

DRAFT
THE CDBG-R SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT

Jurisdiction(s): City of Newton Lead Agency Jurisdiction Web Address: http://www.ci.newton.ma.us/Planning/Special_Reports.htm	CDBG-R Contact Person: Amy Yuhasz Address: 1000 Commonwealth Avenue Newton, MA 02459 Telephone:617.796.1122 Fax:617.796.1142 Email:ayuhasz@newtonma.gov
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ENSURING RESPONSIBLE SPENDING OF RECOVERY ACT FUNDS

Funding available under the Recovery Act has clear purposes – to stimulate the economy through measures that modernize the Nation’s infrastructure, improve energy efficiency, and expand educational opportunities and access to health care. HUD strongly urges grantees to use CDBG-R funds for hard development costs associated with infrastructure activities that provide basic services to residents or activities that promote energy efficiency and conservation through rehabilitation or retrofitting of existing buildings. While the full range of CDBG activities is available to grantees, the Department strongly suggests that grantees incorporate consideration of the public perception of the intent of the Recovery Act in identifying and selecting projects for CDBG-R funding.

A. SPREADSHEET FOR REPORTING PROPOSED CDBG-R ACTIVITIES

Grantees must provide information concerning CDBG-R assisted activities in an electronic spreadsheet provided by HUD. The information that must be reported in the spreadsheet includes activity name, activity description, CDBG-R dollar amount budgeted, eligibility category, national objective citation, additional Recovery Act funds for the activity received from other programs, and total activity budget. An electronic copy of the spreadsheet and the format is available on HUD’s recovery website at <http://www.hud.gov/recovery>.

B. CDBG-R INFORMATION BY ACTIVITY (COMPLETE FOR EACH ACTIVITY)

- (1) Activity Name: (Grantees should follow the same order that activities are listed in the Spreadsheet for Reporting Proposed CDBG-R Activities – this will allow HUD to easily match activity narratives with the information provided in the spreadsheet.)

Pellegrini Park Improvements

Stearns Park Improvements

Nahanton Accessible Pathway and Handicap Parking Space

Newton Centre Accessible Pathway and Handicap Parking Spaces

- (2) Activity Narrative:

In addition to the Spreadsheet for Reporting Proposed CDBG-R Activities, grantees must provide a narrative for each activity describing how the use of the grantee's CDBG-R funds will meet the requirements of Title XII of Division A and Section 1602 of ARRA. The grantee's narrative must also state how CDBG-R funds will be used in a manner that maximizes 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;
- Minimizing or avoiding reductions in essential services; or
- Fostering energy independence.

Pellegrini Park Improvements

The City has previously used CDBG funds to complete the design of a master plan for Pellegrini Park, located in the Nonantum Target Neighborhood. CDBG-R funds will be used to implement the portion of this master plan that addresses the entranceway to the park and the parking lot. The specific elements of the project include:

- Construction of an eighteen-space parking lot with drainage
- Construction of a new pedestrian walkway to the Pellegrini Community Center
- Creation of several green areas and planting of four trees
- Installation of granite curbing and fencing to define recreational uses and establish borders
- Installation of five pathway lights and an updated electrical box for exterior lighting
- Installation of benches, bike racks, and a trash receptacle

Stearns Park Improvements

The City has also used CDBG funds in the past to complete the design of a master plan for Stearns Park, which is located in the Nonantum Target Neighborhood. CDBG-R funds will be used to address the playground area of Stearns Park. The specific elements of the project include:

- Construction of a fenced-in tot lot section with play equipment, spring riders, accessible swings, play table and benches
- Installation of new adventure play structures for older children, rubberized safety surfacing, shade pavilion, benches, accessible water fountain, and trash receptacle
- Construction of a half basketball court
- Installation of fencing, landscaping and trees, and accessible walkways along the entrance

The improvements made at both Pellegrini Park and Stearns Park will provide a 100% benefit to low and moderate income residents.

The various components of both the Pellegrini Park Improvements and the Stearns Park Improvements require a diversity of job skills and manufactured goods. Each activity will create temporary construction jobs and retain machinists, factory workers, and other positions required to produce United States made goods. These industry fields, in particular construction workers, have been directly impacted by the economic downturn.

Nahanton Accessible Pathway and Handicap Parking Space

Nahanton Park, located on the Charles River, provides both active and passive recreation to Newton residents through walking paths, soccer field, and fishing dock. The existing accessible pathway, that provides access to all of the Park's recreational areas, is currently inaccessible because it cannot be reached from the driveway. CDBG-R funds will be used to connect the parking area to the existing accessible pathway. The project also includes the construction of a van accessible parking space. The creation of additional impervious surface in the Riverfront Area will be mitigated through soil stabilization and erosion control. Erosion control measures will provide long term environmental protection to Nahanton Park. This project will provide needed temporary construction jobs.

The accessible improvements made at Nahanton Park will provide a 100% benefit to low and moderate income residents.

Newton Centre Park Accessible Pathway and Handicap Parking Spaces

Newton Centre Park supports a variety of athletic fields, playgrounds, and open space. The Park also provides neighborhood access to the Mason Rice Elementary School. CDBG-R funds will be used to construct an accessible pathway from Bowen Street, which borders the Park, to meet an existing accessible pathway. The construction of this pathway would extend the accessible route from the Mason-Rice Elementary parking lot that traverses the school grounds and the park to an accessible playground. Handicap parking on Bowen Street would also be implemented as part of this activity. This project will provide needed temporary construction jobs.

The accessible improvements made at Newton Centre Park will provide a 100% benefit to low and moderate income residents.

- (3) Jobs Created: (Report the number of full- and part-time jobs estimated to be created and retained by the activity (including permanent, construction, and temporary jobs)).

Nonantum - Pellegrini Park Improvements

Total 17 jobs

Construction – 15

Electrician – 2

Nonantum - Stearns Park Improvements

Total 25 jobs

Construction – 15

Electrician – 2

Installation of play equipment – 4

Installation of safety surface – 4

Nahanton Accessible Pathway and Handicap Parking Space

Total 5 construction jobs

Newton Centre Park Accessible Pathway and Handicap Parking Spaces

Total 5 construction jobs

- (4) Additional Activity Information: (A description of how the activity will promote energy conservation, smart growth, green building technologies, or reduced pollution emissions, if applicable.)

Newton's CDBG-R park projects encourage smart growth principles by contributing to the preservation of open space. These parks also play a central role in fostering a sense of place in the City of Newton and maintaining elements of the City's walkable villages. The installation of bike racks in Pellegrini Park facilitates the use of alternative transportation. Both the rubberized surface and the benches, installed in Pellegrini and Stearns, will be made from recycled materials.

- (5) Responsible Organization: (Contact information for the organization that will implement the CDBG-R activity, including its name, location, and administrator contact information)

Amy Yuhasz, Community Development Program Manager
Housing and Community Development Division
Planning and Development Department
City of Newton
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton, MA 02459
P: 617.796.1122
F: 617.796.1142
E: ayuhasz@newtonma.gov

C. PUBLIC COMMENT

Provide a summary of public comments received to the proposed CDBG-R Substantial Amendment.

Note: A Proposed CDBG-R Substantial Amendment must be published via the usual methods and posted on the jurisdiction's website for no less than 7 calendar days for public comment.

Response: