

Substantial Amendment to the
2008 Consolidated Strategy Plan/Annual Action Plan for the
Community Development Block Grant – Recovery (CDBG-R)

A. General Information

Grantee Name	City of Shreveport
Name of Entity or Department Administering Funds	Department of Community Development
CDBG -R Contact Person (person to answer questions about this amendment and CDBG-R)	Bonnie Moore
Title	Director
Address Line 1	Post Office Box 31109
Address Line 2	
City, State, Zip Code	Shreveport, Louisiana 71130
Telephone	(318) 673-5900
Fax	(318) 673-5903
Email Address	Bonnie.Moore@shreveportla.gov
Authorized Official (if different from Contact Person)	Cedric B. Glover
Title	Mayor
Address Line 1	Post Office Box 31109
Address Line 2	505 Travis Street
City, State, Zip Code	Shreveport, Louisiana 71130
Telephone	(318) 673-5050
Fax	(318) 673-5085
Email Address	Cedric.Glover@shreveportla.gov
Web Address where this Form is Posted	www.shreveportla.gov

Amount Grantee is Eligible to Receive*	\$701,081
Amount Grantee is Requesting	\$701,081

The City of Shreveport is eligible to receive \$701,081 in Community Development Block Grant – Recovery (CDBG-R) funding from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The administrative entity for these funds is the Department of Community Development. The departmental contact is Bonnie Moore as noted above.

Citizen Participation and Public Comment

It is the policy of the City of Shreveport to provide citizens with reasonable advance notice of the opportunity to comment on proposed activities not previously included in the Consolidated Plan and any proposed deletion or other substantial change to the activities.

The proposed substantial amendment to the FY 2008 Annual Action Plan (AAP) can be reviewed for Public Comments from May 26 through June 01, 2009, online at the City of Shreveport, Department of Community Development website as follows: www.shreveportla.gov. The Plan will be listed under the heading Substantial Amendment for Community Development Block Grant – Recovery Program (CDBG-R).

A copy of the proposed amendment will be available for review May 26, 2009 through June 01, 2009 at the City of Shreveport, Department of Community Development, 1237 Murphy Street, Room 314, Shreveport, Louisiana. Written comments may be submitted to Post Office Box 31109, Shreveport, LA 71130 or sent via facsimile to (318) 673-5903 or e-mail to fred.thomas@shreveportla.gov. A summary of the public comments regarding this substantial amendment will be provided to HUD, including a summary of any comments or views not accepted and the reasons for non-acceptance.

CDBG-R Funding

- Priority Areas

In accordance with the federal guidelines and requires for the use of CDBG-R funding, the City of Shreveport, through its Department of Community Development will give priority to eligible activities, within CDBG-eligible neighborhoods, that will be able to expend funds quickly in accordance with CDBG-R guidance and in consideration of local competitive procurement practices and other federal and local requirements.

- Eligible Activities

CDBG-R money will be used to fund improvements in conjunction with other public and private initiatives. Specific activities will be determined eligible based on guidance that has been provided by HUD in the “CDBG-R Notice.” Efforts will focus on eligible activities that support broad neighborhood improvement strategies. Projects may include:

- Property acquisition - This activity will address preserving and creating jobs and promoting economic recovery. The City plans to purchase vacant and abandoned properties for redevelopment or purchase a public facility to be developed for multi-purpose use. The City has identified a number of redevelopment areas and plans to acquire property in these neighborhoods. As a result of the land acquisition and redevelopment that will be done, approximately 09 full-time jobs will be created.
- The City of Shreveport, Department of Community Development is presently in the process of assessing the structural and environmental needs of the vacant George P. Hendrix Elementary School property for the development of a Multi-Purpose Center. The George P. Hendrix Multipurpose Center will be a community-based agency committed to aiding and empowering low to moderate income individuals to become self-sufficient and productive citizens of the community. The center will stimulate balanced economic growth through job creation, workforce training, business assistance, social programming, and neighborhood redevelopment. We estimate that there will be 9 jobs that will evolve from the project and 200 – 300 jobs as a by-product of the project.

The assessment of the property will include a determination of the suitability of the building for reuse or renovations; suitability of mechanical systems; estimate on building repair, and feasible use for other proposed projects. The estimated market value of the building is \$300,000. The site size is 2.66 acres. There are three brick buildings that total 34,473 square feet.

- Public Service Activities

The Shreveport Fire Department (SFD) is a Class 1 Fire Department, providing fire protection, rescue and emergency medical services without discriminating on the basis of race, color, sex, sexual orientation, age, religion, national or ethnic origin or physical disability. The SFD is proposing a Tamperproof Smoke Alarm Project. The funds will be used to provide free smoke alarms to Shreveport residents who qualify as senior citizens and/or the disabled. This will be an enhancement to the current smoke alarm program which offers free ionization smoke alarms, that are not tamperproof and requires battery changes. The goal is to install 10,000 ten year tamperproof lithium powered smoke alarms by the end of 2010. The estimated cost of this program is \$222,265. The Department has been asked to contribute \$32,000 to purchase 1,600 smoke alarms at \$20.00 each.

The City of Shreveport's Parks and Recreation (SPAR) Department has requested public service funds for their proposed "Bright Future: Teen Entrepreneurship Program." This is a very comprehensive program designed to teach the skills young people need in order to start their own business. At the same time, these young people will be learning valuable lessons and skills through text book instruction, real-life experiences, as well as the experiences of Shreveport business owners who will act as mentors throughout the program.

The objectives will be fulfilled by creating a year round entrepreneurship program for youth that operates after school hours and summer vacation. The purpose of this effort is to give students the skills they need to control their own future through small business ownership. It also plays into the City of Shreveport's mission to become the "Next Great City of the South," which certainly can't happen without the growth of local businesses.

All of these programs will be free to any resident age 12-17 who lives within the parameters of the Department of Community Development's target neighborhood. CDBG-R funds in the amount of \$9,325 are requested to be used for advertising, instructional materials, CD and license, instructor, and business supplies. SPAR will match these funds through personnel, utilities and cost of rental space as well as in-kind contributions. Jobs will be generated as a result of new businesses being created.

- No more than \$35,034 will be provided for planning and capacity building to potential partners to equip them to manage and complete various projects.
- Economic Development Assistance, the City will make an average of five pre-development loans, not exceeding \$50,000 each for a total of \$246,844.
- Program Administration Costs, which will include administrative staff (Director and Bureau Chief), fiscal management and monitoring and will exceed \$70,108.

▪ Other Considerations

The Department of Community Development will continue to collaborate with other agencies and departments to maximize all available resources. The Department plans to oversee and monitor the administration and use of CDBG-R in accordance with practices currently in place and approved by HUD for use in the CDBG program.

These include, among others, affirmatively furthering fair management requirements, conducting required environmental reviews and complying with financial management requirements. In addition, the Department of Community Development will follow local requirements as well its own standard operating procedures. These include monitoring, record-keeping and reporting protocols.

The Department of Community Development views its monitoring responsibilities as an on-going process, involving constant communication, evaluation, and follow-up. The process involves frequent telephone contacts, written communications, an analysis of reports, audits, and periodic meetings with the sub-grantee. The Department's staff stay informed concerning compliance with program requirements and the extent to which technical assistance is required. The grantee will review its own use of funds on a quarterly basis through its quarterly management review process. This process involves all key management staff and a discussion of budget and programmatic issues.