



# City of New Bedford, Massachusetts

**Jonathan F. Mitchell, Mayor**

## Office of Housing & Community Development

**Patrick J. Sullivan, Director**



# Fiscal Year 2012 Action Plan & Certifications

*Community Development Block Grant Program  
Home Investment Partnership Program  
Emergency Solutions Grant Program*

Submitted to the U.S. Department of  
Housing & Urban Development



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**FISCAL YEAR 2012 ACTION PLAN  
JULY 1, 2012 TO JUNE 30, 2013  
YEAR THREE OF THE FIVE YEAR CONSOLIDATED PLAN 2010-2014**

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The City of New Bedford, Massachusetts is pleased to present an Executive Summary of its Annual Action Plan for Fiscal Year 2012 running from July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013.

**Purpose.** This 2012 *Action Plan* serves several functions:

1. It outlines activities that will be funded utilizing Federal Block Grants from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in accordance with 24 CFR Part 91.220 of Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended during fiscal year 2012.
2. The Action Plan serves as New Bedford's consolidated submission for the Fiscal Year 2012 *Action Plan* and Certifications for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), and HOME Investment Partnership (HOME) Program components of the Action Plan.
3. It describes recommendations for specific projects and services to address housing, community development, emergency shelter, and homeless needs which were identified through public meetings, needs assessments, coalition meetings, consultations with community groups (i.e. neighborhood associations, linguistic minority organizations, etc.) and proposals solicited through both the public meetings and the Request for Proposals (RFP) process.
4. This *Action Plan* delineates a one-year strategy for providing housing and community development in response to the City of New Bedford's *Consolidated Plan.2010-2014*, a long-term community needs assessment and housing analysis completed in May of 2005 and implemented on July 1st of 2006, the City's *Continuum of Care* Strategy articulated in its SuperNOFA application for the 2011 funding round and the City's *Ten Year Plan to Address and Eliminate Homelessness* released in 2006.

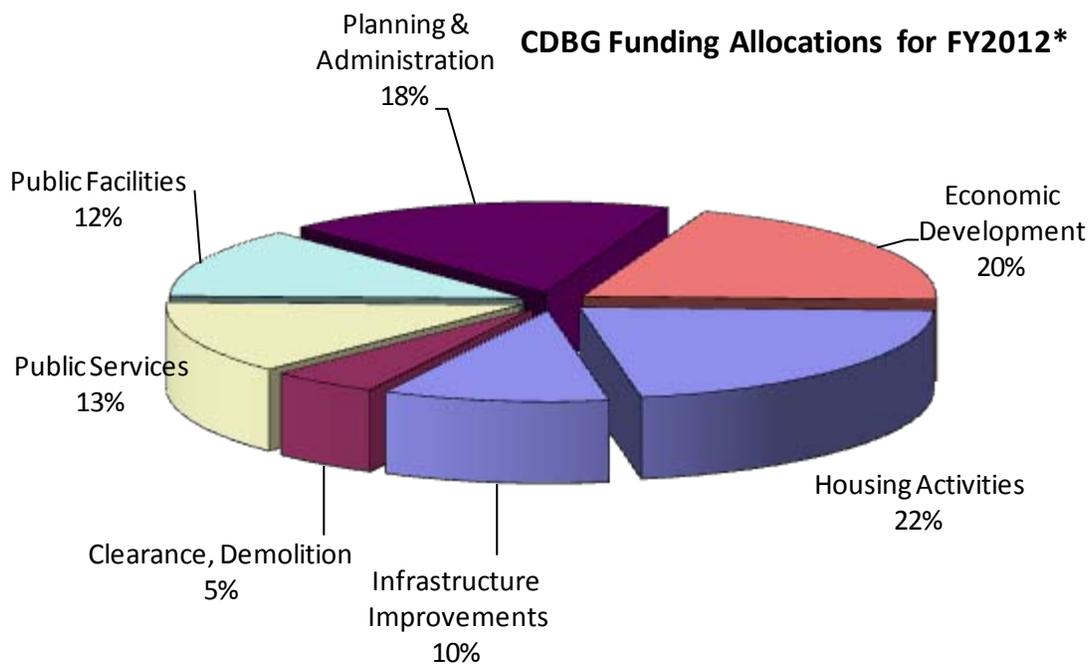
**Public Participation.** In order to ensure maximum participation from the citizens of New Bedford, the Action Plan process included public meetings, technical assistance workshops and distribution of information in multi-language formats in a variety of media formats. In addition to these traditional notices, the OHCD also sent out written and electronic notices to a diverse cross-section of neighborhood leaders, private interests, citizens and community stakeholders. The OHCD then conducted two public meetings in January of 2012 at the Carney Academy and the Office of Housing & Community Development. Nearly 50 community leaders, residents and representatives of local non-profits attended these public meetings, focus groups and forums. Minutes of these public meetings are provided within the appendix of the final 2012 Action Plan.

