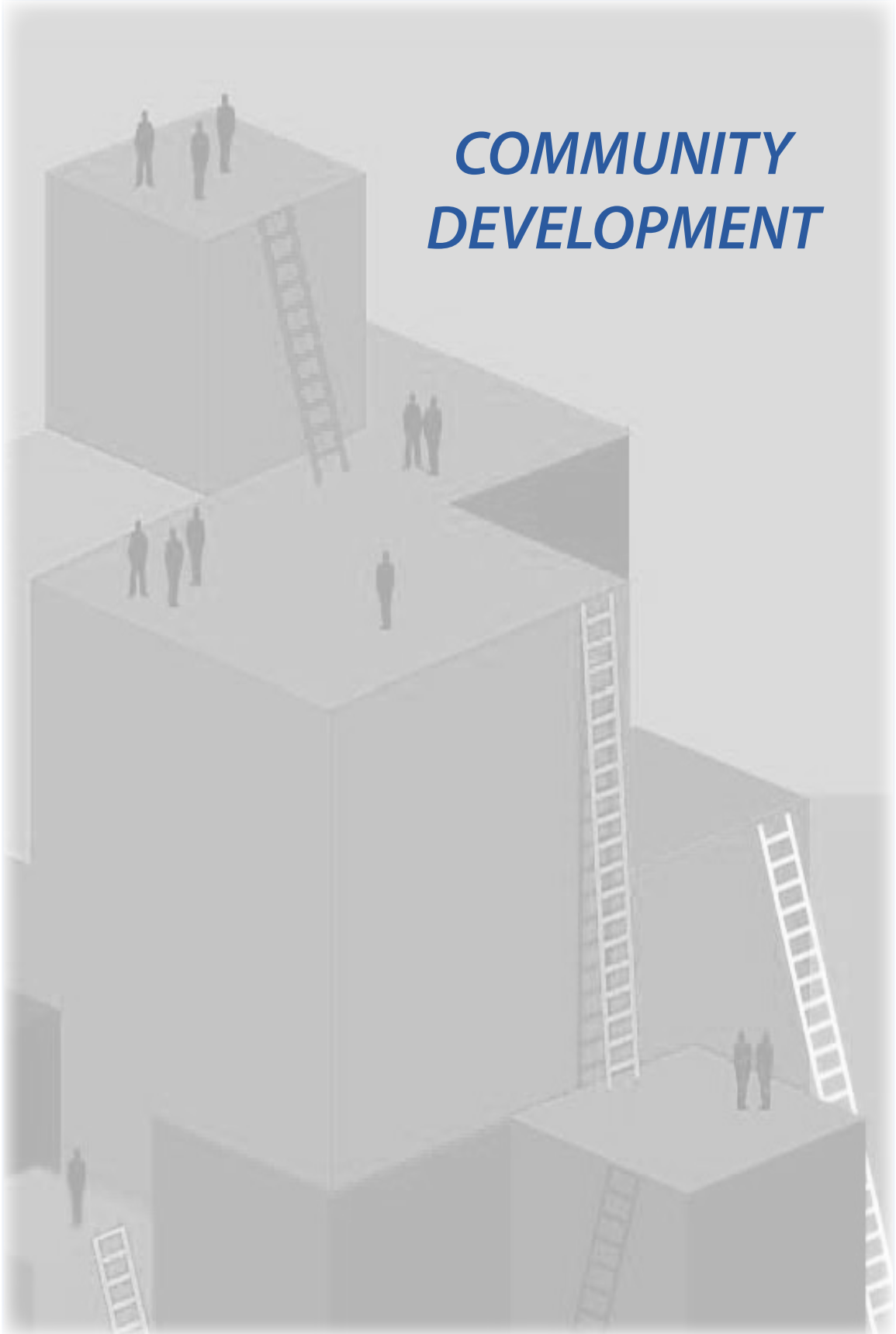


COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

*Please also refer to the Community Development Table in the Needs.xls workbook.

1. Identify the jurisdiction's priority non-housing community development needs eligible for assistance by CDBG eligibility category specified in the Community Development Needs Table (formerly Table 2B), public facilities, public improvements, public services and economic development.
2. Identify specific long-term and short-term community development objectives (including economic development activities that create jobs), developed in accordance with the statutory goals described in section 24 CFR 91.1 and the primary objective of the CDBG program to provide decent housing and a suitable living environment and expand economic opportunities, principally for low and moderate-income persons.

*Note: Each specific objective developed to address a priority need, must be identified by number and contain proposed accomplishments, the time period (i.e., one, two, three, or more years), and annual program year numeric goals the jurisdiction hopes to achieve in quantitative terms, or in other measurable terms as identified and defined by the jurisdiction.

