

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: Department of Public Works, City of Lawrence, Kansas

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 708, 6 E. 6th Street, Lawrence, Kansas 66044

Program Address, if different than above: n/a

Contact Name: Shoeb Uddin Phone: (785) 832-3130

Contact Title: City Engineer

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Date : December 3, 2007

Mission of organization:

We are committed to providing excellent city services that enhance the quality of life for the Lawrence Community.

II. Project Information

Requested \$207,500.00 Request is 75 % of project budget and less than 1 % of agency budget.

Attachment Checklist

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

Project Type

(Check all that apply)

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

Funding Need

(Check all that apply)

- New program
- 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:

This project will consist of construction of new sidewalks and removal and replacement of existing broken and unsafe sidewalks. The proposed new sidewalks will be constructed along the west side of Haskell Avenue between 15th and 23rd Street, along the south side of 15th Street east of Haskell Avenue, and along the east side of N. 7th Street in North Lawrence. Existing sidewalks will be removed and replaced at numerous locations in North and East Lawrence and are shown in the map attached with this application.

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III. Narrative

1. What is the situation, problem or opportunity this grant will address?
2. How will this grant support the mission of the organization?

The City of Lawrence, Kansas completed a comprehensive city-wide sidewalk study in 2005 that generated an inventory of the existing network of sidewalk (see attached city-wide sidewalk map) and a priority list of future projects to improve sidewalk connectivity and condition throughout the city. The attached sidewalk map shows the gaps in the existing network of sidewalks along arterial and collector streets. During the study, we also collected data regarding sidewalk condition rating, e.g. Critical, Poor, Fair and Good and are shown in a separate map attached with this application.

The city is pursuing an incremental policy to bridge all existing gaps and also to improve the condition of existing sidewalks through repair and replacement. Sidewalk gaps along arterial and collector streets are typically given priority in the selection of future sidewalk projects. According to Kansas Law and City Policy, it is the responsibility of the property owners to maintain the sidewalks along their property to ensure safety of pedestrians. Enforcement of this statute has been a challenging task for the city, especially in the low income areas where residents do not have the resources to repair and / or replace broken or unsafe sidewalks.

The City of Lawrence is committed to a multi-modal transportation network by providing sidewalks, bike paths and recreational paths throughout the city. The city requires construction of sidewalks along with the construction of all new city streets. The city has already completed the Master Plan for a Rail Trail extending from 23rd Street to 11th Street. Currently, there are two ongoing sidewalk projects (see attached map) which will bridge gaps in the existing sidewalk and enhance connectivity. However, the funding requirements to connect all the missing links in the existing sidewalk network are astronomical compared to the limited resources available for these projects. The proposed sidewalk projects, as described below in detail, will take us one step closer in achieving our goal and vision of connectivity throughout the city.

It is our understanding that Community Development Block Grant Programs are designed to improve the infrastructure and quality of life for residents in the low to moderate income areas. With that in mind, we have selected the following projects.

New Sidewalk on the West Side of Haskell Avenue Between 15th and 23rd Street

Haskell Avenue is a minor arterial street with high traffic volume. The area in this vicinity generates a large number of pedestrians. As shown on the attached map, there are missing links on the west side of Haskell Avenue. When these missing links are connected, people will be able to travel between 15th and 23rd street without having to cross a street with high traffic volume. This project will also provide opportunity for pedestrians to be able to walk to the Burroughs Creek Rail Trail (scheduled for construction in 2008) that runs north and south between 23rd and 11th Street through the underpass just west of Haskell Avenue. This project will also provide the opportunity for residents to visit the Health Facility located near the intersection of 20th and Moodie Road without depending on a motorized vehicle or assistance. It will also be convenient for handicap persons to visit Independence, Inc., a social services facility for handicap

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people, located near the intersection of 20th and Haskell Avenue. People using the Mass Transit would also be benefited by this project as there are numerous transit stops within the extent of this project along Haskell Avenue. It is also noteworthy that there are 3 public parks (Edgewood Park, Parnell Park, 19th and Haskell Park) located in the general vicinity of this project. Most of this project is located within the low to moderate income area. Total length of sidewalk within this stretch is 2,400 lineal feet. Total estimated construction cost is \$84,000.00

New Sidewalk on the South Side of 15th Street, East of Haskell Avenue

15th Street is a collector street with relatively high volume of traffic. When this missing link in the existing sidewalk is connected it will provide a continuous path for residents along the south side of 15th Street. There is a high volume of pedestrian traffic in this area. This project will benefit people visiting the recreation center, public parks and the strip mall located in the general vicinity of this project. This will also benefit the students and their parents of Kennedy Elementary School located nearby. Total length of the project is 1,400 lineal feet. Total estimated construction cost is \$49,000.00

New Sidewalk on the East Side of North 7th Street in North Lawrence

When constructed, this project will close the gap in existing sidewalk and will provide a continuous path to the ball field at Lyons Park located near the intersection of 7th and Lyon Street. North Lawrence Neighborhood Association is a strong advocate for this project. Total length of this project is 700 lineal feet. Total estimated construction cost is \$24,500.00

Remove and Replace Existing Sidewalk

As mentioned earlier, according to Kansas Law and City Policy, sidewalk maintenance is the responsibility of the adjacent property owner. However, many of our residents in low to moderate income areas simply do not have the resources to comply with this requirement. Therefore, as per directions from the City Commission, it is our intention to replace some of the existing sidewalks that are currently in poor or broken condition. We have selected a number of locations in east and north Lawrence and are shown in the attached map. According to our preliminary estimates, the total length of sidewalk replacement at these locations is approximately 1,000 lineal feet. Total estimated construction cost for this work is \$50,000.00

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

This project is located in areas of the city where more than 50 percent of the population are in the low to moderate income category. US Census data was used to determine the number of people who would be benefited by this project.

