

FINAL DRAFT May 2015



CITY OF BIDDEFORD, MAINE

Year 3 Action Plan

July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016

**U.S DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT
ENTITLEMENT PROGRAM**



The City’s Entitlement Mission Statement is as follows:

“To create a Strategic Plan for the next five years that continues to enhance the community and economic development of the City of Biddeford through targeted public facility and infrastructure improvements, social services, housing, economic development projects, and activities that benefit residents, including low to moderate income persons and special needs population groups.”

Objectives and Outcomes

The following are the priorities, objectives and outcomes for the new Consolidated 5 Year Plan that began on July 1st, 2013. These priorities, objectives and outcomes also are part of each individual year’s Action Plan. Detailed projects and programs for each of the five years are developed and prioritized from this list. Priorities are listed in the order in which they rank (highest Priority #1, etc.) Each is also addressed within narrative of the Consolidated Plan and are part of the multifaceted approach to continue to address the City’s issues. It should be noted that although Infrastructure is Priority 1 that from comments collected at the Public Hearings and from the Citizens Advisory Committee, Priority 2, Housing, is to be funded equally with Infrastructure.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Priority 1 - To eliminate slum and blight in the downtown area through infrastructure and public facilities improvements that benefit LMI neighborhoods.

HUD OBJECTIVE – CREATING A SUITABLE LIVING ENVIRONMENT

Outcome – Improving sustainability by promoting viable communities

Objective 1 - Increase access and provide public facilities that provide for the health and safety of residents in LMI neighborhoods.

- Actions:
1. Implement sidewalk and other street improvements, ADA projects and beautification projects in LMI neighborhoods for safe and adequate access to services and facilities.
 2. Implement park, trail and walkway developments in LMI neighborhoods for safe and adequate recreation needs through acquisition, demolition and redevelopment.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

HUD OBJECTIVE – CREATING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

Outcome – Improving sustainability by promoting viable communities

Objective 2 - Increase business attraction to promote job creation

- Actions:
1. Provide loan/grant assistance to commercial property owners and businesses through a Downtown Micro Loan Program.
 2. Provide for projects that increase the economic viability of the downtown.
 3. Implement sustainable energy related projects in the downtown.

HOUSING

Priority 2 - To provide a strategy to meet the increasing need for transitional to affordable and supportive housing.

HUD OBJECTIVE – PROVIDING DECENT HOUSING

Outcome – Improving availability or accessibility of units

Objective 1 - Increase the supply of safe and adequate affordable housing for low to moderate-income persons.

- Actions:
1. Consider making the City's "surplus" and/or tax acquired real estate available for the development of affordable housing.
 2. Consider revisions to the City's zoning and land use standards which would provide incentives, e.g. density bonuses for the development of affordable housing.
 3. In partnership with other public/private parties, explore the adaptive re-use and redevelopment of non-residential properties, e.g. mills, churches, etc. into affordable housing.
 4. Consider and implement when feasible combinations of housing and community space that support LMI neighborhoods and enhance opportunities for housing occupants.

Objective 2 - Preserve and upgrade the City's housing stock serving low to moderate income persons.

- Actions:
1. Consider establishment of low interest loan programs to help finance the rehabilitation of the City's downtown housing stock.

2. Consider acquisition and demolition of blighted properties for construction of new housing when applicable.
3. Provide funding to low to moderate income homeowners for improvements comprised of energy conservation.
4. Consider establishment of low interest loan programs to help finance the rehabilitation of the City's downtown housing stock.
5. Undertake a systematic and concentrated program of code enforcement to ensure life safety standards are met and to prevent blighting influences on neighborhoods.
6. Encourage participation by landlords in the Biddeford Landlords Association and encourage partnerships that provide resources for landlords and tenants.

Objective 3 - Increase opportunities for homeownership for low and moderate income persons.

- Actions: 1. Consider a partnership with other public/private organizations to pool resources to help finance home ownership, e.g. down payments, loan assistance, mortgage interest rate write-downs, and other financing mechanisms.

SOCIAL SERVICES

Priority 3 - Provide educational and work opportunities for homeless and low to moderate income persons, and special needs populations that provide avenues to obtain jobs and/or better paying work opportunities.

HUD OBJECTIVE – CREATING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

Outcome – Improving availability or accessibility of units or services

Objective 1 - Increase the economic prosperity of homeless and low to moderate income persons, and special needs populations, and their ability to afford housing, and health and safety amenities by providing work opportunities and partnerships that provide housing and housing services.

- Actions: 1. Provide opportunities for homeless and low to moderate income persons, and special needs populations to participate in work force preparedness and financial management programs that enhance their ability to have access to affordable housing.
2. Provide child care and youth programs that increase the opportunity for homeless and low to moderate income persons, and special needs populations to attend educational and training programs, while

providing enrichment programs for youths of all ages.

3. Link local programs to secondary education and training that would be the "next step" for low to moderate income persons, homeless and special needs populations, and implement training and educational programs for these populations.

Priority 4 - Implement strategies to aid the elderly and special needs populations with access to information and services to increase health and safety and reduce reliance on the City's overburdened Health and Welfare Department that can only provide minimal assistance.

HUD OBJECTIVE – CREATING A SUITABLE LIVING ENVIRONMENT

Outcome – Improving availability or accessibility of units or services

Objective 1 - Improve the health and safety of the elderly and special needs populations.

Actions: 1. Provide and coordinate programs that outreach to the elderly and enable the elderly to access assistance that enhances their quality of life.

Priority 5 - To reinforce and strengthen the emergency shelter and transitional housing system that is already in place which includes housing, counseling, education and a wide variety of homeless, special needs and LMI assistance.

Objective 1 - Assist and work with the City's Health and Welfare Department, volunteer organizations and agencies to seek collaborative efforts to assist homeless, low to moderate income and special needs populations in Biddeford.

Actions: 1. Encourage network meetings of area resources and services.

* The following falls under all priority listings and pertains to special needs populations thus giving it a stand alone Objective and Action.

Objective 1 - Provide for a seamless network of social services and assistance for special needs populations.

Actions: 1. Continue to gather all social service information and examine gaps in existing systems for all special needs population groups (includes diagnostic, rehabilitative, educational, housing and work opportunities).

The City's number one priority non-housing need is infrastructure. This need is followed by housing and public services. However, according to the 5-Year Consolidated Plan Infrastructure and Housing are to be equally funding.

Year 3 Projects are detailed below under their respective objectives and actions. Also listed are those projects from the current Year 2 Action Plan proposed for reallocation and/or to be carried over from Year 2. Year 2 is the current project year from July 1st, 2014 to June 30th, 2015.

Construction/reconstruction of sidewalks, other street improvements and additional qualifying sidewalks is targeted for a total of \$109,274 (25%), \$109,274 (25%) for housing projects, and \$45,565 (10%) for Park Projects

The Micro Loan Program is to be funded at \$20,000 (5%), Public services are targeted to LMI citizens citywide and are funded for a total of \$65,564 (15%) for implementation of new services and expansion of current services. Administration is funded at \$87,419 (20%). Approximately 80% of the total funds will go to benefit LMI citizens.

The budget is based on \$437,096 that has been allocated for Year 3.

The total carryover of funds from Year 1 will be approximately \$200,000.

1. Identify specific long-term and short-term community development objectives (including economic development activities that create jobs), developed in accordance with the statutory goals described in section 24 CFR 91.1 and the primary objective of the CDBG program to provide decent housing and a suitable living environment and expand economic opportunities, principally for low- and moderate-income persons.

Infrastructure

Priority 1 - To eliminate slum and blight in the downtown area through infrastructure and public facilities improvements that benefit LMI neighborhoods.

HUD OBJECTIVE – CREATING A SUITABLE LIVING ENVIRONMENT

Outcome – Improving sustainability by promoting viable communities

Objective 1 - Increase access and provide public facilities that provide for the health and safety of residents in LMI neighborhoods.

- Actions:
1. Implement sidewalk and other street improvements, ADA projects and beautification projects in LMI neighborhoods for safe and adequate access to services and facilities.

