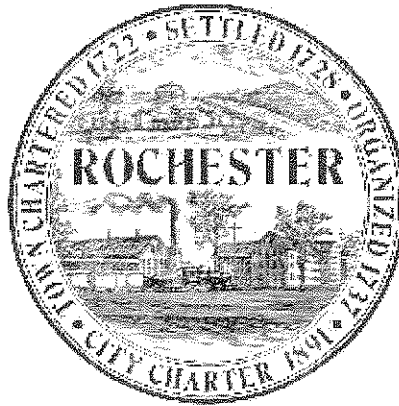


# **City of Rochester**



**Community Development Block Grant  
Citizen's Summary  
of the  
2010-2015  
Consolidated Plan Goals  
and the  
Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report for  
Action plan year 2010-2011**



Prepared for the UD Department of Housing and Urban Development  
September 30, 2011

## Consolidated Plan Summary

The Consolidated Plan is a living document designed to spell out both the analysis of local needs for the low-income community, and formulate a plan to address those needs. The Community Development Block Grant gives us an important resource with a great deal of flexibility to take on projects or design programming to rectify deficiencies and correct chronic problems in Rochester.

The City of Rochester has developed this Consolidated Plan to provide a strategy for the use of federal funds granted to the City of Rochester by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) under the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). This Consolidated Plan started July 1, 2010 and will end June 30, 2015, comprising five "Action Plan" or program years. Programs and activities described in this plan are intended to primarily benefit low- and moderate-income residents of the City of Rochester, neighborhoods with high concentrations of low- and moderate-income residents, and the city as a whole.

This plan is the result of an eighteen-month collaborative process that included extensive public outreach, multiple public hearings, and consultation with dozens of agencies, groups, and organizations.

The past five years saw radical changes in the local and national housing markets, contraction in economic markets and in 2010 presented strained local budgets and threats to the sustainability of the small non-profit network. As we face challenges not seen in over a decade, the community needs to respond in new and bolder ways. This five year Consolidated Plan lays a path for Rochester to make some innovative changes in its use of its Community Development Block Grant. Creativity along with strategic investment in systems and sources will encourage the growth of new resources available to our community to tackle the challenges of the next decade. We envision that these choices will assist in maintaining our local quality of life and prime the economic and human service engine for growth over the next ten years.

The underlying structure is the same for every jurisdictions plan. All plans must address the needs of the community, primarily benefiting the needs of the lower income persons (defined as those with household incomes below 80% of the area median. In Strafford County, the median income in 2011 was \$83,100). Plans must address these three national objectives set forth by HUD.

- To provide decent housing
- To provide a suitable living environment
- To expand economic opportunities

Below is a short outline of HUD's expectations of what our community should be addressing, and what our Consolidated Plan suggests we do to meet their objectives with our Community Development Block Grant. In the following Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation report, we will detail how we addressed the year four goals.

Following is a summary of the three statutory program goals for the Consolidated Plan, what those goals include under CDBG regulations, and what activities the City of Rochester proposed to provide for them.

The first is to Provide Decent Housing which address HUD outcome performance measures as noted below:

**Assisting Homeless Persons Obtain Affordable Housing and Assisting Persons at Risk of Homelessness** (Provides Decent, Affordable Housing/Availability/accessibility)

In conjunction with existing homeless, mental health, veteran and advocate groups:

- Support of shelters, transitional and permanent supportive housing for the homeless and other vulnerable groups
- Exploration of shelter for unaccompanied youth or other resources to respond to growing need
- Exploration of resources available for long-term supportive housing for the chronically homeless population

**Retention of Affordable Housing Stock** (Provides Decent, Affordable Housing/Affordability)

In conjunction with Community Action Programs, private and non-profit housing developers:

- Support of weatherization and other energy efficiency programs to provide long-term affordability/sustainability to low-income households
- Exploration of future housing rehabilitation programs, including coordination of regional resources for lead paint abatement assistance
- Exploration and support for the creation of workforce housing opportunities

**Increasing the Supply of Supportive Housing Which Includes Structural Features and Services to Enable Persons with Special Needs (Including Persons with HIV/AIDS) To Live In Dignity and Independence**  
(Creating Suitable Living environment/Availability/accessibility)

- Exploration of resources available for long term supportive housing for chronically homeless population
- Exploration of and support for permanent housing for unaccompanied youth, including youth aging out of foster care
- Continued service to disabled individuals requiring home modifications to ensure accessibility
- Improving access to services that address unique needs of special populations on an outpatient basis

**The second is to Provide a Suitable Living Environment**

which address HUD outcome performance measures as noted below:

**Improving the Safety and Livability of Neighborhoods (including revitalization of deteriorating neighborhoods)** (Creating Suitable Living environment/sustainability)

- Ongoing coordination with the Department of Public Works for enhancements to major infrastructure improvement projects in lowest income neighborhoods.
- Continued review of neighborhood conditions and exploration of funding sources and project structures that can address deficiencies that negatively impact the health, safety and quality of life of a neighborhood.

