

BLAIR COUNTY

City of Altoona

Statement Prepared by Mr. Lawrence D. Carter,
Executive Director
Planning & Community Development

Prepared for the ARRA public hearing before Chairman W. Curtis Thomas and the House Intergovernmental Affairs Committee, on December 10, 2009 in Harrisburg, PA.

As an Entitlement City, Altoona receives all funds directly from the Federal Government rather than through the State of Pennsylvania. Operating on the July 1 through June 30 Federal Fiscal Year the following provides a summary of the stimulus project status.

1) Homeless Prevention/Rapid Re-housing Program (HPRP)

The City received \$819,715 which has been allocated to the following sub grantees; Blair Senior Services, Blair County Community Action Agency, Family Services and the Home Nursing Agency. These human service agencies are the best local vehicles for providing services to prevent homelessness and organize rapid re-housing programs for the eligible population. As of this date, one job has been created.

2) Community Development Block Grant-Recovery (CDBG-R)

The City of Altoona is the regular administrator of CDBG funds. The routine amount allocated to the City during this program year was \$1,973,724. The CDBG-R funds were an additional allocation of \$535,897. The recovery funds were utilized to complete a curb and sidewalk project for a low-moderate income neighborhood, and to rehabilitate approximately five single family homes for eligible homeowners. The curb and sidewalk project has been completed, three single family home rehabilitations have started construction and two more have the contracts for rehabilitation awarded. The curb and sidewalk project created 3 jobs and retained 3 jobs and the housing rehabilitation project at this stage has created 0 jobs and retained 9.

3) Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG)

These funds are being utilized to replace the lighting elements in 149 street lamps with energy efficient units. These lamps are located in the City's Business District. Forty (40) windows in Firehouse #1 are also being replaced with energy efficient units. The 149 lamp elements have been purchased and will be installed with 2 jobs being retained. The contract for the windows is expected to be advertised in January 2010. The total project amount is \$205,700.

4) Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP-round 1)

The City of Altoona applied for \$280,845 of this competitive Pennsylvania Grant on February 2, 2009. The City routinely removed blighted structures over the decades using CDBG funds. This "spot blight" removal program halted any concentrated accumulation of blight. This lack of blight concentration caused the City to score low and no funds were received from the NSP program.

Lawrence D. Carter, Executive Director
Planning & Community Development
City of Altoona
1301 Twelfth Street, Suite 400
Altoona, PA 16601
lcarter@altoonapa.gov
814-949-2470 Fax: 814-949-0372