Project Title: Sidewalk Improvements
Timeline: July 1, 2015 to June 30th, 2016
Cost: \$109,274
Benefit: 1,000+/-feet

The City of Biddeford has once again determined that the reconstruction/construction of sidewalks is a top priority. The following is a list of projects for consideration in Year 3.

- 1) Main Street Sidewalk – continue sidewalk/Electrical project
 - a. Both sides from Alfred to Adams Street/Lincoln Street, (Construction to be from Alfred to York north side and Alfred to Washington South Side)
 - b. At least 100’ up each side street along the route
 - c. Shevenelle Park for potential utility infrastructure
- 2) South Street
 - a. Both sides Green to Elm Street, approx. 550’
 - b. North side from Kossuth Street to Green Street, approx 280’
 - c. At least 100’ up side streets along route
 - d. Both sides between Bradbury Street and May Street
- 3) Green Street
 - a. Clear both sides from South to Center Street, approx 400’
- 4) Jefferson Street
 - a. Clear sections that have not been done, from Main St. to Adams St, approx 1000’
 - b. Clear 100’ up sides streets in those sections

In addition, Lincoln Street continues to be at the top of the list but there are design issues since mill buildings are located on one side of the street and there is a question as to if sidewalks should be on both sides of the street. Currently, there are sidewalks on only one side of the street. The design for this street will need to take into consideration the possibility of future businesses locating on this street. The street needs full base reconstruction and has not had major maintenance of any kind since the 1970s. The street is in poor condition and both the street and sidewalks are badly deteriorated posing safety threats.

Water Street from Main to Sullivan, portions of Elm Street on the west side from Lincoln to West Street, and others located in LMI Census tracts are also under consideration.

With the redevelopment of the MERC site and Mill Complex, construction and/or reconstruction of sidewalks and installation of lighting and other amenities on Pearl Street, Stone Street, and McArthur Way in Census Tract 2502-02 Block Group 6 is a project being considered for Year 3. The possibility of new street lighting and other amenities is also a consideration when any sidewalk is reconstructed/constructed.

Project Title: Park Projects
Timeline: July 1, 2015 to June 30th, 2016
Cost: \$45,565
Benefit: TBD

This year, the City targeted CDBG funds for park improvements for May Field as a top priority. This field is a public playing field in May Park on May Street. This field serves as a game field and as a family play area in the park. The field will need to be closed if improvements are not made to reduce drainage problems. This would significantly reduce the use of the park. The improvements will make this play area safe and useable for the public, and enhance this popular park. Proposed improvements include but are not limited to installation of a perimeter drainage system and regrading of the area adjacent to the field to direct surface runoff from entering onto and running across the infield area. Under drain piping is also proposed to be installed along the fence lines to collect and convey runoff from the infield play area. Gutters are proposed to be installed along the eaves of the dugout roofs to collect roof water and direct it away from the infield.

The City also owns the Diamond Match property which is a large parcel of land located along the Saco River in Census Tract 252_01 Block Group 4. The City of Biddeford began restoration planning in 2005 by assessing the condition of the site through a Brownsfields Development Grant. Woodard & Curan completed Phase 1 and 2 of site assessments at the property and Maine Department of Environmental Covenants in April 2008 with final deed recording taking place in November of 2008.

The City plans to convert this former industrial site into a public park with the park becoming part of the “river walk” trail system along the river. The park will retain, to the extent possible, the natural character of the riverside habitat by retaining indigenous trees and shrubs, limiting site clearing, and utilizing granite slabs (currently at the site) for development into an amphitheater with seating. The park will include walking paths, an outdoor amphitheater, play space, open space, and river views, and will be free and open to the public. Its location in an LMI Census tract will allow residents access to recreational activities and an increased quality of life for residents. In addition, the neighboring Census Tract 252-01 Block Group 1 is comprised of the highest LMI percentage in the City (85.9%) and residents who live in this area are within walking distance to the park. The City completed Phase 1 of development of the park in 2014. In Phase 2 as listed above construction will begin to develop the park’s trails, play space and amphitheater.