**Increasing Access to Quality Public and Private Facilities and Services** (Creating Suitable Living environment/Availability/Accessibility)

- Support of public services serving low-income populations of greatest need and offering greatest potential for long term stability
- Development and participation in coalition designed to foster greater collaboration and resource sharing
- Encourage and support of transportation groups to provide greater access to community resources for low income, elderly and disabled populations
- Exploration and execution of additional measures to ensure access to public buildings and other public service facilities and increase safety for disabled citizens
- Further renovations to the Community Center to further refine access and accessibility for clientele of numerous public services located within

**Reducing the isolation of income groups within areas through spatial deconcentration of housing opportunities for lower income persons** (Creating Suitable Living environment/sustainability)

- Encourage thoughtful exploration of appropriate locations for low-income and workforce housing placement

**Conservation Of Energy Resources** (Creating Suitable Living environment/sustainability)

- Exploration of measures to assist public service or other eligible partners to increase energy efficiency and long-term sustainability

**The third is to Expand Economic Opportunities**

which address HUD outcome performance measures as noted below:

**Job Creation and Retention** (Create Economic Opportunity/Sustainability)

- Maintain revolving loan fund for small business financing in exchange for job creation/retention agreements
- Explore partnership and leveraging resources to achieve City goals as outlined in the Economic Development Strategic Plan including access and development to industrial parcels, the development of a revolving loan fund for code improvements to downtown business owners

**Establishment, Stabilization and Expansion of Small Businesses (Including Micro- Businesses)** (Create Economic Opportunity/Availability/accessibility)

- Support for resources to maintain access to skill development within the community for small businesses
- Continue development of the Main St. Marketplace incubator project concept to foster growth of micro-enterprises and seek funds to leverage alongside CDBG for implementation.

**The Provision of Public Services Concerned With Employment** (Create suitable Living Environment/Availability/accessibility)

- Encourage partnership responses to addressing specific employment accessibility gaps in specialty populations, such as the newly unemployed, mentally ill and minors.

Our Community Development Block Grant for this action plan of Consolidated Plan was \$330,986 for initial funding purposes. In a

separate initiative, the city was awarded \$2.5 million dollars under the state administered NSP program in 2009, work for which continues into 2011. A short description of those accomplishments is included in the Other Activities/Self-Evaluation section.

**Financial Summary of the Program Reporting Year-by Activity**

<b>Agency/Project</b>	<b>Approved FY 10-11 Budget</b>	<b>FY 10-11 Investment</b>
<b>Avis Goodwin</b>	\$3,648	\$3,648
<b>Crossroads</b>	\$3,500	\$3,500
<b>Homeless Shelter Strafford County</b>	\$7,000	\$7,000
<b>My Friend's Place</b>	\$6,000	\$6,000
<b>SHARE Fund</b>	\$6,000	\$6,000
<b>AIDS Response</b>	\$3,000	\$3,000
<b>Rochester Child Care</b>	\$7,500	\$7,500
<b>Big Brothers/Big Sisters</b>	\$3,000	\$3,000
<b>Dover Adult Learning</b>	\$5,000	\$5,000
<b>Project Pride</b>	\$5,000	\$5,000
<b>\$49,648</b>		<b>\$49,648</b>
<b>Mobile Home Rehabilitation</b>	(previous years funds)	\$16,301
<b>Weatherization</b>	\$40,000 (and previous year balance)	\$46,754
		<b>\$63,055</b>
<b>Small Business Development Center</b>	\$10,000	\$10,000
<b>JOB Loan Revolving Loan Fund</b>	(accumulated program income)	\$40,000
		<b>\$50,000</b>
<b>Crossroads Transitional Housing Rehab</b>	\$50,000	\$0
<b>Community Center HVAC*</b>	\$0	\$0
<b>NSP Code Enforcement Legal Fund</b>	\$10,000	\$0
<b>Historic Society Elevator</b>	\$65,000	\$59,360
<b>Community Center Renovations</b>	(previous year funds)	\$340
<b>Main St. Marketplace**</b>	\$0	\$0
<b>Pine St. Improvements</b>	\$40,141	\$0
		<b>\$59,700</b>

Agency/Project	Approved FY 10-11 Budget	FY 10-11 Investment
<b>Administration</b>	\$66,197	\$59,379
<b>Grant FY 10-11/Expenditures</b>	<b>\$330,986</b>	<b>\$281,782</b>

\*Funds reallocated to NSP Code Enforcement Legal Fund

\*\*Funds reallocated to Pine St. Improvements

See narrative for detail on above

### 2010-2011 CAPER Detail: Activities Narrative

#### 1. Basic Needs

Procuring safe shelter, sustenance...without these, no person is able to live, let alone realize a productive existence. These most fundamental requirements, along with immediate health and safety concerns form the definition of our Basic Needs category. For a twenty four hour period in January 2011, the homeless population in Strafford County was counted. In Strafford County, 80 individuals were sheltered (families and individuals); 20 were unsheltered; 43 were described as "temporarily doubled up", sharing housing with a friend or relative on a short term basis, typically paying a no or a nominal amount towards rent. This is roughly double the number reported during the point in time survey in 2010.

Funding for Basic Needs activities was approved as follows in the category of Public Services:

AVIS GOODWIN - Providing access to health care for uninsured individuals is this program's main goal. Individuals seeking preventative and non-emergency care that are under or non-insured would still be able to access quality healthcare in downtown Rochester. This project is eligible for CDBG funding by serving low/mod income limited clientele -570.208 (a) (2).



FY 10-11 FUNDING: \$3,648

PROJECTED SERVICE TO: 1248 individuals *(all programs)*

SERVICE TO: 57 individuals *(with this funding subsidy)*

Performance is measured by increasing access to healthcare for low and very low income individuals.