Response to questions:

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT NON-HOUSING NEEDS

The City of Bellingham priorities for non-housing community development needs fall into three basic areas:

1. Basic Human Service Support
 - Continuum of Care Plan (services in support of the homeless)
 - Human services (e.g. housing, job training, physical health, mental health, affordable child care, and basic needs)
2. Neighborhood Revitalization
 - Special economic development activities
 - Infrastructure (i.e. street improvements)
 - Neighborhood facilities (i.e. recreational facilities, parks, playgrounds)
 - Housing
3. Economic Development
 - Job training
 - Living wage job creation
 - Infrastructure

The following goals, strategies, and objectives are based on the above areas and are consistent with the statutory goals for use of CDBG funds.

Human Services

Basic human needs such as healthcare, clothing, housing, childcare, and job training are not always available to low-income families and individuals. Housing and services for homeless populations or those at risk of becoming homeless have been designated as one of the City's highest priority needs. The following strategies strive to meet these needs.

HUMAN SERVICES (HS)

GOAL 1 - Enhance the delivery of effective support services to priority low-income and homeless populations by providing funding and technical assistance to human service agencies.

***Strategy 1** - Support projects addressing priorities and strategies outlined in the Continuum of Care Plan in order to most effectively serve the homeless or those at risk of becoming homeless.*

HS Action 1 - Give Grants to Agencies Assisting the Homeless - \$168,500

Support agencies that assist the homeless by making grants to support their operations. *cf*

Description and Timeframe:

Support existing homeless resources in the community by making grants for housing and service provision during calendar year 2010 (shared with Strategy 2, Action 1 below).



Bellingham Food Bank



Performance Measures:

Objective(s): Suitable Living Environments

Outcome(s): Availability or Accessibility

Indicator:

- Number: 10,000
- Income levels of persons or households: Very Low
- Amount of money leveraged: \$2,000,000

Responsible Agency: City of Bellingham

Location: Within Bellingham city limits

Funding: Approximately \$168,500 CDBG and/or City of Bellingham General Fund. (Shared with Homeless Housing Goal 1, Strategy 1, Action 1)

Strategy 2 - Maximize CDBG funding for human service agencies serving low-income populations.

HS Action 1 - Give Grants to Agencies Assisting Moderate- to Very Low-Income Populations - \$168,500

Support agencies that assist moderate-, low-, and very low-income populations by making grants to support their operations. *cf*

Description and Timeframe:

Maintain existing resources in the community by making grants for the provision of housing and services to moderate- low-, and very low-income populations during calendar year 2010.



Bellingham Childcare and Learning Center
Affordable Childcare for Low-Income Populations



Performance Measures:

Objective(s): Suitable Living Environments

Outcome(s): Availability or Accessibility

Indicator:

- Number: approximately 17,500
- Income levels of persons or households: approximately 15,000 very low, 2,000 low, and 500 moderate
- Amount of money leveraged: \$7,000,000

Responsible Agency: City of Bellingham

Location: Within Bellingham city limits

Funding: \$168,500 CDBG and \$272,540 General Fund

Strategy 3 - *Through collaboration with local human service providers, support a triage system to address multiple service needs of low-income individuals and households.*

(No specific actions are planned for these objectives in 2010.)

Strategy 4 - *Where appropriate, provide or facilitate the provision of training and technical assistance to human service agencies.*

(No specific actions are planned for these objectives in 2010.)

Strategy 5 - *Identify and implement opportunities for streamlining administrative burden associated with receiving CDBG Human Service funding, while ensuring accountability and use of funds for programs that effectively address priority needs.*

(Other than support for the Whatcom County Homeless Services Center, no specific actions are planned for these objectives in 2010.)

Neighborhood Revitalization

A clean environment with parks, open space, and adequate infrastructure are essential components for a vital neighborhood. Areas targeted for CDBG assistance are also its oldest neighborhoods and are in need of infrastructure improvements such as streetscapes, sidewalks, lighting, parks, and trails.

The Neighborhood Revitalization section below describes the action items the City proposes to undertake in 2010 to improve neighborhoods containing target areas of low- and moderate-income households. Redevelopment, park projects, and preservation of historic resources will improve these key neighborhoods.

The revitalization efforts describe some of the City's 2010 Action Plan activities to improve the physical condition of neighborhoods located in CDBG Census Block Groups. Development and maintenance of parks, trails, and public facilities in lower income neighborhoods enhances the quality of life of citizens. Quality of life is often a major factor in new companies locating to an area which ultimately can provide the living-wage jobs that can prevent poverty.

NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION (NR)

GOAL 1 - Encourage and promote safe, comfortable, and thriving neighborhoods.

Strategy 1 - Implement public improvement projects in two or three CDBG target areas over the next five years.

(No CDBG funded neighborhood revitalization activities will be undertaken in 2010.)