The City will also consider additional park space on City owned property designated for park usage in LMI Census tracts, including any outstanding work to be conducted in the Williams Court Park Extension Project. Construction of additional park space on City owned and designated space could include demolition, construction of access roadways, parking and park development. In efforts to provide green space in dense LMI neighborhoods, the City will also consider acquisition of property according to HUD procedures when opportunities may present themselves in Year 3 of the new 5-Year Consolidated Plan.

Economic Development

Priority 1 - To eliminate slum and blight in the downtown area through infrastructure and public facilities improvements that benefit LMI neighborhoods.

HUD OBJECTIVE – CREATING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

Outcome – Improving sustainability by promoting viable communities

Objective 2 - Increase business attraction to promote job creation.

Actions: 1. Provide loan/grant assistance to commercial property owners and businesses through a Downtown Micro Loan Program.

Project Title: Micro Enterprise Loan Program

Timeline: July 1, 2015 to June 30th, 2016

Cost: \$20,000

Benefit: Job creation (TBD)

A Micro Enterprise is typically a commercial enterprise with 5 or fewer employees including the owner. A micro enterprise loan provides credit to establish, stabilize or expand an eligible micro enterprise. The loan can also be used for technical assistance and or to provide general support to the business including equipment and renovations. The owner, or at least 51% of the employees, must be low or moderate income, or the business must create 1 full time or 2 part time jobs per \$20,000. The business must be located within the City of Biddeford. This expanded program will continue to be used to provide funding to encourage the development and location of micro enterprises within the City. The program is implemented in partnership with the Biddeford Saco Area Economic Development Corporation.

Community Development

Priority 4 - Implement strategies to aid the elderly and special needs populations with access to information and services to increase health and safety and reduce reliance on the City's overburdened Health and Welfare Department that can only provide minimal assistance.

HUD OBJECTIVE – CREATING A SUITABLE LIVING ENVIRONMENT

Outcome – Improving availability or accessibility of units or services

Objective 1 - Improve the health and safety of the elderly and special needs populations.

Actions: 1. Provide and coordinate programs that outreach to the elderly and enable the elderly to access assistance that enhances their quality of life.

Project Title: Southern Maine Agency on Aging – Meals on Wheels

Timeline: July 1, 2015 to June 30th, 2016

Cost: \$16,000

Inkind Commitment \$41,856

Numbers To Be Served/Benefit: 110

The Southern Maine Agency (SMAA) on Aging's Meals on Wheels program provides nutritious meals to homebound, older and disabled adults living in York and Cumberland counties of Maine. In addition to a nutritious meal, Meals on Wheels provides valuable socialization and safety checks for participants. A corps of more than 300 volunteers delivered 160,362 meals to 1,690 homebound older and disabled people in southern Maine in FY2014. SMAA plans on serving 110 new Biddeford seniors in this expanded service.

CDBG funding is crucial at this time as the country is facing a new era in the utilization of Meals on Wheels. It is now considered a hunger alleviation program by the federal government. In fact, eliminating food insecurity in seniors is now the number one goal of the program. According to Agency research, elderly homebound people in Biddeford are needier than those in other major communities. According to a survey that every Meals on Wheels recipient receives and is required by the federal government, 71% of people receiving Meals on Wheels in Biddeford are determined to be at a high nutritional risk. In Portland it is 58%, in South Portland 54%, and the average of all 53 towns served by the Agency is 50%.) In addition, there are 44 older people in Biddeford receiving Commodity Food for Seniors, an Agency program. There are currently 13 Biddeford residents on the waiting list for that program.

The Agency is now in the late planning stage of developing regional hubs for our senior nutrition programs. Because of the significant need in Biddeford, it will be designated a hub for our SMAA's planned reorganization which is expected to be in place by the end of 2015. SMAA's plans include the hiring of additional staff for the new Biddeford hub.

The Agency also provides meals for special diets as needed: low-sodium, pureed, gluten-free, and vegetarian. The meals (either warm or frozen to be eaten when desired) are delivered four days a week, with two delivered on Tuesdays. The volunteer drivers check with recipients to ensure there are several meals available in the freezer in case stormy weather prevents regular delivery. Each meal provides at least a third of the person's RDA. A quart of milk is delivered weekly. The Agency will receive a referral from the senior, a family member or medical provider and will take the short eligibility test over the phone to establish status. The participant or family caregiver will also be referred to the Agency's department of Community Services to address other potential needs, such as family caregiver support, insurance concerns, or housing issues. The Agency will begin delivering Meals on Wheels to the participant (and to a family caregiver if needed); and within 9 days the participant will be visited at home to complete the application process and assessment. The Agency will conduct a reassessment every 6 months to determine continued need.

