

City of Lawrence CDBG/HOME Programs Grant Application

I. Cover Sheet

Please use this cover sheet as the first page of your proposal. No cover letters, please.

Agency Name: Oread Neighborhood Association

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 442065 – Lawrence, KS 66044

Program Address, if different than above: _____

Contact Name: Jodi Wentz Phone: (785) 842-5440

Contact Title: Coordinator

E-mail (required) : jodi@sunflower.com Fax : () None

Date : December 03, 2007

Mission of organization:

The mission of the Oread Neighborhood Association is to stabilize and maintain the neighborhood as a quality, mixed-density residential neighborhood by accommodating the need for student housing, preserving existing single-family housing, and revitalizing the neighborhood's unique architectural, environmental, and historical character. This mission can be accomplished by encouraging the participation of residents and property owners in the maintenance, planning, and development of the neighborhood.

II. Project Information: #1 – Operating Expenses

Requested \$4,361.00 Request is 33 % of project budget and 33% of agency budget.

Attachment Checklist

- Department approval, if applicable
- XX** List of officers and board members and their principal occupations (one per agency)
- XX** Most recent annual report and (one per agency) financial statement
- XX** Budget for proposed project, including revenues and expenses (one per project)

Project Type

(Check all that apply)

- XX** Strengthen Neighborhoods
- Movement to housing
- Emergency Assistance
- Affordable Housing
- Housing Counseling
- Home Ownership
- XX** Improve Housing Stock

Funding Need

(Check all that apply)

- New program
- XX** Existing program
- Public Service
- Capital Improvement
- Other (describe) _____

Please use the space provided on this cover page rather than an attachment to respond to the following:

Fifty-word summary description of the project:

Funds will be used as follows:

- 1) Publish Quarterly Newsletter: +2,500 mailed (i.e.: residents, property owners, city staff, etc.). Over 75% of the operating expenses are allocated to the newsletter. This publication is a communication tool that helps to strengthen the neighborhood.
- 2) Office Expenses: Phone, postage, copying, supplies, and webpage domain.

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II. Project Information: #2 – Coordinator Salary

Requested \$7,800.00 Request is 59 % of project budget and 59% of agency budget.

Attachment Checklist

- Department approval, if applicable
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- Capital Improvement
- Other (describe) _____

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Fifty-word summary description of the project:

The Coordinator helps to maintain ONA's presence in the neighborhood. This is important because a majority of Oread's population is transient; living in rental properties. Continuing education and ongoing communication helps to strengthen and improve the neighborhood. Of particular importance is the Coordinator's role as a liaison between the neighborhood and the City of Lawrence / University of Kansas. The Coordinator is responsible for production and distribution of the quarterly newsletter.

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III. Narrative

1. What is the situation, problem or opportunity this grant will address?

Much of the Oread Neighborhood Association's (ONA) work is accomplished through the organization acting as an advocate for the neighborhood. Because Oread is an older, highly transient neighborhood, there is an increased potential for environmental and structural blight. Ongoing efforts to sustain and improve the neighborhood require close collaboration with the City of Lawrence and the University of Kansas. The *Oread Neighborhood Association Newsletter* keeps residents / property owners informed about current issues being addressed by the neighborhood association. These groups are also made aware of their rights and responsibilities as citizens of Lawrence. The association has provided a mechanism to encourage compliance with and enforcement of city codes. Advocacy efforts are important to past and current improvements in public safety, quality of life and neighborhood stability.

2. How will this grant support the mission of the organization?

The association serves as a liaison between Oread residents / property owners and city offices reporting concerns about noise, trash, environmental blight, overall neglect of properties, etc.

ONA's newsletters educate residents about matters of neighborhood integrity and help build a sense of community among residents who frequently move. The newsletters inform residents of projects, upcoming events, neighborhood activities, neighborhood challenges, resident rights and responsibilities, and provides public service information. The newsletters notify residents about the availability of weatherization funds and housing programs available through the City of Lawrence.

During the last fiscal year, from August 2006 through July 2007, the following ONA accomplishments have benefited the neighborhood:

- The neighborhood worked with the Lawrence Community Shelter to draft and finalize the Good Neighbor Agreement. The final document was signed and submitted to the Planning Commission at their March 28, 2007, meeting.
- The State Historic Sites Board approved Oread's historic district nomination at their November 2006 meeting. The new historic district is now listed on the Kansas Register of Historic Places. On October 18, 2007, the National Parks Service approved the historic district and it is now also listed on the National Register. Securing a historic district designation in the neighborhood protects the area from unmanaged change. This provides greater security in the evolution of the neighborhood. Federal laws provide for tax credits on rehabilitation of eligible historic properties.
- The neighborhood association has been actively involved in a redevelopment project proposed for 12th & Oread. Developers have met with a sub-committee of ONA board members regularly since April 2007 to discuss proposed changes and neighborhood concerns / preferences. Without ONA's input, changes at this location

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could set an undesirable precedence. Future redevelopment in other parts of the neighborhood, or the City of Lawrence as a whole, could be impacted by the decisions made about 12th & Oread.

