program through Vermont Technical College. A total of 8.5 full time job equivalents were created and/or retained.
- The Intervale Center provided technical assistance, equipment rental, business planning and marketing assistance for Intervale farmers. A total of ten farms, with 55 workers, added 2.5 positions this year. The farms grossed over \$1.3 million with 110 acres in production.
- Mercy Connections provided entrepreneurial training for 21 women interested in starting a Burlington business and 7 new businesses were started and 4 businesses expanded.
- Four agencies provided high quality early care and education for 113 children from working families.
- Free tax services helped over 1,150 low-income working Burlington taxpayers access tax credits and rebates while saving almost \$110,000 in fees, and credit and budgeting education for 153 residents to help them to improve their credit, decrease debt and reduce spending.

Third overall priority creating a suitable living environment:

- CDBG-funded agencies provided shelter and services to 2,231 homeless residents; groceries and meals for 5,201 residents; afterschool and summer programming for over 500 city youth, including academic and summer English Language services; crisis and support services for almost 700 victims of sexual assault as well as prevention education for students and clients of other agencies.
- Renovations were completed to the Champlain Senior Center and the Heineberg Senior Center. In addition, the Sustainability Garden was completed.
- The Moran Plant project was placed on hold by the new Mayor while new tenants were located for the project. Moran is now part of the "Public Investment Action Plan" process, whereby Tax Increment Financing will be used to support projects in the Waterfront TIF District. An intensive public process and technical review is underway, culminating in a vote on specific proposals on Town Meeting Day 2014.
- CDBG was part of the match for public facility/infrastructure improvements. The Waterfront Access North project leveraged an additional \$210,000 in grants. Phase 1 of this project is out to bid and construction is scheduled to begin this fall. Work continues on the update to the Byways plan.

This past year, CEDO managed 24 CDBG subgrants to community nonprofits, five CDBG-funded CEDO programs and 3 neighborhood projects. We continue to refine our CDBG application and allocation process to manage the reduced funding effectively and efficiently.