CROSSROADS HOUSE - is the emergency homeless shelter in nearby Portsmouth. Staff research showed that proportional to bedspace, as many Rochester residents



in need of immediate shelter utilized Crossroads as utilized the shelter in Dover. 5-10% of their bed nights go to Rochester residents. This project is eligible for CDBG funding by serving low/mod income limited clientele -570.208 (a) (2).

FY 10-11 FUNDING: \$3,500

PROJECTED SERVICE TO: 38 INDIVIDUALS

SERVICE TO: 47 INDIVIDUALS

Performance is measured by having an adequate network of emergency housing options for people without housing.

HOMELESS CENTER FOR STRAFFORD COUNTY - This six-month facility provides another level of care for those with no other resources. Families and single women may stay at the shelter and receive a breakfast. Referrals to the shelter through city welfare offices and are screened by My Friend's Place in Dover, in order to connect these individuals with the assistance they need to get back into permanent housing. Last year 55 Rochester residents received shelter. This regional partnership has been very successful in filling a gap in the continuum of care. Local shelters were often at capacity for months on end, and while the obligation of city welfare offices to provide shelter remained, the options were limited. Cooperation amongst local agencies and the City, guided by the local Housing Consortium (the regional continuum of care group) found a solution in this shelter model that adequately filled that gap.

This project is eligible for CDBG funding by serving low/mod income limited clientele -570.208 (a) (2).

FY 10-11 FUNDING: \$7,000

PROJECTED SERVICE TO: 65 INDIVIDUALS

SERVICE TO: 30 INDIVIDUALS

Performance is measured by having an adequate network of emergency housing options for people without housing.

MY FRIEND'S PLACE - is Strafford County's only full-time, year round shelter that provides housing for homeless individuals and families. Since it's opening in 1989, it has been providing temporary housing and a range of services to help rebuild meaningful lives. Rochester residents who are homeless seek adequate housing while staying at My Friend's Place, either in the emergency shelter or occasionally moving to their Transitional Housing Program. Transitional housing allows for a stay of up to two years in a private apartment while residents receive intensive case management and access to resources. In the FY 01-02, My Friend's Place completed an addition that made the shelter fully accessible to persons with mobility limitations and added 6 new beds to their capacity. This project is eligible for CDBG funding by serving low/mod income limited clientele -570.208 (a) (2).

FY 10-11 FUNDING: \$6,000

PROJECTED SERVICE TO: 45 INDIVIDUALS

SERVICE TO: 45 INDIVIDUALS

Performance is measured by having an adequate network of emergency housing options for people without housing.

HOLY ROSARY SHARE FUND - provides food, clothing and financial assistance to Rochester residents in need thereby reducing the burden on other publicly funded services like the Rochester Welfare Department. The staff is entirely volunteer.



Benefactors sponsor all operational expenses. Their grant is utilized to provide security deposit assistance for families (95 individuals last year) who otherwise may become homeless. This project is eligible for CDBG funding by serving low/mod income limited clientele -570.208 (a) (2).

The city also supports the efforts of the SHARE fund's other activities, Gerry's Food Pantry and the Community Clothing Closet that provide food and clothing for needy residents through providing space in the community center and waiving the collection of rent that would otherwise be valued at over \$18,000 a year.

FY 10-11 FUNDING: \$6,000

PROJECTED SERVICE TO: 120 INDIVIDUALS

SERVICE TO: 57 INDIVIDUALS

Performance is measured by allowing people to move into permanent housing, rather than into the shelter network.

## 2. Safety Net

There are many agencies and activities we have funded in the past and still rely upon which inspired the category of "safety net." These are programs, which provide direct services to our children, elderly, and augment City services, such as our police force and welfare office. These are projects and services from agencies that provide focused situation specific solutions to a wide variety of needs Rochester Citizens have expressed. This category also includes projects that protect the health, safety and the access of public buildings for citizens. This year we selected projects in the Public Services and Public Facilities categories.

Funding for Safety Net activities was approved as follows in the category of PUBLIC FACILITIES Category:

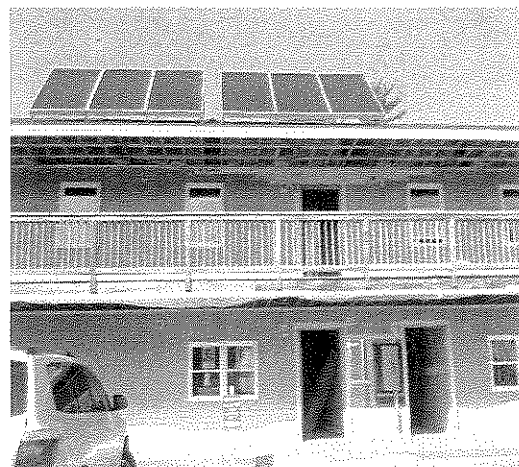
CROSSROADS HOUSE - As part of a massive capital improvements project, Crossroads is moving on to the rehabilitation of the family transitional housing

area of their Portsmouth complex. This renovation will increase number of families able to be served and provide adequate sized space for larger families and add kitchenettes for safe food storage and preparation, something currently not available. The administrators of state CDBG funds, CDFA, along with the cities of Dover and Portsmouth have also committed funds for the critically needed renovations to this part of the shelter. The outcome of this project was delayed due to the bid coming in significantly higher than the original budget. Additional funding from NHHFA and CDFA was being sought and an additional allocation was made by the City. Construction is now underway (summer of 2011). Final reporting will be including in the FY 2011-2012 report.