A draft of the 2012 *Action Plan* was available for public review from March 26, 2012 through April 25, 2012 in libraries, City Hall and the Office of Housing & Community Development. A notice of the draft Action Plan’s availability was published in the *Standard Times* on March 26, 2012.

**Funding Disbursement.** The 2012 *Action Plan* represents a single application for federal funding that incorporates three HUD formula programs, for a total allocation of \$3,546,481 in FY 2012 funds. The three HUD programs are as follows:

- Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) at \$2,469,532
- Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) (Rounds 1 & 2) at \$311,921
- HOME Investment Partnership, at \$765,028

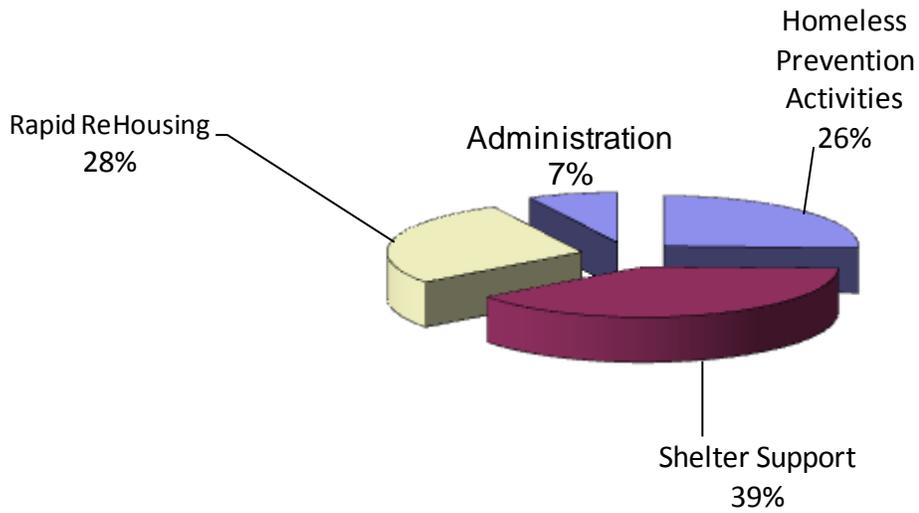
Anticipated program income for FY12 will come from two revolving loan funds (economic development and housing) and is estimated at \$200,000.