- ONA's annual clean-up brought together residents and property owners to participate in the care of the neighborhood.
- Twelve structurally blighted Oread properties were reported to Neighborhood Resources in December 2005. As of November 2007, all painting/repairs needed have been completed with the exception of two properties. One of the remaining properties, 1232 Louisiana, was owned by the KU Endowment Association and sold to Mr. Price Banks in April 2007. The final property at 1043 Indiana is owned by the University of Kansas and needs paint and structural repair. The University is actively considering the future of this property. There has been some discussion about demolition to be replaced by additional parking at this location. A definitive decision should be made soon.
- The University of Kansas installed sound blankets on the Gertrude Sellards Pearson residence hall chillers in response to neighborhood concerns about the insistent whine that has been emanating into the neighborhood since spring 2001. In June 2007, James Modig, Director of Design and Construction Management, provided an executive summary of the chiller sound test for neighbor review. Readings by the acoustical consultant indicated a sound level below unacceptable levels. According to Mr. Modig, the Student Housing Department has finalized plans to renovate GSP. This proposal will be submitted to the Board of Regents and the Legislature. They anticipate the project will be approved in the 2008 Legislative session. Student Housing has indicated they want to replace the existing chiller system at the time of renovation. The replacement chiller will be specified to minimize the potential of the sound level/issues previously experienced.
- In a seven to one vote, the Oread Neighborhood Association agreed to support the Lawrence Association of Neighborhoods proposal to implement rental registration in multi-family zoned neighborhoods. ONA would like to see a phased implementation plan. Properties in the five target neighborhoods should be included in the first series of inspections. Aging neighborhoods need to be made a priority.
- Neighborhood Resource Officers attended the spring general meeting to talk with neighbors about how they can serve the neighborhood. NROs act as liaisons who work closely with the community and city departments to follow up on problems and ensure resolution. Ensuring that neighbors are informed about this important service will help to alleviate chronic problems in the neighborhood (i.e.: trash, parties, etc).
- The Oread Neighborhood implemented a new website that can be viewed at: oreadneighborhood.org. The website serves as a valuable communication tool for the neighborhood.
- In June 2007, the ONA Board of Directors approved a \$100 annual donation to the Central Jr. High School Fun Run. This effort helps to support area neighborhood schools with a high ratio of low to moderate income households.
- Community out-reach information about crime, graffiti, noise, house parties, and good neighbor ordinances have been included in quarterly newsletters.

Continuation of a blight survey is proposed for the 2008-2009 CDBG grant year. The goal of this effort will be to identify blighted properties throughout the entire

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neighborhood and work with Neighborhood Resources to bring properties up to code. Ultimately, this will enhance stability in the neighborhood thereby strengthening it by improving housing stock. A property condition map has been obtained from the County Appraiser's office and neighbors plan to do a walking survey of the neighborhood in late 2007 or early 2008.

Without CDBG funds, continued operation would be difficult. CDBG assistance is critical to achieving neighborhood goals and addressing neighborhood needs. For many years, ONA has provided additional funding to cover expenses that exceed CDBG grant funding. ONA activities increase the stability, integrity and cohesion of the neighborhood, which in turn helps strengthen the neighborhood and improve neighborhood quality of life.

3. How many people will be served by this grant and what percentage are low-moderate income (describe method of verification)?

According to the City of Lawrence 2007 Action Plan (page 23), the population of the Oread Neighborhood is 4,749. Of that number, 3,707 (78%) are low or moderate income.

4. What resources are currently available to dedicate to the project, including staff, volunteers, existing funds and community partners?

There is one paid staff member. This is a part-time Coordinator, salary funded by CDBG, who works approximately 15 hours per week. All other manpower is provided solely by volunteers.

5. How is this approach to the issue unique or collaborative and what gives it a high likelihood of success?

Because the Oread Neighborhood Association works closely with the City of Lawrence and the University of Kansas when neighborhood issues arise, these collaborative efforts have a high likelihood of success. This is because all interested parties are involved in clearly identifying a problem and working towards a solution. Complaints / concerns are addressed in a proactive, rather than reactive, manner with this approach.

