



**PRESS RELEASE  
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**CDBG is Far Too Valuable to Eliminate  
National Week of Community Development**

Hamilton County, Ohio (April 17, 2017)

Jurisdictions across the country are participating in National Week of Community Development to highlight the impact of federal community development programs. Hamilton County's Department of Planning + Development (HCPD) is celebrating projects county-wide that have made a positive impact to our economy as a result of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program and the Home Investment Partnerships (HOME) Program. The CDBG and HOME Program are proposed for elimination in the President's Fiscal Year 2018 HUD Budget.

Hamilton County annually receives almost \$3 million in CDBG funds and almost \$1 million in HOME funds. These funds are provided to 38 of the 47 municipalities and townships in the county, not including Cincinnati, which receives its own grant funds. CDBG funding is used for various projects including public infrastructure and public facility construction projects, demolition of slum and blighted properties, and other community development projects that boost the economy. HOME funding leverages additional dollars for much needed affordable housing investment throughout the county. A recent study funded by the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) of Greater Cincinnati & Northern Kentucky revealed that for every 100 of the lowest income households in Hamilton County, there are only 28 units of housing that are both affordable and available. This equates to an approximate gap of 40,000 units for households making \$14,678 or less (30% of median income in Hamilton County).

HCPD funds over 50 projects and programs annually through the CDBG and HOME Programs. \$300,000 in CDBG funds for the \$700,000 needed was provided to the City of Springdale to demolish the former Sheraton Hotel & Conference Center. The site has been vacant since 2008, on 8 acres of land with prime I-275 frontage. The redevelopment is anticipated to include a smaller hotel as well as several other office and commercial buildings.

Maple Knoll Village is a senior housing community in Springdale. Maple Knoll Meadows was awarded \$350,000 in HOME funds to close the financing gap in this \$18 million project with a gut rehab of 149 apartments.

The Village of Woodlawn used \$200,000 of CDBG funds to leverage an additional \$212,000 in funding from the State of Ohio Public Works Commission's Clean Ohio Program to remove and replace their pedestrian bridge in their community as well as improve the environment around the bridge. The bridge now provides a safe route for the 71% of students at Woodlawn Elementary, who ride bikes and walk to and from school. The bridge also creates a walking path between Springfield Pike and civic space within the park, including the playground, swimming pool, and recreation center.

HCPD provided \$430,000 in CDBG funds to leverage \$3.8 million in State Ohio Capital Improvement Program (SCIP) for road improvement projects in smaller communities including: the reconstruction of Frances Avenue in Cheviot, reconstruction of Vine Street in Elmwood Place, reconstruction of Dixie Court in Lincoln Heights, reconstruction of Anna Street on Hillside Street in Lockland, streetscape improvements to Montgomery Road in Norwood, and streetscape improvements to Vine Street in Saint Bernard.

HCPD's Renter Accessibility Program assists disabled renters in obtaining modifications to rental housing to improve accessibility. Projects include adding outside ramps, bathroom modification, adding interior grab bars and more. Last year improvements were made to 5 buildings and 22 housing units, which improved their accessibility. Applicants can still apply for the Renter Accessibility Program. For more information about the program please contact Scott Prowse (513) 946-8236 or [Scott.Prowse@hamilton-co.org](mailto:Scott.Prowse@hamilton-co.org).

The Community Development Block Grant and Home Investments Partnership Programs are critical to the functioning of our region. Hamilton County specifically, has a dire need of affordable housing for all residents, and elimination of either program will widen this gap. CDBG and HOME programs are catalysts for the economy, improving the quality of life of all that reside in our country through community and economic development activities.

For more information please contact Joy Pierson, Community Development Administrator, (513) 946-8234 or [Joy.Pierson@hamilton-co.org](mailto:Joy.Pierson@hamilton-co.org).

*Hamilton County's Department of Planning & Development is responsible for ensuring safe, responsible development and redevelopment while building partnerships to create and implement visionary plans. Whether reviewing construction plans for a new hospital, writing new zoning regulations for parking standards, funding affordable housing, or mapping our stormwater system, the staff of Planning + Development works to make Hamilton County a great place to live, work and play.*