**Total CDBG Funding Available FY2012: \$2,811,750**

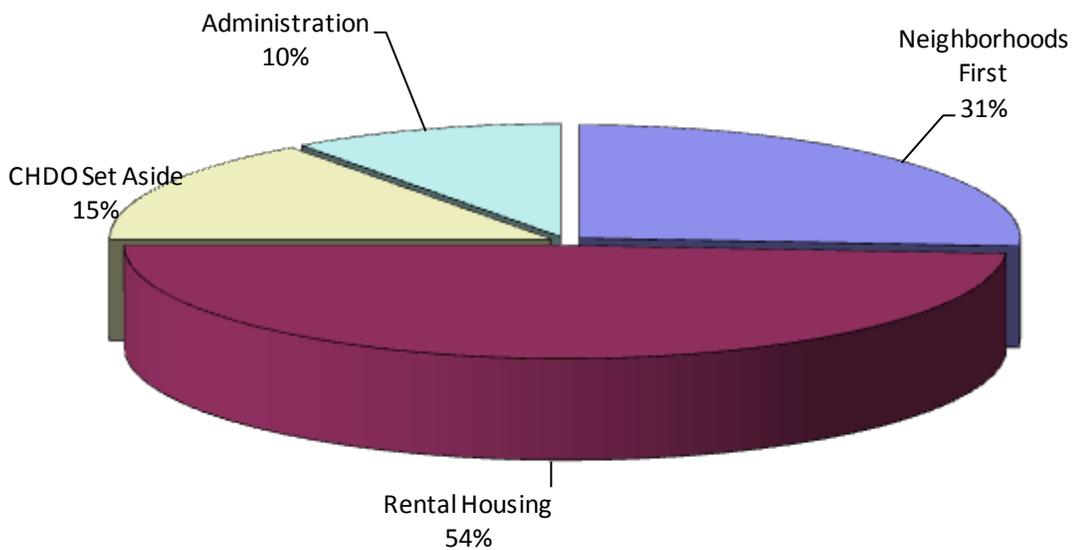
**NOTES:** The budget includes planning and administration. \*Although there is a cap of 15% on public services, the budgeted figures represented by this pie chart are based on the entitlement plus program income and carryover from FY 2011.

### ESG Allocation for FY 2012



**Total ESG Funding Available FY2012: \$313,363**

### HOME Allocation for FY 2012



**Total HOME Funding Entitlement FY2012: \$765,028**

Section III of the 2012 Action Plan summarizes proposed uses for the \$3.546 million from the three formula grant programs (CDBG, ESG and HOME funding) as well as funds recaptured through program income and FY2011 carryover funds. Approximately 33 CDBG activities are described in the complete *Action Plan*.

A. **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM**

Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (Public Law 93-383) created the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. Re-authorized in 1990 as part of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act, local communities are encouraged to use the resources of the CDBG Program to develop flexible, locally designed community development strategies to address the program’s primary objective, which is the:

*“...development of viable urban communities, by providing decent housing and suitable living environments and expanding economic development opportunities principally for persons of low and moderate income.”*

The 2012 Action Plan is based on a CDBG entitlement allocation from HUD of \$2,469,532 and carryover funding in the amount of \$142,218. Additionally, we anticipate earning \$200,000 in revolving loan funds during FY2012 that will be used to fund additional economic and housing loans in FY2012 bringing the total CDBG budget to \$2,811,750. The following chart provides a categorical breakdown of the CDBG funding for FY 2012:

<b>INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS</b>	<b>\$ 290,000</b>
<i>Improvements include the reconstruction and repaving of streets and sidewalks in several of the City’s low-income census tracts</i>	
<b>CLEARANCE ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>\$ 140,000</b>
<i>Clearance and demolition of blighted and unsafe properties</i>	
<b>PUBLIC FACILITIES</b>	<b>\$ 350,000</b>
<i>Renovations to Ashley Park, Hillman Street Gym, Vacant Lots and the Sister Rose House.</i>	
<b>PUBLIC SERVICES</b>	<b>\$ 362,050</b>
<i>Funding to 24 non-profits and city departments providing services including, but not limited to: programs for youth, individuals with disabilities, senior citizen population, services for victims of domestic violence, youth outreach programs, counseling subsidies for low and moderate income persons, hunger relief and art therapy.</i>	
<b>HOUSING AND REHABILITATION</b>	<b>\$610,000</b>
<i>Funding provided for several housing rehabilitation programs, including lead based paint</i>	
<b>ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT</b>	<b>\$ 559,700</b>
<i>Economic development assistance projects sponsored by the City’s economic development agency: New Bedford Economic Development Council, Inc. (NBEDC).</i>	
<b>PLANNING &amp; ADMINISTRATION</b>	<b>\$ 500,000</b>
<i>Planning and revitalization activities; administrative costs for program planning, monitoring, historic preservation, and citizen participation and staffing.</i>	
<b>TOTAL CDBG PROGRAM</b>	<b>\$ 2,811,750</b>

During the past fiscal year the City met or exceeded the goals and objectives outlined in its strategic plan for housing and non-housing activities.

