

Substantial Amendment to the 2008-2009 Action Plan

For CDBG-R Funds

LaPorte, Indiana

May 14, 2009

Purpose of the Consolidated Plan

A five year Consolidated Plan is required by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) from all jurisdictions receiving annual HUD assistance grants. The City of LaPorte, Indiana only receives Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding through a formula allocation. The plan establishes goals, objectives and strategies the City of LaPorte, Indiana will use to administer the federal grant programs, and commits LaPorte, Indiana to spend its federal funds to benefit its low to moderate-income residents.

Substantial Amendment to the 2008-2009 Action Plan for CDBG-R funds

In order to be eligible to receive funds under the CDBG-R, the City of LaPorte is required to complete a substantial amendment to the 2008-09 Action Plan. This proposed amendment will incorporate the CDBG-R funds and establish goals, objectives and strategies the City will use to administer and commit these funds.

Description of the Activities to be funded with CDBG-R funds

The City of LaPorte, Indiana has chosen the following project for funding with CDBG-R funds appropriated:

ADA Accessibility Ramps

\$119,663

Construct ADA access ramps in CDBG eligible areas at street corners to eliminate curbs as hazards to facilitate pedestrian access through residential blocks and streets for all residents but especially people using wheelchairs, strollers, walkers and other mobility aids.

In addition to using CDBG-R funds for this activity in eligible areas, LaPorte proposes to continue allocating funding in its regular annual CDBG grant to fund the construction of ADA access ramps at corners adjacent to homeowners participating in the owner-occupied rehab program (Home Owner Repair Program). No other Recovery Act funds will be used for this project.

This project meets the National Objective by benefitting low and moderate-income persons through the area benefit. This project falls into the Public Facilities and Improvements eligible activity (Matrix Code 03L – sidewalks).

The City of LaPorte, Indiana is party to a civil class action lawsuit involving accessibility of city sidewalks.

Public Process Used to Select Projects

The City of LaPorte held a public hearing where residents were able to comment on the locations proposed to receive the curb/corner improvements. Those comments were taken into consideration as the final funding decisions were made. The Offices of the Mayor, Engineering and Building Services, and Community Development and Planning coordinated the location of the accessibility ramps. Notice for the public hearing was advertised in the local newspaper in LaPorte, posted on the City of LaPorte's website and posted at 11 public locations throughout the city.

Distribution and use of CDBG-R funds meet Title XII of Division A and Section 1602 of the Recovery Act

In allocating funds for CDBG-R projects, the City of LaPorte determined that a priority would be given to infrastructure projects that were currently designed or could be designed, and construction could start within 120 days of HUD's approval of the City's plan to use these funds. This project meets these requirements. The City will begin bidding this project as soon as the environmental review is complete and final approval has been received from HUD to use CDBG-R funds for this project.

Activities Maximize Job Creation and Economic Benefit

Projects approved by the City of LaPorte maximize job creation and economic benefit through the investment in transportation, environmental protections, or other infrastructure that will provide long-term benefit. This project spurs economic growth by putting residents back to work as the employment rate in LaPorte has grown substantially during the six months. The majority of the job losses have been in manufacturing followed by construction.

Jobs Estimated or Retained Per Project

The estimated construction jobs that will be created or retained per project are listed below:

ADA Accessibility Ramps	Four (4) jobs will be created or retained
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Energy Conservation, Smart Growth, Green Building Techniques or Pollution Emissions

The project approved for CDBG-R funds will incorporate the following green building technologies:

- All concrete removed on the project is crushed and recycled as road base.
- All steel removed from the site is recycled.
- The concrete used has up to 20% of the cement powder replaced with fly ash (recycled material).

This project also improves and increases the walkability of the targeted neighborhoods with new access ramps. Poor infrastructure in the area limits the residents' ability to walk or bicycle to work, visit a neighborhood part or shop at a local business in the neighborhood. The improvements will eliminate some of the poor infrastructure and allow more people to park their cars and reduce pollution.

Administration and Planning

\$13,295

City of LaPorte, Indiana Contacts for CDBG-R Funds

The CDBG-R Substantial Amendment is posted on the City of LaPorte website at: www.cityoflaporte.com/CDBG and available for review in the Office of Community Development and Planning, City Hall, 801 Michigan Avenue, LaPorte, Indiana 46350, and at the LaPorte County Public Library, 901 Indiana Avenue, LaPorte, Indiana 46350. Questions and comments regarding the Substantial Amendment may be directed to Mary Ann Richards by telephone at 219-362-8260, email at cdbgprogram@cityoflaporte.com or by mail to Mary Ann Richards, CDBG Program Manager, 801 Michigan Avenue, LaPorte, IN 46350.

CDBG-R project information and reporting will be posted to the City of LaPorte's website at www.cityoflaporte.com. For additional information, contact Mary Ann Richards, CDBG Program Manager, 801 Michigan Avenue, LaPorte, IN 46350, cdbgprogram@cityoflaporte.com, or 219-362-8260.