Strategy 2 - Identify and rehabilitate underutilized properties or contaminated (brownfield) properties that create a negative impact on low-income neighborhoods.

NR Action 1 - Secure Redevelopment Project for 600 W. Holly Site

Work with the newly created Bellingham Public Development Authority to secure a redevelopment project for the former brownfield site at 600 W. Holly Street. ^{ts}





600 W. Holly Site

Description and Timeframe:

Complete by 12/30/10.

Performance Measures: Performance measures for this activity will be determined based on the ultimate CDBG eligible use of the property – either job creation or low-income housing.

Responsible Agency: City of Bellingham

Location: Lettered Streets Neighborhood/600 W. Holly Street

Funding: No CDBG

NR Action 2 - Collaborate with City Departments and Outside Groups to Promote Community Building and Revitalization

Ongoing from prior year. Support public-private and interdepartmental projects, such as the Downtown Bellingham Waterfront Redevelopment, City Center Master Plan Implementation, Whatcom Creek Waterfront Action Program, the Neighborhood Initiatives Program and the Municipal Arts Program with technical assistance and project management. Work within the City interdepartmentally and externally with other public and private entities to build collaborations and carry out economic, infrastructure, recreational, environmental, and cultural activities and projects that promote community building and revitalization in the City's low- and moderate-income neighborhoods and city center commercial areas. *ts*

Public Art



“Quiet Middens Noisy Water” by Elizabeth Conner



“Sentinel” by Ellen Sollod

Description and Timeframe:

Staff time is leveraged to broaden the resources and the attention focused on critical neighborhood needs. Ongoing.

Responsible Agency: City of Bellingham

Location: Low- and moderate-income neighborhoods and city center commercial areas.

Funding: City General Fund for staff support

Strategy 3 - *Encourage the rehabilitation and adaptive reuse of older properties to preserve the historic character of neighborhoods, which serves to instill pride of heritage and community involvement.*

NR Action 1 - Coordinate Technical Assistance to Neighborhood Associations Regarding Historic Preservation

Provide technical assistance, coordination, and educational opportunities to neighborhood associations in Bellingham's older CDBG target areas to foster preservation of neighborhood character and improve the economic vitality of the community. *kf*

Description and Timeframe:

In 2010, Community Development will help coordinate technical assistance to neighborhood associations located in CDBG target areas on how to research their homes, inventory historic neighborhoods, and to work with the State Dept. of Archaeology and Historic Preservation to nominate historic districts to the National Register of Historic Places.

Performance Measures: Informational

Responsible Agency: City of Bellingham

Location: Target areas in historic neighborhoods

Funding: General Fund for City staff support

NR Action 2 - Coordinate Technical Assistance to Neighborhood Associations Regarding Historic Preservation

Coordinate with target area neighborhood associations to identify, develop and write grant(s) for FY2010 State Certified Local Government historic preservation project. *kf*

Description and Timeframe:

If appropriate, the Planning and Community Development Department may apply for FY2010 grant project(s) in one of the following categories: Survey

and Inventory; Nominations to historic registries; Planning Activities resulting in long-range preservation of historic properties; or Education projects.

Performance Measures: Administrative

Responsible Agency: City of Bellingham

Location: Bellingham's CDBG target areas.

Funding: General Fund for City staff support

GOAL 2 - Encourage civil pride in neighborhoods and develop connections between neighborhoods and community resources.

***Strategy 1** - Encourage strong neighborhood associations to represent neighborhood residents.*

(No specific actions are planned for these objectives in 2010.)

Economic Development

Employment that offers a living wage helps ensure that families can afford the necessities of life. If all citizens earned livable wages, could afford adequate housing, and had access to health care, their other basic needs would be easier to fulfill. Economic development planning in Bellingham has been limited to target area planning and has not generally utilized CDBG funding. Opportunities for use of CDBG funding may arise as a result of the Waterfront and Old Town Redevelopment efforts. Most economic development activities to be undertaken by the City from 2008 to 2012 will most likely be funded with City general funds or other locally generated funds or with state or federal grants for specific projects.

The Economic Development section below identifies actions the City will take in 2010 to stimulate the creation of living-wage jobs, including providing loans for, and participation in, projects to stimulate housing in the City's downtown commercial areas. Continued efforts of private and public partners to develop a unified economic development vision will assist in the retention and expansion of local businesses with the objective of increasing average incomes with particular emphasis on expansion of a sustainable local economy. Street improvements to the Arts District are an example of a physical project that will lead to increased economic activity in the community. The redevelopment of the former Sash 'n Door site will also provide economic development opportunities for job creation for low-income households. The completion of land use and neighborhood planning in the Old Town Special Project area will allow developers to proceed with residential and commercial development leading to an increase in jobs both during and after construction.