FY 10-11 FUNDING: \$50,000

PROJECTED SERVICE TO: 38 INDIVIDUALS

Performance is measured by having an adequate network of emergency housing options for people without housing.



### **Crossroads Transitional Family Shelter in progress, Summer 2011**

Funding for Safety Net activities was approved as follows in the category of PUBLIC SERVICES Category:

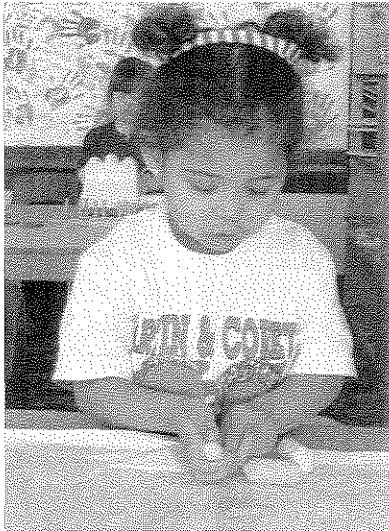
AIDS RESPONSE SEACOAST - After suffering deep federal cuts to funding, ARS remains viable and able to provide case management, health care management and supportive services to HIV + individuals. In order to increase access to case management, ARS staff will be holding office hours in the Rochester Community Center beginning this summer. This project is eligible for CDBG funding by serving low/mod income limited clientele -570.208 (a) (2).

FY 10-11 FUNDING: \$3,000

PROJECTED SERVICE TO: 15 INDIVIDUALS

SERVICE TO: 17 INDIVIDUALS

Performance is measured by improvement to case management and increased health sustainability.



ROCHESTER CHILD CARE - has provided quality affordable childcare for Rochester for 30 years. In the past year, state funding for Title XX has declined. This funding provided child care subsidy for poor working families, making employment possible. There is now a significant wait list to attain this vital piece of public assistance. This new award will provide some relief for families who can't afford child care and for whom this would present a barrier to employment. This project is eligible for CDBG funding by serving low/mod income limited clientele -570.208 (a) (2).

FY 10-11 FUNDING: \$7,500

PROJECTED SERVICE TO: 11 CHILDREN SCHORLARSHIPS

SERVICE TO: 21 CHILDREN SCHOLARSHIPS

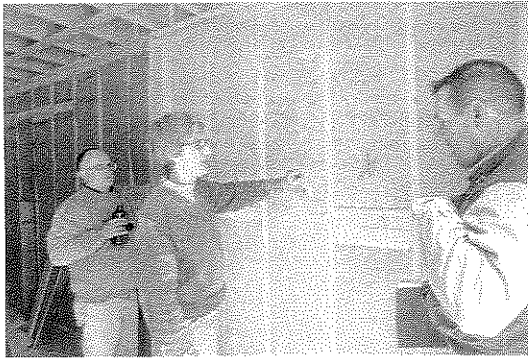
Performance is measured by providing relief to families who otherwise would not be able to attain employment without appropriate, affordable childcare.

Funding for Safety Net activities was approved as follows in the category of HOUSING:

MOBLE HOME REHABILITATION PROGRAM –Mobile homes comprise over 20% of our housing stock in Rochester. That stock also represents the most affordable option for homeownership in our community. These homes are often the refuges for the independent minded elderly who often own their homes outright and can afford their park rents on their limited incomes. However, these same households rarely have the means to respond to a significant failure in their home, like failing furnace or a roof leak. Our program targeted these limited income households for repairs and mobility improvements that is unique in the state. Our original goal was to achieve an additional 10 years of life in mobiles homes from the 70's and 80's with an expenditure of less than \$7,500. Our average expenditure increased this year to an average of \$5,433 per unit. Funding cut backs have lead us to seriously curtail our rehabilitation activities under this program, however, utilizing prior year funds we did assist three units with handicap accessibility, health and safety improvements.

FY 10-11 FUNDING: no additional funds  
 PROJECTED SERVICE TO: 0 Housing Units  
 SERVICE TO: 3 Households  
 Actual Expenditures: \$16,301  
 Average expenditure per home: \$5,433

WEATHERIZATION PROGRAM - Designed to help low- and very-low income persons in Rochester reduce the cost of utilities through energy conservation



methods, this popular program has served hundreds of very low-income Rochester residents over the years. Federal ARRA funding has increased the number of households who will be able to receive. Items specifically addressed are repairing heating systems, carbon monoxide testing, moisture assessments, removal or correction of health and safety hazards in order to improve the general living

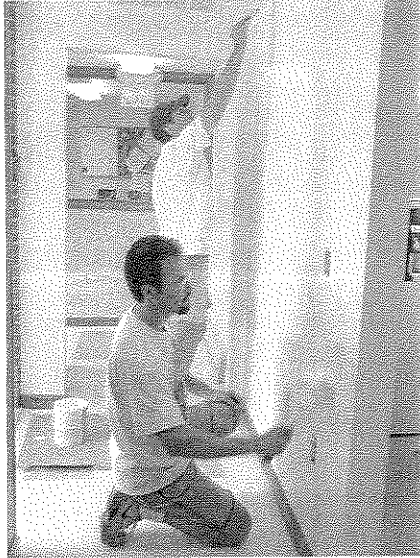
conditions of the residents. These funds are matched at least 1:1 with the New Hampshire Department of Energy Weatherization grant for Strafford County. The goal is to use \$40,000 of CDBG funds to leverage the state grant as well as various private grants, such as those provided through public utilities. 63 households were provided with an energy audit and some form of energy efficiency improvements that will yield at least a 25% energy savings. These savings are measured via later audit and/or follow up with fuel assistance clients who must provide fuel/electrical bills. Referrals are generally through Strafford County Community Action program, which administers the local fuel assistance grants. This project is eligible for CDBG funding by serving low/mod income housing -570.208 (a) (3).

