

# The City of Morgantown's Community Development Office 2008 ANNUAL REPORT

## *Administration and Planning*

The City of Morgantown's Community Development Office administers and apportions the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The City's CDBG Entitlement Program works to secure projects that result in: securing decent housing; providing a suitable living environment; and expanding economic development. Beginning July 1, 2008 the grant entered its fifth year of the 2004-2009 Consolidated Plan. At the end of fiscal year 2008, the City will have accessed and used \$2,944,317 in entitlement funding from HUD and \$33,000 program income from the housing rehabilitation program.

The Community Development Office works with sub-reipients of the grant funding to accomplish program goals and objectives set in the five year Consolidated Plan. The Community Development Office also works with the many neighborhood associations throughout the City, the Mon Valley Homeless Initiative, The Greater Morgantown Chamber of Commerce Vision 2020 Social Service Committee, and the Northern West Virginia Center for Independent Living on Fair Housing Issues.

The Community Development Office used \$490,073 in administration and planning funding through the 2004-2009 Consolidated Plan. Funding for administration is used to pay the director's salary, intern stipends, purchase computers, printers, and other office equipment used to meet grant requirements.

Planning activities include the annual homeless street count, and Continuum of Care grant writing. The required Analysis to Impediments Fair Housing Choices required in every five-year plan and the Fair Housing training sessions are provided to Code Enforcement, Public Works, contractors, developers, and architects. During the 2008 program year, the Morgantown Housing Authority will do a comprehensive housing study of Morgantown.

In partnership with the United Way of Monongalia and Preston Counties, the Community Development Office worked with two Public Administration interns to do a needs/gaps analysis of social services in the area.

## *Housing*

Providing decent housing includes assisting homeless persons to obtain appropriate housing, retain the affordable housing stock, increase availability of permanent housing that is affordable to low income individuals without discrimination, and increase supportive housing that includes structural features and services to enable persons with special needs to live with dignity.

The Home Improvement, Emergency Repair, Rental Rehab, and Home Adaption Programs are the basis of the CDBG housing rehabilitation projects administer by the Morgantown Housing Authority for the City. With the inclusion of a Down Payment Assistance Program and Lead Based Paint Testing and Containment Program in 2005, the Housing Program has made significant impacts on the community by assisting low and moderate-income individuals and families maintain their homes in an independent lifestyle. The Morgantown Housing Authority received \$661,920 in grant funding and \$33,000 program income for the rehab programs and also received \$116,908 for administration.

Monongalia County Habitat for Humanity has received and used \$117,600 to acquire property in Jerome Park for the new subdivision soon to add 12 new homes for low income families and to establish a ReStore in Morgantown. The ReStore recycles construction and remodeling materials for resale to the public as a way to fundraise for their construction activities.

## *Public Service*

Providing a suitable living environment includes improving the safety and livability of neighborhoods, increasing access to quality facilities and services, reducing the isolation of income groups within an area.

As part of the homeless plan, the Bartlett House, Inc. received \$131,674 in funding from the entitlement grant.

The Bartlett House, Inc. operates an emergency shelter/public inebriation (Night Shelter) service in downtown Morgantown. Night Shelter Clients received comprehensive case management with a program manager and case managers to develop a service plan designed to break the cycle of homelessness. This program follows-up on the individual or family for a minimum of one year to ensure that the family or individual maintains an independent living status. The Life Skills Training Classes and Substance Abuse Support Groups are offered on-site. During fiscal year 2008, individuals received assistance in job search, resume writing and interview training at the Bartlett House. Ninety percent of the Night Shelter residences are involved in case management. Case management participants have an easier time transitioning into productive lives.

The Mental Health Association in Monongalia County operates the Friendship Room, a program of social support and mental health education for adults who receive or need mental health care. The Friendship Room is home to a variety of weekly sessions including Mental Health News, Innate Health, Self-Advocacy Support System, Anger Management, Peer Recovery Network (addiction recover), arts activities and other sessions as requested and available. This program extended the availability of the Friendship Room operations each week into the weekend. The Friendship Room received \$7,754 in funding from the entitlement grant

CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) The mission of the CASA is to help assure that children who have been abused and/or neglected are placed in safe, permanent homes as quickly as possible. Court Appointed Special Advocates was provided \$12,472 in funding from the entitlement grant.

