

**CITY OF KALAMAZOO
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ACT
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
ANNUAL REPORT
2009**

Introduction

The primary responsibility of the Community Development Act Advisory Committee (CDAAC) is to assist the City Commission in determining the appropriate utilization of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds received from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). CDAAC develops funding recommendations consistent with the priorities identified in the City's Consolidated Plan, the objectives of the federal government, and other locally adopted priorities, as applicable. The City's Consolidated Plan prioritizes how entitlement funds may be used by the City of Kalamazoo, and served as the primary tool for funding recommendations for 2009 CDBG funding, further described below.

Members of CDAAC actively participate in the community and citizen participation process, including presence at the Annual Action Plan Public Hearing, the Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report, the CDBG Budget Public Hearing, the CDBG Application Pre-Submission Workshops, and other special meetings.

New Initiatives Undertaken

In 2009, CDAAC members collaborated on promotional material and focused efforts to broaden its citizen base and incorporate additional expertise and viewpoints. By the end of 2009, CDAAC's membership consisted of:

Member	Appointment Status	Term Expiration
Mildred Smith (Chair)	Northside Representative	March 31, 2011
Buddy Hannah (Vice Chair)	At-Large	March 31, 2011
David M. Bills	At-Large	March 31, 2011
Shirley Coleman	SARA Representative	March 31, 2012
Charley Coss	At-Large	March 31, 2012
Nick Gardner	Eastside Representative	March 31, 2011
Lena Haynes	At-Large (formerly Homeless)	March 31, 2010
Trent Hines	At-Large	March 31, 2011
Connolly Jenkins	At-Large	March 31, 2011
Pat McCarthy	At-Large	March 31, 2010
Matt Milcarek	Vine Representative	March 31, 2011
Bill Wells	Edison Representative	March 31, 2010

2009 was the fifth full year for CDAAC to follow the City's Consolidated Plan 2005 – 2009. This five-year planning process is a requirement of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and helps determine City community development priorities for the next

five years through public input and current demographic and economic information. These priorities help determine how the City will use its federal entitlement funds for each of those five years. On February 7, 2005, the City Commission adopted that five-year plan which identified the City's highest priority needs, in no particular order, as:

- A commitment to use a substantial amount of funding for affordable housing;
- Infrastructure rehabilitation to accommodate special needs populations, including easier access to sidewalks, ramps, and other public rights of way;
- Maintenance, rehabilitation, and weatherization for income eligible home owners;
- Neighborhood based economic development, micro enterprise development, community development, and retail development; and
- Focus on youth recreation programming and crime prevention programming.

These priorities served as programmatic guidelines in CDAAC's recommendations of CDBG funding for 2009.

2009 was also the fifth full year that CDAAC operated under its current bylaws. Six neighborhood associations were invited to recommend representatives to serve on CDAAC. Those six associations are: Eastside, Edison, Fairmont, Northside, Stuart, and Vine. The other seven (7) members are selected at-large for the expertise and breadth of experiences that will contribute to CDAAC's work.

Important Decisions Rendered

CDAAC held a total of ten full committee meetings, one retreat, one training session, and six public hearings during 2009. The CDBG-funding allocation process for the HUD Program Year 2009 (June 1, 2009 – May 31, 2010) began with a public notice of availability of funding, published in the Kalamazoo Gazette on September 22, 23, and 24, 2008. Following the public notice, CP&D staff held a CDBG presubmission training workshop on October 9, 2008, distributed application packets, and set a November 24, 2008 receipt deadline for applications. Community Planning and Development staff screened all applications for completeness and eligibility prior to CDAAC review. During December 2008 and January 2009, CDAAC subcommittees reviewed and recommended awards in the categories of Housing, Public Services and Fair Housing/Capacity Building. The proposal review and deliberations concluded on February 12, 2009 when CDAAC finalized its funding recommendations for City Commission approval based on information presented by the subcommittees. Funding recommendations totaling \$686,000 were presented and approved during a Public Hearing at a regular City Commission meeting on March 2, 2009.

CDAAC additionally reviewed and recommended \$70,000 of City Commission Initiatives funding to the City Commission on February 12, 2009, and \$80,270 of Emergency Shelter Grant funding on May 4, 2009.

Status of Projects Previously Reported to the City Commission

All 2009 CDBG projects are monitored monthly by Community Planning and Development staff as reimbursement requests are submitted. All CDBG projects also receive an annual monitoring review for compliances with all applicable federal, state and local requirements. In addition to

the annual review of CDBG applications, CDAAC has continued to serve its advisory role in recommending funding considerations for Emergency Shelter Grants and the City Commission Initiatives Fund.

Plans for 2010

In February, 2010, CDAAC completed the process of reviewing the Consolidated Plan 2010 – 2014 update and recommended its adoption to the City Commission on March 15, 2010.

CDAAC also made recommendations for PY2010 CDBG funding to the City Commission on March 15, 2010. CDAAC will additionally review and recommend ESG and the \$250,000 CDBG Catalyst Grant funds in the spring (dates to be determined). CDAAC will host public hearings on the Annual Action Plan and the Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report during the summer. Additional public hearings may be required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development as additional resources become available to the City of Kalamazoo.

The Nominating Committee will use its resources to scout for qualified candidates to fill the vacant Fairmont Representative seat. Three current members of CDAAC were nominated for re-appointment, and officers for 2010 were selected at the March 11, 2010 meeting.

CDAAC is also interested in addressing the credit and housing foreclosure crisis, augmenting population and tax-base, economic development efforts, and in marketing and assisting the Kalamazoo Promise.