**B. EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT PROGRAM**

The Homeless Emergency Assistance and rapid Transition to Housing Act of 2009 (HEARTH Act) enacted into law in May 2009, amends and reauthorizes the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act with substantial changes, including:

1. Consolidation of three homeless programs into a single grant program;
2. Changes in HUD’s definition of homelessness and chronic homelessness;
3. Increased prevention and rapid re-housing resources; and,
4. Increased emphasis on performance and continuum-wide coordination.

The law revises the Emergency Shelter Grants program and renames the program the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Program.

ESG is designed to broaden existing emergency shelter and homelessness prevention activities, emphasize rapid re-housing, and help people quickly regain stability in permanent housing after experiencing a housing crisis and/or homelessness. ESG funds may be used for street outreach, emergency shelter services, homelessness prevention, rapid re-housing assistance and the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS).

The stated objectives of the Emergency Solutions Grants Program are to “increase the number and quality of emergency shelters and transitional housing facilities for homeless individuals and families, to operate these facilities and provide essential social services, and to help prevent homelessness.

The Emergency Shelter Grant portion of the 2012 *Action Plan* is based on an ESG entitlement formula allocation from HUD of \$74,542 (Round 1) and \$237,379 (Round 2) and unused FY2011 allocation of \$1,442. A total of 8 homeless service provider agencies were funded to provide Rapid Re-housing, homeless prevention and operational and maintenance expenses for homeless shelters.

**C. HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM**

The HOME Program was created to develop safe, decent and affordable housing through a variety of mechanisms including, home rehabilitation, assistance to first time homebuyers, affordable rental housing development, and assistance to community housing development organizations.

The following chart provides a categorical breakdown of the HOME funding for FY2012:

<b>3. HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP FUNDING \$765,028</b>	
Neighborhoods First Program	240,000
Rental Housing Program	333,772
CHDO Set Aside (15%)	114,754
Administration (10%)	76,502
<b>TOTAL HOME ENTITLEMENT EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$765,028</b>

## Budget Proposal

The budget charts on the following pages provide a detailed breakdown of the CDBG, ESG and HOME programs and projects for FY 2012:

### FY12 CDBG, ESG and HOME FUNDING: BUDGET

**FY2012Amount  
Awarded**

*Revised: March 21, 2012*

#### 1. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDING<sup>1</sup> \$2,806,750

##### INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS	PROJECT NAME	
Department of Public Infrastructure	DPI Infrastructure Improvements	290,000
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>		<b>\$290,000</b>

##### INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS	PROJECT NAME	
Building Department	Clearance & Demolition	140,000
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>		<b>\$140,000</b>

##### PUBLIC FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS

Office of Housing &Community Development	Project Management	80,000
Office of Housing &Community Development	Vacant Lot Mini-Park Project	25,000
Office of Housing &Community Development	Hillman Street Gym	75,000
Office of Housing &Community Development	Ashley Park Splash Pad	30,000
CSS of Fall River, Inc	Sr Rose House Shelter Renovation	140,000
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>		<b>350,000</b>

##### PUBLIC SERVICES

Access for Community Enhancement Services	Recreational & Social Activities for People with Disabilities	2,000
Art Therapy Inspirational Art for Seniors, Inc.	Healing Emotions through Art	7,000
Artworks!	Teen Reach Beyond	5,000
Dream Out Loud Program	The Creative Careers Program	7,000
Coastline Elderly Services	Community Mainstream Program	10,000
Department of Community Services	Elder Services Project	120,150
Department of Community Services	Recreation Summer Day Program	31,000
Department of Community Services	Summer Jobs Program	27,000
Department of Community Services	Supportive Recreation	18,000
Domestic Violence Unit	Domestic Violence Intern Coordinator Project	25,000
Dennison Memorial Community Center	Academic Excellence Program	10,000
Easter Seals Massachusetts	Training & Technologies Program	7,000
Greater New Bedford Boys' & Girls' Club	Youth Outreach Transportation Project	7,500
Immigrants Assistance Center, Inc.	Ombudsman Services Project	8,000
North Star Learning Center	Acushnet Heights Youth Club	8,000
North Star Learning Center	Farmer's Market at Clasky Common	5,000
Old Dartmouth Historic Society	Youth Apprenticeship Program	8,900
PACE Inc	Youth United Basketball	3,500
PACE Inc	Youthbuild Summer Employment	5,000
PSILL, Inc	Trans. Resources for Community Inclusion	5,000
South Coastal Counties Legal Services	Housing Law Project	25,000
Team Builders Inc	Performing Arts for Stronger Families	7,000
Trips for Kids	Urban Explorers	5,000
United Way Hunger Commission	The Hunger Relief Project	5,000
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>		<b>362,050</b>