6. How will success be measured and how will you continue to fund this project once grant funds are expended?

During the 2008-2009 grant year, success will be measured by an overall reduction in structural blight throughout the neighborhood. A walking survey will be conducted during the 2007-2008 grant year to identify properties. A property condition map, obtained from the County Appraiser office, will also be used to identify properties that are in a blighted condition.

Findings will be relayed to the Zoning Enforcement Division, Neighborhood Resources Department. An Inspector will then look at the properties to determine if code violations exist. The ONA Coordinator will sustain ongoing communication with Neighborhood

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Resources to ensure that all potential code violations are addressed. Progress will be reported to Oread neighbors at monthly meetings.

7. What is the organization's timeline for achieving the objectives of the grant?

Fostering, nurturing and supporting a strong neighborhood is an ongoing effort.

8. What other funding sources have been approached and what have the responses been?

Additional funding for the Oread Neighborhood Association is generated from membership contributions and newsletter advertising sales. In each quarterly newsletter, residents, property owners, and other interested parties are encouraged to make a donation to the organization. Advertising income from quarterly newsletters totals approximately \$200 per issue.

9. Describe the agency philosophy and practices regarding recycling and other "green" practices.

In the spring 2007 Oread newsletter information was provided about grass and leaf collection and ways to handle yard waste. The 7th annual Earth Day Parade was also announced in this edition of the newsletter. Web links are provided to the City of Lawrence Waste Reduction & Recycling site at <http://www.lawrencerecycles.org>. Recyclable lawn and leaf bags are used during the annual neighborhood cleanup.

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IV. Project Budget

**CDBG FUNDING
Expenses**

PROJECT #1: Operating Expenses – 33% of Budget

Newsletters (4 @ \$870 each)	\$3,480.00
Telephone (Local service only @ ~\$38.00/month)	\$456.00
Office Expenses	\$365.00
Photocopying (\$75), Postage (\$65), Supplies (\$225)	
Webpage	\$60.00
 Total for Project #1	 \$4,361.00

PROJECT #2: Coordinator Salary – 59% of Budget

Total for Project #2	\$7,800.00
\$10.00 / hour x 15 hours per week x 52 weeks/ year	

TOTAL CDBG FUNDED EXPENSES..... \$12,161.00

**OREAD NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION FUNDING
Expenses – 8% of Budget**

Gifts & Contributions	\$125.00
Neighborhood meeting expenses.....	\$725.00
(Supplies, food, entertainment, rental expenses)	
Neighborhood Cleanup Expenses.....	\$75.00
Lawrence Association of Neighborhoods Dues.....	\$25.00
Blight Survey	\$75.00
 Total ONA Funded Expenses	 \$1,025.00

Income

Membership income	\$475.00
Advertising Income	\$775.00
Interest Income	\$12.50
 Total Non-CDBG Income	 \$ 1,262.50

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IV. Required Attachments

**OREAD NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
Board of Directors**

Office / District	Name	Principal Occupation
President / District 2	Jerry Stubbs	Technical Support Technician
Vice President / District 2	Candy Davis	Counselor
Secretary / District 4	Beth Reiber	Editor
Treasurer / District 3	James Dunn	Landlord
District 1 Representative	Ann Blackhurst	Retired
District 2 Representative	Rene Diaz	Professor
District 3 Representative	Laura Herlihy	Lecturer
District 4 Representative	Carol von Tersch	Retired
District 5 Representative	Marci Francisco	Space Analyst / Kansas Senator
District 6 Representative	Christy Kennedy	Self-employed typesetter/editor
At Large Members		
District 4	Devon Kim	Business Owner
District 3	Ellie Lecompte	Property Owner
District 4	Charity Grace	Retired

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ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT

OREAD NEIGHBORHOOD

INCOME/EXPENSE

8/01/2006 TO 7/31/2007

INCOME

CDBG Public Services	\$12,192.80
Memberships	487.00
Advertising Income	775.00
Interest Income	12.48

TOTAL INCOME	----- \$13,467.28
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EXPENSES

Dues	25.00
Employee Expenses	7,823.92
General Mtg Exp	726.03
Gifts & Contributions	126.83
Blight Survey	8.00
Newsletter	3,391.10
Office	993.70

TOTAL EXPENSES	----- \$13,094.58
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OVERALL TOTAL	----- \$ 372.70
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OREAD NEIGHBORHOOD

ACCOUNT BALANCES

7/31/2007

Bank Accounts

Capital Federal Checking	5,038.53
Coordinator's checking	2.00
FSCU	11.38
FSCU-Special Share Acct	2,907.53

TOTAL Bank Accounts	----- \$ 7,959.44
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