The Economic Development actions for 2010 help implement the City's Anti-Poverty Strategy by stimulating the creation of jobs that can prevent poverty.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (ED)

GOAL 1 - Develop area-wide plans to guide economic development so that living-wage job opportunities can be created for low-income populations.

Strategy 1 - *Establish a unified vision of area economic development in order to guide and/or coordinate local actions that promote or expand living-wage job opportunities.*

ED Action 1 - Help with Retention and Expansion of Local Businesses

City officials and staff will continue to work with private and other public partners to assist in the retention and expansion of local businesses with the objective of increasing average incomes with particular emphasis on expansion of a sustainable local economy. *ts*

Description and Timeframe:

Collaboration among community economic development partners will result in a coordinated approach to working with local businesses, attracting new businesses, creating or retaining jobs and improving incomes. Ongoing.

Responsible Agency: City of Bellingham

Location: Within Bellingham city limits

Funding: City of Bellingham - General Fund or Public Works grants to five economic development agencies (non-CDBG)

GOAL 2 - Over five years, implement five projects or programs that foster the thriving businesses, commercial, and industrial centers needed to encourage the creation of living-wage job opportunities.

Strategy 1 - *Improve the physical infrastructure.*

ED Action 1 - Secure Redevelopment Project for 600 W. Holly

Work with the newly created Bellingham Public Development Authority to secure a redevelopment project for the former brownfield site at 600 W. Holly Street. *ts*

Description and Timeframe:

Complete by 12/30/10.

Performance Measures: Performance measures for this activity will be determined based on the ultimate CDBG eligible use of the property – either job creation or low-income housing.

Responsible Agency: City of Bellingham

Location: Lettered Streets Neighborhood/600 W. Holly Street

Funding: No CDBG

ED Action 2 - Make HUD 108 Loans If Appropriate Projects Come Forward

If federal funds are appropriated by Congress in 2010, utilize HUD Section 108 Guaranteed Loan Program to finance multi-family housing, mixed-use, and economic development projects meeting HUD national objective and eligibility criteria. City through staff or contract will provide technical assistance, screening, loan underwriting, and develop and submit application(s) for Section 108 Loan funds to HUD for appropriate projects. *ts*

Description and Timeframe:

Make HUD 108 loans if appropriate projects come forward.

Performance Measures: Performance measures for this activity will be determined based on the CDBG eligible use of the HUD Section 108 Program.

Responsible Agency: City of Bellingham

Location: Within Bellingham city limits

Funding: HUD Section 108 Loan Program (five times CDBG grant)

Strategy 2 - Provide technical and funding assistance to local businesses that provide living-wage employment for low- and moderate-income employees.

ED Action 1 - Assist Creating Jobs for Low- and Moderate-Income People

Provide funding to economic development agencies that provide technical assistance to businesses. *ts*

Description and Timeframe:

Action will assist small businesses in creating of living-wage jobs to be filled by low and moderate-income employees Complete by 12/30/10.

Responsible Agency: City of Bellingham

Location: Within Bellingham City limits

Funding: General Funds

GOAL 3 - Increase employment opportunities for low- and moderate-income households.

Strategy 1 - Encourage companies that offer living-wage jobs to locate or expand existing operations to Bellingham and Whatcom County.

ED Action 1 – Fund Economic Development Agencies that Promote Business Recruitment and Expansion for Low- and Moderate-Income

Provide funding to economic development agencies that promote business recruitment and expansion opportunities. *ts*

Description and Timeframe:

Action will assist in the creation of additional living-wage jobs for the area to be filled by low and moderate-income employees. Complete by 12/31/10.

Responsible Agency: City of Bellingham

Location: Within Bellingham City limits

Funding: General Funds

ANTIPOVERTY STRATEGY

1. Describe the actions that will take place during the next year to reduce the number of poverty level families.

Response to question:

All of the *2010 Action Plan* items proposed by the City work to reduce poverty in the City of Bellingham. Many of our CDBG programs strive to increase self-sufficiency of low-income families and reduce the number of households with incomes below the poverty line. These programs include: Continuum of Care, Affordable Housing Development, Economic Development, and Neighborhood Revitalization.

Through the Human Service Allocations process, the City further strives to reduce poverty levels by providing financial assistance to human service agencies that provide support services to those in poverty. The City funding (CDBG and general fund) for the human service programs for transitional living, services for mentally ill, domestic violence, health and dental programs, food distribution, job training and affordable child care and the CDBG and HOME funding for permanent and transitional housing development, housing rehabilitation, and tenant based rental assistance all support the goals and strategies of reducing poverty. With this assistance, the cost of offering basic services such as housing, food, clothing, and child care can be reduced. In addition, the Section 8 Rental Assistance Program of Bellingham Housing Authority and the public housing owned and operated by Bellingham Housing Authority are a part of the community anti-poverty strategy.

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