The City of Biddeford will provide space at the Ross Center for this expanded service.

Priority 3 - Provide educational and work opportunities for homeless and low to moderate income persons, and special needs populations that provide avenues to obtain jobs and/or better paying work opportunities.

HUD OBJECTIVE – CREATING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

Outcome – Improving availability or accessibility of units or services

Objective 1 - Increase the economic prosperity of homeless and low to moderate income persons, and special needs populations, and their ability to afford housing, and health and safety amenities by providing work opportunities and partnerships that provide housing and housing services.

Actions: 1. Provide child care and youth programs that increase the opportunity for homeless and low to moderate income persons, and special needs populations to attend educational and training programs, while providing enrichment programs for youths of all ages.

Project Title: ArtVan Program

Timeline: July 1, 2015 to June 30th, 2016

Cost: \$4,000

Inkind Commitment: \$610

Numbers To Be Served/Benefit: 40

Many children and youth in the Mechanics Park, Bacon Street and downtown area live in low income housing and do not have ready access to traditional summer programs and lack opportunities for safe self expression, adult supervision and creative outlets for learning. Children who attend the 9-week ArtVan Program are provided a safe, creative and tangible way to express art and discover ways to beautify their neighborhood while working together. The program will continue to expand its program in partnership with the Canopy Park Resource Center on Bacon Street, Community Partnerships for Protecting Children, the University of New England, and local garden programs to engage referrals, provide space and volunteers, and provide artistic opportunities. In exchange, the ArtVan Program provides a “community arts” program that no entity has the staffing to provide. The program plans to serve additional youths in the program and provide new experiences for those returning to the program. Expanded opportunities for Biddeford youths include; expanding the “Teen Art” section with the Heart of Biddeford to be a larger part of the mill arts community, link with businesses that may use “youth art”, and possibly provide participants opportunities to market art products. Teens will be encouraged to participate in the program as mentors for the younger children, assisting program leaders, and developing neighborhood art that replaces unsightly graffiti. The program will be held at various parks and spaces, located in LMI Census Tracts.

This program provides a community-based group setting that is a natural environment for practicing verbal and nonverbal communication and interpersonal relationship skills. Learning to take turns and working through emotional triggers enhance youths’ abilities to self-regulate emotions, planning, and executive functioning. Reflective check-ins, warm ups, open conversation, closing feedback, and sharing creative space fosters empathy and enhances self-

esteem. The program also enables parents and guardians the time to participate in training, parenting or work opportunities knowing that their child is in a supportive and supervised learning environment.

The crux of the program will be the creation of the art work for the 8th Annual Bacon Street Festival to be held in August. The art work will be comprised of recycled materials and will consist of large and small sculptures, as well as hanging and flat pieces. A Teen Art Team will also be a part of the festival.

3. Link local programs to secondary education and training that would be the "next step" for low to moderate income persons, homeless and special needs populations, and implement training and educational programs for these populations.

Project Title: Seeds of Hope Neighborhood Center - Seeds of Hope Career Center

Timeline: July 1, 2015 to June 30th, 2016

Cost: \$10,000

Inkind Commitment: \$2,400

Numbers To Be Served/Benefit: 200

Although the national news reports an economic recovery, the unemployed and/or underemployed in Biddeford have not seen that turn around result in jobs. Many served at the Career Resource Center are trying to return to a work environment that is foreign to their previous work experience. The expectation of technological literacy and self confidence does not come easy for those served by the Center. The work the Center does is highly time intensive one-on-one coaching to help program participants prepare to join or rejoin the labor force.

With this increasing number of unemployed in the Biddeford area, and with the closing of the Career Center in Saco, the resources to help people with resume development, on-line applications, interviewing skills, etc. are now only located in Portland and Springvale. Many of the City's unemployed do not have the financial resources to travel to these communities.