<sup>1</sup> This total reflects the FY12 entitlement [\$2,469,532], revolving loan fund accounts [\$200,000] and FY11 carryover funds [\$137,218].

## FY12 CDBG, ESG and HOME FUNDING: BUDGET

FY2012 Amount  
Awarded

### HOUSING AND REHAB PROJECTS

Office of Housing &Community Development	Storefronts Reimbursement Program	50,000
Office of Housing &Community Development	Housing Accessibility	60,000
Office of Housing &Community Development	Emergency Repair Program	50,000
Office of Housing &Community Development	Deleading Program	50,000
Office of Housing &Community Development	Financial Assistance (Funded from RLF)	100,000
Office of Housing &Community Development	Service Delivery	300,000
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>		<b>610,000</b>

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

New Bedford Economic Development Council	Economic Development Assistance Project	459,700
Office of Housing &Community Development	E.D. Revolving Loan Fund Account (Funded by RLF)	100,000
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>		<b>559,700</b>

### PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION

CDBG Planning and Administration	Entitlement Management & Project Monitoring	500,000
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>		<b>500,000</b>

### TOTAL CDBG ENTITLEMENT EXPENDITURES

**\$2,811,750**

# FY12 CDBG, ESG and HOME FUNDING: BUDGET

**FY2012  
Amount  
Awarded**

*Revised: March 16, 2012*

## EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT FUNDING – ROUND 1 \$75,984

Catholic Social Services	Emergency Services Department	32,000
PACE, Inc.	Furniture, Lifeline Fuel and Rental Assistance Project	25,831
Steppingstone, Inc.	New Bedford Women's Therapeutic Community	12,562
Administration		5,591

## EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT FUNDING – ROUND 2 \$237,379

SRN, Inc	Harbour House Family Shelter	15,000
Catholic Social Services	Sister Rose House	28,000
Catholic Social Services	Emergency Services Department	22,500
SEMCOA, Inc	WRAP House--Maintenance	23,000
New Bedford Women's Center	Battered Women's Shelter	37,576
PACE, Inc.	Furniture, Lifeline Fuel and Rental Assistance Project	50,500
Steppingstone, Inc.	New Bedford Women's Therapeutic Community	20,000
Veteran's Transition House, Inc.	Operational Expenditure Reimb Project	23,000
Administration		17,803

**TOTAL 237,379**

### **CATEGORY (Round 2)**

<i>Shelter Operations</i>	123,000
<i>Rapid Re-Housing</i>	42,521
<i>Homeless Prevention</i>	54,055
<i>Administration</i>	17,803

**TOTAL ESG ENTITLEMENT EXPENDITURES \$313,363**

## 3. HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP FUNDING \$765,028

Neighborhoods First Program	240,000
Rental Housing Program	333,772
CHDO Set Aside (15%)	114,754
Administration (10%)	76,502

**TOTAL HOME ENTITLEMENT EXPENDITURES \$765,028**

### Conclusions

During FY12 the City of New Bedford will make significant progress in implementing its Housing and Community Development goals and priorities as set forth in its Consolidated Plan 2010-2014 and 2012 Action Plan. Many of these activities stand out as having the potential for positively impacting the quality of life for the City's low and moderate income residents. All of these activities have come to fruition as the result of an active public process, community input, careful planning and a significant commitment of financial resources while providing tremendous opportunities for low and moderate-income individuals and families, both young and old, throughout the City of New Bedford.

The City of New Bedford remains confident that its high level of performance enjoyed in the past years can be maintained as it continues exploring innovative opportunities to improve the quality of life for its low and moderate-income citizenry.