FY 10-11 FUNDING: \$40,000  
 PROJECTED SERVICE TO: 25 Housing Units  
 SERVICE TO: 63 Housing Units  
 Actual CDBG Expenditures: \$46,754  
 Average expenditure per home: \$742 (not including outside grants)  
 Performance is measured by improving the energy efficiency and safety of these units.

### 3. Investment

Without investment in our community, our City will be compelled to exercise all of its future resources in dealing with chronic problems of poverty, lack of opportunity and community stability. To support our lowest income neighborhoods, a commitment is

being made to community investment, reflected in both neighborhoods and individuals. With a strong emphasis on access, public facilities improvements and economic development will likely absorb most of the overall Consolidated Plan period funding, though some activities will fall under our Safety Net Category as well. The Community Center will continue to be a focus of CDBG investing for the next couple of years as the final stages of improvements are completed. Today it serves the entire City in one form or another, with a huge presence in the lives of our lowest income residents. Located in this space is the regional state office of Health and Human Services, Strafford County Headstart, the Rochester Seniors Organization, Workplace Success (job training for



TANF recipients), Gerry's Food Pantry and the Community Clothing Shop. In the summer of 2010, the HUB family resource Center, Sexual Assault Support Services, A Safe Place, AIDS response Seacoast and Child and Family Services moved into short term or permanent program and administrative spaces. These organizations form the core services access by the community CDBG is required to respond to. This building sees many other uses as well, through the location of the school department administrative offices, the City recreation department and numerous athletic events that take place there. Beyond those tenants and uses, community clubs and associations regularly use meeting and other space in this building to enrich our community

with their activities and events. The requirements of these uses vary a great deal and the building is not ideally suited for this mixture of clientele and activity load. However, it is clear that improvements to the space allocation, signage, and aesthetics of this building will go far to making best and efficient use of this important community resource. This will no doubt be the most significant project the Community Development Block Grant will fund in Rochester during this Consolidated Plan period.

Funding for Investment activities was approved as follows in the category of PUBLIC SERVICES Category:

BIG BROTHERS/BIG SISTERS OF THE GREATER SEACOAST - Providing mentoring services individually and through after school programs, this source of preventative work received funding this year for the first time. Working in conjunction with the local schools monitoring the grades of the "Littles" matched through the program will give a strong indication of the value and impact of the matches on the lives of the young people participating. This project is eligible for CDBG funding by serving low/mod income limited clientele -570.208 (a) (2).

FY 10-11 FUNDING: \$3,000

PROJECTED SERVICE TO: 55 INDIVIDUALS

SERVICE TO: 57 INDIVIDUALS

Performance is measured by the reduction of the match wait list and increase in school performance of participants.

DOVER ADULT LEARNING CENTER - provides adult basic education in four



different areas including basic skill and literacy, high school or GED completion, vocational education and community enrichment. Classes are offered in many accessible locations in Rochester and can include childcare in order to reduce another barrier. This project is

eligible for CDBG funding by serving low/mod income limited clientele - 570.208 (a) (2).

FY 10-11 FUNDING: \$5,000

PROJECTED SERVICE TO: 360 INDIVIDUALS

SERVICE TO: 397 INDIVIDUALS

Performance is measured by the completion of adult basic skills and GED courses by Rochester residents.

PROJECT PRIDE - assists students (17-21) who have left traditional school, with



vocational and educational skills with the goal of completion of the GED, acquiring pre-employment skills, work maturity skills such as filling out applications, interviewing, punctuality and demonstrating positive attitudes. This program has a high completion rate due in part to the fact that the students applying for a spot are there by choice, rather than being court ordered or mandated by the school district. This program is offered in four cycles each year. This project is eligible for CDBG funding by serving low/mod income limited clientele -570.208 (a) (2).

FY 10-11 FUNDING: \$5,000

PROJECTED SERVICE TO: 25 INDIVIDUALS

SERVICE TO: 29 INDIVIDUALS

Performance is measured by GED completion and job placement of participants in the program.

Funding for Investment activities was approved as follows in the category of ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

JOB REVOLVING LOAN PROGRAM – JOB REVOLVING LOAN PROGRAM - The Job Opportunity Benefit (JOB) Loan program provides a source of funding for businesses to expand, modernize or relocate within Rochester. These funds are almost always used as “gap” financing for businesses to add additional debt to their conventional financing. Currently, typical loans range between \$25,000 and \$50,000. Eligible applicants include Rochester business’ that commit to hiring two to six full-time (or full-time equivalent) workers who qualify as low/moderate income prior to employment. The City’s economic development capacity is enhanced by the infusion of CDBG funds since over \$6,000 a month is currently being repaid to the City and becomes available to fund future loans. This type of activity is eligible for CDBG funding because of the benefit to low and moderate income families. The City’s goal is to continue this unique program, but right now program income is accumulating faster than current demand for this type of financial assistance. Therefore, a special committee has been created to examine current unmet and emerging economic development needs and determine if any of them are good candidates for support through CDBG and JOB Loan program resources.