The Seeds of Hope Neighborhood Center will continue to sponsor the space for the Career Center and expand the Center's resources to assist additional clients. The Career Center will continue to expand its partnerships with the MacArthur Library, City of Biddeford's General Assistance, the Career Center in Springvale, and Goodwill Workforce Solutions, of which the Career Center is a Workforce Solutions Site. The program will continue to provide expanded services including Biddeford OpenNet, that provides low income households with Internet access for job searches, applications, etc. The Center will also continue to provide basic skills programs, support groups, employer pre-screening processes, resume and interview preparedness. In addition, the Center will work on an additional section of their program targeted to specifically "at risk teens and young adults" who need the same career services.

Project Title: MaineWay Inc. - Representative Payee Program

Timeline: July 1, 2015 to June 30th, 2016

Cost: \$16,000

Inkind Commitment: \$10,000

Numbers To Be Served/Benefit: 225

The Representative Payee Program will be expanded in Year 3 to serve additional clients. The program is implemented by The MaineWay Inc., a transitional housing entity in Biddeford. This service will work with additional LMI clients who receive SSDI and/or SSI. The program will also work with additional seniors who have been seeking the program's assistance. In addition, the program will expand to assist an increasing number of working people and families, whose income makes it difficult to make ends meet.

Generally clients come to or seek housing with finances in a state of disarray or they are often severely behind in rent payments, or have been served with an eviction notice and CMP disconnection notices. The MaineWay will continue to work with landlords and CMP to develop a plan to bring payments current and provide stable housing for clients. The MaineWay also develops a financial agreement with the client and works with Social Security to maintain the client's benefits if they have these. Clients in the program will learn budgeting skills and will be encouraged to access community and other social services. The goal will be to help additional clients attain self-sufficiency in handling finances and to help clients to develop and/or recognize skills for employment opportunities. The MaineWay will work closely with the Biddeford Housing Authority to assist clients that may be seeking housing in the City's Housing Program projects and MaineWay transitional housing services.

The MaineWay, Inc. will also be continuing the previous year's efforts with Biddeford General Assistance Office clients. This is an effective way to minimize the impact that clients have on the General Assistance budget by reducing the total amount that General Assistance provides to them. This is and will continue to be accomplished by working with program participants to assist them in effectively and efficiently managing their resources and benefits.

Project Title: ENGINE – Maine FabLab / Design Apprenticeship Program

Timeline: July 1, 2014 to June 30th, 2015

Cost: \$4,000

Inkind Commitment: \$2,000

Numbers To Be Served/Benefit: 10

ENGINE will expand its Design Apprenticeship Program that will introduce the concept of 3D design and digital machining as part of ENGINE'S Maine FabLab Program. The Design Apprenticeship Program will engage 10 students from the local public schools (K-8), Biddeford Center of Technology, universities, and community colleges, and others, in learning 3D design and fabrication. As a City with a strong manufacturing sector, it is important that Biddeford's youth be prepared for the innovative technologies of the future with this 12-week program.

Fab labs are small, community-based workshops that give members of the public, from students

to small businesses, access to educational resources and high-tech equipment that can design, develop, and create new products. This Fab Lab Program is focused on additional Biddeford youth who will be introduced to new vocations through project based learning. There is a national initiative to create a network of community based Fab Labs and Biddeford may be positioned to be the first in southern Maine.

The FabLab Program will continue to provide scholarships to six low to moderate income students for the 12 week program. The class will be held after-school from 3:30-5:30 for two hours, one day a week and will be comprised of 3D modeling for printing, graphic design, illustration, and other practical trade courses, including utilizing Khan Academy and Skillshare online courses with in-person mentorship/instruction. It is the goal of this pilot program to introduce Biddeford youth to new technology in manufacturing, while perking the interest of Biddeford's manufacturing sector.

The program will develop curriculum for 2nd through 4th year high school students and will seek approval for actual credit by the school system. The curriculum will be designed to follow the high school participants from Grade 9 through to graduation with curriculum that advances for each year of school. The program intends to create a pipeline to keep students engaged throughout their high school careers. After the curriculum is approved ENGINE will implement the curriculum. After one year, ENGINE will coordinate portfolio reviews and mentorship/internship opportunities for program participants up until graduation. ENGINE will pair participants with other working professionals in the field.