Mylan Health Right, Inc. has used \$70,910 in funding from the entitlement grant, Mylan Health Right operates a clinic-wide diabetes education and monitoring program educating and providing monitors and test strips to qualified clients. Mylan Puskar Health Right, Inc. also used the funding to insall an ADA compliant entryway ways and a new roof on their building.

Morgantown Area Youth Services Project uses CDBG funding to provide services to low-income youth and families experiencing delinquency, substance abuse, anger, and underage drinking problems. The Morgantown Area Youth Services Program received \$34,930 in funding from the entitlement grant to leverage against other Federal and State grant funding to operate their program.

Monongalia County Schools (Kaleidoscope) provides access to after school special tutoring in math and reading classes operated by Monongalia County Schools. The Kaleidoscope Program is provided at the Mountainview Elementary School for low and very low income families (children are bussed from other schools). Kaleidoscope was provided \$25,080 in CDBG funding.

Mountaineer Boys & Girls Club the Project Learn and Smart Moves initiative are after-school and summer educational enhancement and tutoring activities to at-risk students ages 6-16. This program includes homework help, tutoring services, high yield learning activities, collaboration with schools, character education, and parental involvement. The Mountaineer Boys and Girls Club received \$47,890 in funding from the entitlement grant.

Rape and Domestic Violence Informational Center, Inc. renovated the emergency shelter kitchen making it accessible for those with disabilities and ADA compliant, Client services such as counseling, advocacy, referrals, and support groups are offered at this location. The Rape and Domestic Violence Information Center received \$31,600 in funding from the entitlement grant for the kitchen rehab and ADA modifications to the office and training area.

The CDBG Grant helped the Literacy Center improve the training center at the Morgantown Public Library with the purchase of equipment for the center. The Literacy Center is a free and public adult tutoring center helping non/low level-readers improve their reading skills to get a GED, read to their children, or to meet their own personal reading goals. The CDBG grant provided the Monongalia County Literacy Volunteers \$10,100 in funding.

Caritas House, Inc. received \$4,212 from the CDBG grant to match their HUD Continuum of Care grant for their new permanent homeless shelter Colligo House.

The Northern West Virginia Center for Independent Living Informational Technology Program maintains consumer information and data to track outcomes of services and to maintain the financial accountability necessary for all funding sources. NWVCIL is an employer of persons with disabilities, governed by individuals with disabilities and directed by the individuals they serve at no cost to the consumer. NWVCIL assists and advocates for the disabled in a number of areas (specifically housing opportunities in Morgantown). This program will allow them to develop technological capabilities to assist with tracking clients, grant work, and advocacy. NWVCIL received \$3,500 from CDBG.

### *Infrastructure*

During the five year Consolidation Plan, the Community Development Office has provided \$770,139 in funding for sidewalks and sidewalk improvements. New sidewalks have been installed on James Street in the Woodburn Neighborhood and Darst/Mineral Streets in Jerome Park Neighborhood.

The City of Morgantown addresses the need for ADA compliance at sidewalks on High Street by relocating sewers drops where curb cuts need to be made and adding truncated dome placements, bringing the intersection on High Street into ADA compliance and improving the visibility and movement. CDBG funds were leveraged against Department of Transportation funding.

The CDBG grant provided \$296,297 from the 2004-2009 Consolidated Plan to rehabilitate Wiles Hill School to be utilized as a Senior Center, make ADA park improvements at Marilla and White Parks, and correct code violations at the Marilla Center.

Mountain Line Transit Authority received \$12,000 for the purchase and installation of bus stop signage. These solar powered signs provide easy sighting of pick-ups for the drivers and light for waiting areas and route information.

\$2,000 was provided to the Neighborhood Watch Program with the Morgantown Police Department.

Non-government programs receiveing CDBG funding for rehabilitation projects include the roof at Mylan Health Right previously mentioned, \$40,292 to Rock Forge Neighborhood House to correct State Fire Code issues at their facility, \$33,750 to Christian Help to replace the roof on their building, and \$8,788 to Caritas House, Inc to rehab their shelter. The Senior Monongalian's used \$17,428 in CDBG funding to evaluate and do home adaptions for seniors allowng them to continue to live in their homes.