No new grant funding was allocated from the FY 10-11 award. In the second half of FY10, much of our accumulated program income had gone out to new loans, but at the close of FY 10, there was \$73,629 in program income going into FY 10-11. Along with this resource, the strong portfolio was expected to generate close to \$80,000 in program income during the course of the year, which was then available for new loans.

Due to the unexpected death of the principal of one of our job loan recipients, we received an early loan payoff and an installment of \$10,000 towards the outstanding principal on a loan that defaulted in 2008, the balance of which will be written off for FY 10-11.

The portfolio of JOB loans stands as follows as of June 30, 2011:

	Original Loan	Final Payment	FTE Jobs to be created
Custom Banner	\$50,000	Apr 2014	8
Distinctive Forest Creations	\$35,000	Oct 2013	4
Specialty Textile Products	\$70,000	Jun 2013	6



Yo's Thai Cuisine, LLC	\$50,000	Jun 2012	2
Carney Medical	\$30,000	Aug 2014	2
Phone Booth, LLC	\$25,000	Apr 2014	2
Blue Oasis	\$50,000	Jun 2015	3
Country Tire	\$40,000	July 2018	6
\$350,000.00 Total Jobs:			33

**SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER** – is a Micro-enterprise assistance program that promoted job creation through a process of education and counseling for local small business owners and those looking to start new enterprises. Counseling and workshops are offered throughout the year. Staff also called upon occasionally to work with recipients of the JOB Loan program. This project is eligible for CDBG funding by serving low/mod income limited clientele -570.208 (a) (2). After a monitoring visit in 2006, the agency was urged to alter the reporting of client usage and keep reporting to unduplicated clients attending programming each quarter. Returning individuals are no longer counted each additional time they access programming.

FY 10-11 FUNDING: \$10,000

PROJECTED SERVICE TO: 60 INDIVIDUALS

SERVICE TO: 24 INDIVIDUALS

Performance is measured by participation in programming by small and start-up business owners.

Funding for Investment activities was approved as follows in the category of PUBLIC FACILITIES IMPROVEMENTS AND INFRASTRUCTURE Category:

**HISTORIC SOCIETY ELEVATOR** - The Rochester Historic Society is located in the heart of downtown Rochester and serves the community through its stewardship of local treasures of historic significance and presents regular presentations to the public. Their collection is housed in a city owned building leased to the society, but to date has not been made fully handicap accessible. This project dedicated funds to provide the building with an appropriate lift to remove this impediment for elderly and disabled access to the second floor. This project is eligible for CDBG funding by serving low/mod area -570.208 (a) (2). Installation began in the spring of 2011 and completed in June.

FY 10-11 FUNDING: \$65,000

SERVICE: CITY WIDE; severely disabled and Elderly

**COMMUNITY CENTER NON-PROFIT SPACE HVAC/NSP CODE ENFORCEMENT LEGAL FUND** - Funds originally allocated for the HVAC were not needed as other

cooling solutions for the renovated community center space were found (related project reported in the FY 09-10 CAPER). In the winter of 2011, council approved a re-appropriation of these funds to support a legal fund for the Code Enforcement Department. As neighborhood listening sessions held in the fall of 2010 and winter of 2011 showed, the privately owned neglected properties in the NSP target neighborhood were having a negative effect on the vitality of the neighborhood over all. However, without a legal budget, the Code Enforcement Department could only take a limited number of steps to encourage property owners to make their properties safe and reduce their potential as a hazard to the area. With the security that the department would have the resources to fight a legal challenge by owners of severely debilitated properties, should one be made, the Code Enforcement Department was able to consult with the city attorney, the



police department community policing unit and the police department prosecutor to coordinate a plan to ensure the building owners would comply with health and safety codes. Reports on the outcomes of these efforts will be included in the FY 11-12 report.

This project is eligible for CDBG funding by serving low/mod area -570.208 (a) (2).

FY 10-11 FUNDING: \$10,000

PROJECTED SERVICE TO: LM Area Benefit

Program addresses the following HUD objective/outcome categories: Create suitable living environments/availability.

MAIN ST. MARKETPLACE/PINE STREET IMPROVEMENTS – During the development of the FY 10-11 Action Plan, the ad-hoc downtown redevelopment team was awaiting the release of the feasibility study for the much anticipated Main St. Marketplace project. It was expected (at that time) that the study would outline a prospective course of action for the development of this incubator space and the city council authorized \$41,141 towards architectural plans and initial engineering, in preparation for a larger allocation and other grant funds for construction in FY 11-12. Unfortunately, the feasibility study results were not as pragmatic or as readily attainable as was hoped for and the project was halted. The Community Development Committee had discussed a contingency plan for this particular allocation in case this happened. On March 10, the Community Development committee approved the submission of a reallocation request to utilize CDBG funds as part of the Pine St. improvements recently authorized by the Public Works committee and the council. These funds will pay for the installation

of sidewalks, the resetting of granite curbing and the purchase of additional curbing as needed.