Project Title: Learning Works – Graffiti Busters Program

Timeline: July 1, 2014 to June 30th, 2015

Cost: \$15,564

Inkind Commitment: \$17,500

Numbers To Be Served/Benefit: 30

Learning Works will expand its youth mentoring and skill building program called Graffiti Busters to serve 30 additional Biddeford youths. The program provides an opportunity for low to moderate income youth with mandated community service to meet their obligations by involving them in activities that teach them work readiness skills that provide the groundwork for future employment. This program mentors low-income and at-risk youth on many fronts; community rehabilitation and socialization; skill and competency building; basic knowledge of job site safety and OSHA standards, and; the value of public service. In addition to being trained in competency skills, the program works with businesses and homeowners to remove unsightly graffiti from buildings. In the current program year, the program has removed 1,290 square feet of graffiti and 5,000 is the goal. Learning Works will direct the program and continue to act as a liaison between property owners, program participants and other referral sources. These referral sources include: Youth Build Biddeford, Targeted Case Managers, Biddeford School Department, and Juvenile Community Corrections Officers.

Housing

Priority 2 - To provide a strategy to meet the increasing need for transitional to affordable and supportive housing.

HUD OBJECTIVE – PROVIDING DECENT HOUSING

Outcome – Improving availability or accessibility of units

Objective 1 - Increase the supply of safe and adequate affordable housing for low to moderate-income persons.

- Actions:
1. Consider making the City's "surplus" and/or tax acquired real estate available for the development of affordable housing.
 3. In partnership with other public/private parties, explore the adaptive re-use and redevelopment of non-residential properties, e.g. mills, churches, etc. into affordable housing.
 4. Consider and implement when feasible combinations of housing and community space that support LMI neighborhoods and enhance opportunities for housing occupants.

Objective 2 - Preserve and upgrade the City's housing stock serving low to moderate income persons.

- Actions:
2. Consider acquisition and demolition of blighted properties for construction of new housing when applicable.
 5. Undertake a systematic and concentrated program of code enforcement to ensure life safety standards are met and to prevent blighting influences on neighborhoods.
 6. Encourage participation by landlords in the Biddeford Landlords Association and encourage partnerships that provide resources for landlords and tenants.

Objective 3 - Increase opportunities for homeownership for low and moderate income persons.

- Actions:
1. Consider a partnership with other public/private organizations to pool resources to help finance home ownership, e.g. down payments, loan assistance, mortgage interest rate write-downs, and other financing mechanisms.

Project Title: Housing Program
Timeline: July 1, 2015 to June 30th, 2016
Cost: \$109,274
Numbers To Be Served/Benefit: TBD

The top priority for housing in Year 3 will be the continued rehabilitation of 73 Bacon Street into a community center on the first floor and housing on floors 2 and 3. The property was purchased in 2014 and has been awarded to a firm to conduct the engineering, architectural design, and develop a bid package. The project entails rehabilitation of an old Rectory building located at 73 Bacon Street that was previously owned by the Catholic Diocese and has been closed. The property is part of a building complex and will be rehabilitated to include a community center on the first floor for nonprofit entities to provide services to the neighborhood, and affordable housing on the second and possibly third floor. Since the property is part of a building complex being developed with National Park Service funding, rehabilitation will comply with these and all historic preservation regulations. Due to the immensity of the project it is expected that it will take several years to complete.

Other potential housing activities in Year 3 include, acquisition, housing rehabilitation, gap financing, energy conservation improvements, purchase of blighted buildings, purchase of vacant lots, demolition, and/or housing that benefits low to moderate income persons or presumed benefit populations (transitional, seniors, etc.). If the opportunity presents itself and is identified as a benefit, community nonprofit space will be considered in housing projects. Additional site specific projects will be submitted for complete review and approval. Program income received from the sale of housing or vacant lots developed with CDBG funds will be returned to the program for the next project.

Administration is to be funded at a total of \$87,419 for office staff, equipment, supplies, and any other administrative expenses.