

**Substantial Amendment to the Consolidated Plan 2008 Action Plan for
Community Development Block Grant – R Funding**

City of Odessa

A. General Information

Grantee Name	City of Odessa
CDBG-R Contact Person	Michael Marrero
Title	Assistant City Manager
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CDBG-R Amount	\$303,715
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B. Citizen Participation and Public Comment

1. Briefly describe how the grantee followed its citizen participation plan regarding this proposed substantial amendment (limit 250 words).

On Tuesday, May 26, 2009, the Odessa City Council approved the use of the CDBG-R funds for the Housing Rehabilitation/Reconstruction Program. On Wednesday, May 27, 2009, a public notice was published in the Odessa American. The comment period was from May 28, 2009 through June 3, 2009.

2. Provide the appropriate response regarding this substantial amendment by checking one of the following options:

- Grantee did not receive public comments.
- Grantee received and accepted all public comments.
- Grantee received public comments and did not accept one or more of the comments.

3. Provide a summary of the public comments regarding this substantial amendment. Include a summary of any comments or views not accepted and the reasons for non-acceptance.

No comments received.

C. Use of CDBG-R Funds

1. **Description of Activities to be undertaken with CDBG-R funds:**

With the additional funds provided to the City through the Recovery 2009 Act, the city will continue with the current Rehabilitation/Reconstruction program. The project has been extremely successful and currently there are four households that have qualified for the program but additional funds are needed to begin the work on these homes.

It is the City of Odessa's intent to use \$303,715 of the CDBG-Recovery funds for the reconstruction/rehabilitation program. Funds will be used to cover the cost of construction as well as project delivery costs, to include but not limited to appraisals, surveys, sewer and water taps and other operating costs as necessary to ensure the completion of the projects. Program delivery costs cannot exceed 10% of the grant funds.

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2. Description of how the distribution and uses of CDBG-R funds will meet the requirement of Title XXII of Division A and Section 1602 of the Recovery Act:

A Request for Proposals has been submitted to the public in order to acquire bids for the reconstruction of these four homes. Because the projects are waiting for bids to be returned and the households are waiting, the projected date to begin construction is July 15, 2009. Therefore, the city gave priority to this project as contracts can be awarded within the 120 days of the availability of funds as required by the Recovery Act.

3. Description of how the use of CDBF-R funds for the activities will maximize job creation and economic benefit in relation to the CDBG-R funds obligated, and will address the Recovery Act by: preserving and creating jobs and promoting economic recovery; assisting those most impacted by the recession; providing investment needed to increase economic efficiency; investing in transportation, environmental protection or other infrastructure that will provide long-term economic benefits; or fostering energy independence.

Some of the City's underserved needs include the lack of decent housing, improvements to public facilities, parks, clearance activities in the CDBG Target Area, lack of adult education, job training and the lack of various public services. The City has encountered several obstacles in meeting the underserved needs which primarily affect the City's low-income neighborhoods. Some of these obstacles include the lack of funding to adequately address all needs, lack of coordination between social service agencies, changed priorities by citizens and the lack of participation from the private sector.

CDBG-R funds used for rehabilitation and reconstruction activities will address the recovery act by creating and maintaining jobs for the contractors as well as subcontractors and general laborers on the projects. Those who have qualified for this construction project are low to mid income, and have been greatly impacted by the economy of our nation. Investing in their homes, therefore, allows for increase in home equity, restores neighborhood appearance and appeal, and increased economic efficiency.

Outside contractors will complete the four proposed activities. These trades have been impacted by the economic recession and decline in housing construction. An estimated three full-time and 12 part-time jobs will be created or retained by the CDBG-R activities.

4. Description of the activities that will be carried out with CDBG-R funds that promote energy conservation, smart growth, green building technologies or reduced pollution emissions:

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The City of Odessa has high expectations for the quality of work going into the projects. All of the homes are Energy Star certified and thus promote energy conservation. In addition, the City of Odessa is currently working with a developer who utilizes many Green Building techniques including, Exerscape and drought resistant landscaping, Low VOC paints and stains, total house sealing with foam sealant on the underside of the roof decking in order to provide a conditioned attic and having the duct work installed in a space that is not overly hot or cold. To minimize waste and pollution the contractor also utilizes passive solar designs and 2x4 framing techniques that eliminate much materials waste. The City will continue to work towards implementing as many green building techniques as feasible.