This project directly addresses the following CDBG Consolidated Plan goal:

***Improving the Safety and Livability of Neighborhoods (including revitalization of deteriorating neighborhoods)***

***Outcome measurement:*** Creating Suitable Living environment/sustainability

- Ongoing coordination with the Department of Public Works for enhancements to major infrastructure improvement projects in lowest income neighborhoods.
- Continued review of neighborhood conditions and exploration of funding sources and project structures that can address deficiencies that negatively impact the health, safety and quality of life of a neighborhood.

Construction for this new project was appended to the existing Washington St. Improvement project (adjacent) and was approved by DOT in June 2011. These street improvements are within and border the Neighborhood Stabilization Program area. The conditions on Pine St. had also been brought up numerous times during the neighborhood listening sessions of 2010 and 2011. This project is eligible for CDBG funding by serving low/mod area -570.208 (a) (2).

FY 10-11 FUNDING: \$40,141

PROJECTED SERVICE TO: LM Area Benefit

Program addresses the following HUD objective/outcome categories: Create suitable living environments/availability.

Administration, Self Evaluation other areas of activity

This plan represents the first year of the 2010-2011 Consolidated Plan. Our grant for FY 10-11 was \$330,986, the first increase over a previous years grant in quite some time. \$66,197 was the maximum available for program Planning and Administration of the Community Development Block Grant. Funding in this category pays for staff salaries to plan, execute and report on the activities described above, as well as mandatory public notices, supplies, legal services, proportional share city audit costs, etc. Planning and administrative expenses are authorized under CDBG regulation 570.206.

Staff coordinates the projects selected in this plan and provides technical assistance to agencies and the public on how best to invest in their neighborhoods in compliance with the federal guidelines governing the Community Development Block Grant.

The mission of Community Development is to work with the community, nonprofit and private sector partners to improve neighborhoods and assist lower income people to improve the quality of their lives. We know CDBG cannot fill every gap and meet every

need, but we believe the policies and guidance provided by our Consolidated Plan will give us a fair and consistent way to make the highest value investment and measure benefit to the community.

Staff time is often used to assist other activities in Rochester, including the implementation of the Neighborhood Stabilization Program; accordingly staff costs were allocated between the two programs again this year. Staying connected to community in other capacities brings fresh information about the status of the low-income community and provides inspiration for future programming or changes needed to prevent additional instances of homelessness or neighborhood degradation, for example.

The Community Development Staff also continue to participate in the larger web of social service agencies, United Way Solutions Forums, and strive to find ways to improve the living conditions for lower income people through non-traditional and often non-financial means. As funding sources get tighter, it takes the collective creativity of the community leaders to continue to find solutions.

**Monitoring:** Performance of every applicant and program will be compared annually with projected goals as well as their ability to comply with federal and local regulations. All subgrantees have a contract or letter of agreement on file with the City. Every subgrantee of the program will be monitored regularly.

Monitoring for most agencies will take the form of annual visits to the site office where reporting statistics are kept, as well as the site where activities take place, if different. Staff also takes the opportunity to visit many agencies when they are open to the public or during special events, to keep current with activities the agency is engaged in and to get a first hand look at how the agency presents itself to the general public.

Agencies with CDBG funding from both Rochester and neighboring Dover are often monitored in conjunction with one another. Time taken for the grantee to have their reporting practices reviewed and update the entitlement community representatives on current and future activities and to analyze service trends is decreased by having one monitoring session instead of two. The previous year's monitoring led to working with certain agencies to report on their client usage slightly differently. Agencies that were likely to have a point of entry and then an ongoing relationship with their clients were asked to report on that client contact only for the quarter when they had their initial intake. If clients continue on in programming in later quarters, those individuals would not be counted. It is felt that this better reflects the interest level and the needs of the community and their willingness to participate in the agencies programming.

This year saw a reverse in how Public Service Agency funding was handled from the previous year. FY 10-11 represents a return to the original style of competitive public service agency awards for operating funds or special projects. a significant change

in the funding of Public Service agencies occurred. Many of the activities funded through CDBG in the past were instead supported through grants from the City Manager's special fund. This was thought to reduce reporting burdens and administrative requirements. Activities supported through the City Manager's special fund are as follows: Your VNA (elder home care services); the Homemakers (elder home care services); Strafford County Community Action (poverty outreach programs).

Coordination of the local institutional structure was enhanced by the greater overall participation of the combined Seacoast and Strafford County Continuum of Care. Representatives of over 17 different organizations participate regularly to assess the current continuum of care for the. Work continues to educate members of the continuum on areas of interest outside of our normal spheres of influence and to hold forums with representatives of the same position from more than one of our communities, such as the chiefs of police from Dover, Portsmouth and Rochester, or the Homeless Liaisons from several school administrative units in our local service delivery area. These opportunities allow us to have dialogue with the agencies and people who interact with the clientele that serves to enrich our understanding and delivery of services to the homeless.

Rochester's housing market reflects a wide variety of housing choice, to the benefit of many different types of households. As of the 2000 Census Data, 11,836 housing units existed within the City. NH Office of Energy and Planning estimates that this figure had grown to 13,324 by 2006. Anecdotally we observe that conditions have improved since 2000 when there was less than a 4% vacancy rate. Housing has been easier to obtain (rental and purchase), however the access to mortgages has tightened significantly in the last two years. Rochester has remained a 'haven' for regional affordable housing, as compared to nearby markets, but with our higher concentration of lower income households, even our "affordable" units, can be out of reach for citizens, particularly as unemployment rises.