New Sidewalk

Approximately 2,000 people will be served by the sidewalk project on the west side of Haskell Avenue between 15th and 23rd Street. The project on the south side of 15th Street is expected to serve an estimated 1,200 people. It is estimated that over 1,000 people will be benefited by the project along N. 7th Street in north Lawrence.

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Sidewalk Replacement

In addition to serving the respective property owners, the sidewalk replacement project will also serve the public in general in the neighborhood. It is estimated that a total of approximately 6,800 people will be served by this investment in replacing 1,000 lineal feet of existing unsafe and broken sidewalks throughout the low to moderate income areas in the City of Lawrence, Kansas.

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

Topographic survey for this project will be performed by city staff consisting of a registered land surveyor and engineering technicians. All engineering design and construction plans will also be completed in-house under the direct supervision of the City Engineer. Bid letting and construction management / inspection services will be administered by the Assistant Public Works Director of the City of Lawrence, supported by a group of experienced construction inspectors on staff.

Utilization of city resources for environmental review, topographic survey, engineering design and construction management will maximize the benefits of the CDBG funds requested for this project as this approach will significantly cut down the cost of the project. This approach will also expedite the progression of the project by eliminating the need for advertisement and selection of an engineering consultant.

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

This project would supplement the ongoing effort by the city to improve connectivity throughout the city. The locations were selected based on a priority ranking of needs throughout the city. In addition to improved connectivity, this project will generate broad based public support and collaboration for safety reasons as well. By eliminating the need for crossing streets with traffic volume will improve safety for people in the area. Replacement of broken and unsafe sidewalks will also improve safety for pedestrians, especially during night and winter months. Like any other community projects, positive public perception and support will be the key to the success of this project.

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

This project will be deemed successful when completed as planned and as budgeted without controversies and conflicts. It is important that this project receive the approval and appreciation of the residents it is intended to serve. The long term success will be measured by the durability and sustainability of the new sidewalk. Although the property owners are responsible for the upkeep of sidewalks, the city staff will continuously monitor the future condition of these sidewalks to determine the need for replacement in the future.

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

April 01, 2008: CDBG Award (tentative date of award)
June 16, 2008: Environmental Review, Engineering Survey, Design and
Construction Plans completed.

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July 15, 2008: Bid Opening
August 11, 2008: Begin Construction
October 15, 2008: Complete (100%) Construction

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

The City of Lawrence routinely allocates funding for sidewalk projects in the Capital Improvement budget. However, the resources allocated by the city in this area are dwarfed by the monumental need for funding to bridge the existing gaps and to replace the broken sidewalks. We have not solicited funding from any other sources for this project. However, the City will provide all professional, technical and legal services necessary for this project. As the project budget shows, these services will account for approximately 25% of the project cost.

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

The City of Lawrence Waste Reduction and Recycling Division creates and supports opportunities for the citizens of Lawrence to reduce waste and recycle in an effective, cost-efficient and sustainable manner. The division operates successfully a yard waste program, fibers recycling for both commercial and residential, and a household hazardous waste program. The division also participates in various outreach and educational programs throughout our community in addition to hosting two city wide events (Earth Day Celebration and the Home Energy Conservation Fair). The City of Lawrence currently recycles cardboard, newspaper, and mixed paper by utilizing drop-off bins in ten locations across the city. In addition, the city offers cardboard and office paper recycling programs for businesses including city buildings.

The City of Lawrence is also committed to a variety of green practices. The Lawrence City Commission has committed to the Sierra Club Cool Cities Program. We are participants in the U.S. Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement and have purchased green tags to offset ten percent of our energy use in support of renewable, sustainable sources. Other green initiatives the city has committed to include the following: National Plug-In Partners, Green Power Partnership, integrated management systems for utilities operations, and an EPA performance track for utilities. These represent a continuing effort by the city of Lawrence to be stewards of our environment

It is an integral part of the “Green Vision” of the City of Lawrence to provide and promote alternative modes of transportation, e.g. sidewalks, bike paths, recreational paths, car pooling, mass transit, etc. in order to reduce dependence on non-renewable energy sources, reduce green house gas emissions, live in harmony with nature and thereby become a more responsible steward of the environment. This project will be an important step in realizing the “Green Vision” of the city.

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IV. Project Budget

New Sidewalk (4,500 L.F. @ \$35.00 per L.F.):	\$157,500.00
Remove & Replace Existing Sidewalk (1,000 L.F. @ \$50.00 per L.F.):	\$ 50,000.00
 Total Construction Cost:	 \$207,500.00
 Engineering Survey and Design:	 \$ 31,000.00
Construction Management / Inspection:	\$ 22,000.00
Legal Services:	\$ 12,000.00
 Total Project Cost:	 \$270,500.00
 CDBG Funds Requested:	 \$207,500.00
City's Match / Contribution:	\$63,000.00