

NC Neighborhood Revitalization Program (CDBG)

Durham County is eligible to apply for up to \$750,000 from the NC Department of Commerce as part of their CDBG NC Neighborhood Revitalization program. The funds could only be used in the unincorporated areas of the county outside of Durham City limits. This grant opportunity was discussed with members of the Home Repair Collaborative to develop a proposal that would help address the affordable housing need in the county through leveraging the existing work of non-profit partners.

Overview of Funding Opportunity:

- NC Neighborhood Program is a \$10 million set-aside of CDBG funds
- Only non-entitlement governments are eligible (Durham County is eligible, City of Durham is not)
- Can apply for up to \$750,000 over a 30-month time period
- No matching fund requirement
- Must incorporate at least one of the three livability principles:
 - o **Promote equitable, affordable housing.** Expand location and energy-efficient housing choices for people of all ages, incomes, races, and ethnicities to increase mobility and lower the combined cost of housing and transportation.
 - o **Support existing communities.** Target federal funding toward existing communities - through strategies like transit-oriented, mixed-use development, and land recycling - to increase community revitalization and the efficiency of public works investments and safeguard rural landscapes.
 - o **Value communities and neighborhoods.** Enhance the unique characteristics of all communities by investing in health, safe, and walkable neighborhoods - rural, urban, or suburban.

Home Repair Collaborative Proposal:

The Home Repair Collaborative is a partnership between Rebuilding Together of the Triangle, Durham Habitat for Humanity, Resources for Seniors, Reinvestment Partners, and Durham Community Land Trustees. The intention of the collaborative is to better coordinate applications for home repair needs between partners, as they have different programs and funding sources and different capacities for home repair and rehab work. This proposal aims to implement a few key changes to the home repair delivery system in Durham County, namely to centralize application intake, conduct comprehensive repair assessments, and coordinate repair work more efficiently. Given this goal, the grant proposal is as follows:

- Apply for up to \$750,000 to provide home repairs for 22-25 homeowners over the 30-month grant period, at a cost of roughly \$30,000 per home.
- 10% of grant funds would be used for administration costs, including general grant administration, outreach and application intake, inspections, bidding, and construction management, and coordinating the Home Repair Collaborative's work.
- Home Repair Collaborative partners are still exploring potential housing acquisition or development opportunities that would be eligible uses of grant funds.

Match Request

Utilizing the full \$750,000 will require an additional \$60,000 in funding from the County to increase Home Repair Collaborative partner capacity to do an increased number of home repair assessments. With this funding, Rebuilding Together of the Triangle can complete approximately 100 repair assessments over the 30-month period. Conducting these comprehensive assessments will better identify and align home repair needs in the county with the programs that the Home Repair Collaborative Partners provide.

Project Administration Partnership:

- Triangle J COG to provide primary grant administration and coordination of Home Repair Collaborative:
 - o Develop a standardized application intake form that includes necessary information for all partners. Conduct outreach to low-income homeowners to make them aware of the program.
 - o Develop an online database where all applicants are entered in, and partners are able to review those who may be eligible for their programs.
 - o Facilitate bi-monthly meetings of the Home Repair Collaborative for partners to review new applications, completed repair assessments, and coordinate repair work. This process will allow for better tracking of homeowners, home repair needs, and waiting lists and will provide improved measurement of outcomes.
 - o Primary grant administration tasks: preparing quarterly status reports, preparing invoices and maintaining financial records.
- Rebuilding Together of the Triangle to serve as rehabilitation specialist to complete comprehensive repair assessments that include prioritizing essential repairs and coordinating repair sequencing among the Home Repair Collaborative partners, with an ultimate goal of making homes eligible for weatherization. Currently, 50% of the applications Resources for Seniors receives for weatherization are deferred due to needing significant home repairs.
- Support from Durham County staff for secondary grant administration, including providing status reports to the elected board on a quarterly basis, reviewing invoices and requests for payment, signing off on project reports, and maintaining all project files at the local office where they are available to citizens during regular business hours.

Application & Submission Details:

- Application deadline is September 28th, 2018
- Requires two public hearings prior to application to receive input on proposal, set for August 27th and September 11th