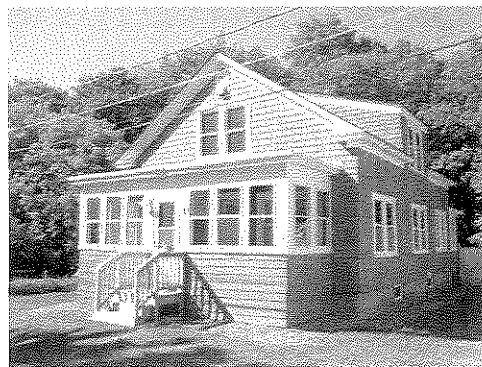
Impediments to fair housing choice appear to be low, however, reduced funding at the NH Legal Assistance office would be impacting the number of reports received due to lower intake and investigations numbers. Likewise, there is less outreach to the community as a result and although we typically have at least one community forum on Fair Housing, there wasn't one in FY 10-11. However, as more detailed 2010 census data is made available, we will continue to update our Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing with this more current information.

City regulations encourage infill, multi-housing type developments and higher density development. Encouraging housing type diversity is thought to be one way to encourage the development of affordable housing, when large scale, economical developments are hard to find support for.

The Rochester Community Development Block Grant funded activities are limited in scope, but still have a significant and visible impact on the growth and well being of the community. Our investments contribute to the overall health and stability of our community and we strive to utilize the collaborative climate to spur change and meet emerging needs regardless of our grant funding levels.

### **The Neighborhood Stabilization Program**

The award to the City of \$2.4 million dollars for the purpose of purchasing and rehabilitating foreclosed properties to prevent further neighborhood deterioration in areas where foreclosures have been significant.



By the end of the fiscal year, four properties containing five buildings were purchased and construction contracts were finalized on four of the buildings. In part, this was made possible by the supplemental award of an additional \$120,000 bringing the total awarded to Rochester to \$2.52 million.

Rehabilitation plans include full abatement of all lead, asbestos and structural deficiencies. The renovated units will be highly energy efficient, architecturally sensitive and affordable to moderate income homeowners.

Figures in the table below reflect the actual expenditure per property for all costs accrued in FY 10-11, comprised primarily of rehabilitation, marketing for sale upon completion and carrying costs.

41 Pine Street, 2 units	\$330,397
56A & 56B Chestnut Street, 3 units in two buildings	\$659,149
65 Lafayette Street, 3 units	\$597,985
5 Brochu Court, 2 units	\$269,154

Foreclosures continue to be an issue in Rochester and throughout Strafford County. Referrals to the services that New Hampshire Housing Finance Authority and New Hampshire Legal Assistance continue to be our most valuable tools for homeowners at risk of losing their homes.

***Strafford County Registry of Deeds Real Estate Activity: 2005-2011 (January to June)***

	Deeds											Mortgages											Foreclosures										
Location	05	06	07	08	09	10	11		05	06	07	08	09	10	11		05	06	07	08	09	10	11										
Barrington	254	213	174	142	164	147	128		462	390	316	248	305	215	177		1	1	9	14	12	16	17										
Dover	551	558	459	355	308	359	374		1,155	1,094	875	675	714	499	532		2	2	8	26	25	39	29										
Durham	130	106	111	174	75	84	80		257	211	187	148	220	157	157		0	0	1	2	1	4	2										
Farmington	168	158	109	77	93	85	84		358	319	264	154	149	115	96		0	6	4	15	18	27	20										
Lee	96	76	92	46	39	47	61		197	143	113	97	130	94	98		0	1	0	3	5	8	3										
Madbury	31	34	24	34	19	29	26		73	73	59	53	62	43	44		0	0	0	1	3	2	0										
Middleton	41	64	34	30	28	30	33		107	104	72	58	54	32	41		1	1	2	4	6	8	4										
Milton	138	139	104	96	62	73	86		290	228	182	139	121	83	79		2	4	7	8	15	16	20										
New Durham	141	90	78	61	58	58	59		191	153	134	109	89	64	58		2	3	5	5	4	9	8										
Rochester	706	648	485	452	380	369	372		1,348	1,274	903	665	577	439	415		6	19	36	50	53	72	65										
Rollinsford	47	40	65	38	31	49	27		97	97	97	61	71	47	49		0	2	1	2	2	2	8										
Somersworth	225	180	155	138	122	126	136		490	431	349	269	229	169	180		1	7	9	12	17	23	15										
Strafford	79	75	61	57	30	72	71		218	184	156	104	121	100	115		1	1	2	4	4	6	6										
Strafford Cnty	5	12	24	11	11	8	14		147	204	193	48	20	16	23		1	2	1	1	3	1	3										
TOTAL (Jan.-June)	2,222	2,002	1,522	1,222	1,122	1,122	1,122		5,380	4,833	3,899	2,828	2,862	2,173	2,084		17	49	85	117	168	235	200										
TOTAL (Year)	5,498	4,802	3,842	3,339	3,287	3,203	n/a		11,343	9,656	6,175	5,073	5,418	4,798	n/a		40	119	229	312	354	420	n/a										

Source: Strafford County Registrar of Deeds Leo Lessard