

Community Development Department Accomplishments Year Ending December 31, 2010

Department's Mission: To provide safe, decent, suitable affordable housing and living environments for our citizens, principally low, moderate and middle income (LMMI) residents.

The fiscal year in the Community Development Department is different from the County's year; it runs concurrent with the federal year of October to September. In 2009-2010, the Community Development Department received \$1,389,848 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, \$641,092 in HOME and American Dream Funds (80% and below affordable housing) and \$80,544 in Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS) funds. Richland County Community Development Department wrapped up its second year as a recipient of stimulus or ARRA funds for Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing (HPRP -\$568,201) and CDBG Recovery (CDBG-R - \$371,569) funds. In 2008, we received HERA funds in the amount of \$2,221,859 for Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP 1). All of these funds are granted to the County by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). This, in addition to the \$144,246 of required County match funds gave the department a total of \$5.4 million in programmatic funds to operate various initiatives. Below are the highlights for the year:

- ❖ Over \$73,101 was expended on the **Bookert Heights Sewer Project** during this year. Fifty (50) homes will receive service and home connection once service is established. The project is now 100% complete and awaiting the final approval for payment.
- ❖ A total of \$1.6 million was drawn down for the **Lower Richland Waste Water Treatment Plant**. Another \$1 million was budgeted for the project next year to benefit the section of the county.
- ❖ Nine homes (benefiting 22 low and moderate income persons) received assistance from the **Countywide Housing Rehabilitation** Program. Almost \$350,000 was used to assist these households of which 7 were elderly and 4 were disabled. Last year we completed more homes, but this year larger and more costly needs were addressed which affected the budget and reduced the outcomes.

- ❖ Twelve (12) applications for **Emergency Repair** were approved to assist our citizens that have lived in existing conditions that pose an immediate threat to the occupant's health and safety.
- ❖ The **Richland County Homeownership Assistance Program (RCHAP)** assisted 58 families, putting 51 female head of households into homeownership. The program was so popular that HOME Match funds were required to assist the need. One of these families purchased within the targeted neighborhood of Ridgewood. Monthly orientation classes' average attendance was up and at times reached 60 plus attendees or 180% more than normal.
- ❖ National Homeownership Month (June) was celebrated by the department hosting a very successful **Homebuyer Fair followed by equally well-received bi-annual Post-Homeownership Workshops** held at The Home Depot off Two Notch Road. Both events involved several new and existing partnerships (local lending institutions, USDA, The Home Depot, Department of Consumer Affairs, Green Initiatives, realtors, etc). Other workshops sponsored by the department included Partner's Forums, Contractor's Training Workshop, and an Employee Fair Housing Management Workshop.
- ❖ **Fair Housing Month**, while present through the department's programs, was emphasized during April by: hosting the resolution at County Council; paid advertisement on local radio stations regarding "What is Fair Housing?"; banner hanging within 2020 Hampton and distribution of housing program brochures translated into Spanish.
- ❖ **SC Appleseed Legal Justice Center** received a 2 year grant in 2010 to provide group legal education sessions for low to moderate income individuals.
- ❖ Job development and Training component was established via our partner **Columbia Housing Authority**. A \$50,000 self-sufficiency grant was developed in 2010 to help low income and at-risk homeless citizens in the areas of career development, Certified Nursing Assistance, computer classes and GED/Diploma classes. To date, 27 CHA participants have utilized the opportunity. As a result of this and the NSP-1 funds, CHA acknowledged the department with its **2010 Community Partner of the Year** award.
- ❖ **"Ridgewood Alive 2010"** took place in April to commemorate National CD Week. This event showcased all the work that is to take place in the area to include: neighborhood and commercial

lighting upgrades, sewer project, streetscapes, new affordable housing, access road and parks. Richland County Government, local residents, community partners and stakeholders were present to participate.

- ❖ **The Ridgewood Summer Beautification Program** expended \$17,000 and engaged 18 local teens to complete a masonry program and plant materials in common areas throughout the community. This project won the **2009 NACo (National Association of Counties) Award** for its unique, innovative and duplicative nature.
- ❖ **CHDO activity saw completed progress via the work of 4 partners:** Community Assistance Provider, INC (CAP); SC Uplift Community Action; Carolina CDC and Santee Lynches CDC. These partners work in various areas of Richland County (Ridgewood, Arthurtown and Denny Terrace) to provide affordable housing opportunities to our citizens.
- ❖ **SC Uplift** completed its first affordable housing rental out in the Ridgewood area. **CAP** held a groundbreaking for its first LEED certified affordable rental (duplex targeted to seniors). **Carolina CDC** in 2010 sold a home to a low-income single male.
- ❖ **HMIS** had over \$129,574 total drawn down and several agencies under the Midlands Area Consortium for the Homeless were benefited. This area is responsible of the data collection and evaluation of homeless information in Richland County. This component is funded with HUD Supportive Housing Program Funds and matched with CDBG funds.
- ❖ Nine (9) minority/women-owned businesses (**MBE/WBE**) participated in the CDBG & HOME activities, with \$473,217 expended. Approximately 15% of the CDBG and HOME funds expended were with these businesses and vendors.
- ❖ Richland County is one of only 3 recipients in South Carolina for **NSP-1 funds** to assist with the stabilization of communities due to foreclosures and abandoned homes throughout our area. This \$2.22 million grant began the first quarter of 2009. At the close of 2010, over 70% of the funds were expended and drawn down. The CD Department on the behalf of Richland County developed the **NSP-2** application in conjunction with Horry, York, Charleston and Greenville Counties. The \$26 million application was completed together with the SC State Housing Finance & Development Authority as the lead agent. However, no one in South Carolina was funded NSP-2.

- ❖ **HPRP** provides financial funds to prevent individuals and families from becoming homeless and help those who are experiencing homelessness to be quickly re-housed and stabilized. HPRP partners are The Cooperative Ministry and Trinity Housing Corporation/Women's Shelter along with data collection and evaluation. To date, approximately 60% of HPRP funds have been drawn down.
- ❖ In the **CDBG-R**, three projects were funded: Rockgate Road Paving, Urban League Summer Program and Ridgewood In-fill Housing. Rockgate was completed this reporting year; the Infill Housing has begun within the community and is progressing on or ahead of schedule; the Urban League is underway and is scheduled for completion by mid year 2011. To date, 68% of the total has been expended and drawn down.

