

DUTCHESS COUNTY/CITY OF POUGHKEEPSIE
2013-2017 CONSOLIDATED PLAN
STRATEGIC PLAN

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

PRIORITY: Improve coordination and use of economic development programs and activities available through the Community Development Block Grant Program to meet the economic challenges facing Dutchess County, including the Section 108 Loan Guarantee Program and other economic development loan and façade improvement programs.

STRATEGIC ACTIONS FOR DUTCHESS COUNTY:

- Make use of Section 108 Loan Guarantee Program for economic revitalization projects that are large enough to assist with renewing neighborhoods and business districts. Encourage additional private economic activity, providing the initial resources in distressed areas. Pair loan commitments with Brownfield Economic Development (BEDI) grants to assist with the redevelopment of abandoned, idled and underused industrial and commercial facilities where environmental contamination is evident.
- Support programs and projects that encourage economic development in the cities and that address poor and minorities in the urban core to take advantage of education and employment opportunities.
- Support the work of the Dutchess County Economic Development Corporation to attract, retain, and expand for-profit and not-for-profit businesses, including developing industry clusters to enhance Dutchess County's attractiveness to businesses.
- Support the DC Economic Development Agency's capacity to work with the CDBG Program to promote more diverse, small businesses. Public sector support could include economic incentives, incubator space, and working investment strategies for training, recruitment and retention of employees.
- In the City of Beacon, analyze economic improvements, infill redevelopment, and physical linkages from Main Street to the train station and waterfront, including signage and transportation.
 - Complete rezoning project for the central section of Main Street and a proposed Linkage District between Route 9D and the train station.
 - Focus on two particular areas: the central Main Street district between Digger Phelps Street and Teller Avenue, and the Linkage District from Route 9D along Beekman Street and West Main Street and including the southern portion of the MTA/Metro-North properties connecting to the Train Station.

STRATEGIC ACTIONS FOR CITY OF POUGHKEEPSIE:

- Support the existing Economic Development Loan Fund (EDLF). Target existing businesses as well as start-ups and to entice businesses to either expand or open a new enterprise.

- Support the Façade Improvement Grant to assist property owners in addressing the deterioration and maintenance of commercial buildings, to improve commercial structures.
- Support the activities of the Middle Main Revitalization by a non-profit housing provider and encourage positive development of this Main Street corridor.
- Promote public/private partnerships to create street level retail space and affordable rental units on upper floors.
- Support the promotion of the positive reputation of The Walkway Over the Hudson and its economic impact to improve the economic health of the City.
- Support the initiative to add a second grocery store in the heart of the central business district for the creation of additional jobs for low and moderate income residents.
- Support remediation of waterfront parcels for commercial, residential, recreational and green space.

PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE

PRIORITY: Use Community Development Block Grant funding for infrastructure improvements that promote the Greenway-inspired Centers and Greenspaces approach. Public Infrastructure includes sidewalks and crosswalks, parks and recreation areas including handicapped accessibility improvements, transportation, and water and wastewater improvements.

PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGIC ACTIONS FOR DUTCHESS COUNTY:

- Fund the repair of aging infrastructure or construction of new sidewalks and crosswalk infrastructure to meet future needs within centers.
- Fund sidewalk improvements and handicapped accessible crosswalks and curbs that reinforce pedestrian connections for people with disabilities, including older adults, persons with vision impairments, and children.
- Support the inventory and assessment of existing sidewalk conditions, including data on crosswalk locations, curb ramp conditions, sidewalk widths and handicapped accessibility.
- Support sidewalk improvement strategies and diagonal parking to calm traffic; provide shade trees, landscaping and sitting places; and enhance central greens and the installation of sidewalks on both sides of a road wherever possible.
- Support improvements to municipal parks and recreation areas, including playground equipment and handicapped accessible improvements.
- In the City of Beacon, fund infrastructure that involves replacement of highway equipment and sidewalk improvements and water main improvements.

PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGIC ACTIONS FOR CITY OF POUGHKEEPSIE:

- Support identified road, sidewalk and sewer repairs and improvements.
- Support improvements to municipal parks and recreation areas, including playground equipment and handicapped accessible improvements.
- Support the construction of a walkway at Kaal Rock Park, allowing residents a nearly two mile promenade along the Hudson River.
- Support projects and activities that connect the waterfront to the Central Business District.
- Support the construction of the elevator for The Walkway Over the Hudson.

TRANSPORTATION STRATEGIC ACTIONS FOR DUTCHESS COUNTY & CITY OF POUGHKEEPSIE:

- Promote infrastructure that supports Transit-Oriented Developments (TODs) that are pedestrian friendly and contain a mixture of uses, incomes, building types and public places.
- Promote the use of CDBG funds toward reinforcing traditional centers, supporting main streets, and building on existing infrastructure.
- Support projects that have site plans with the best TOD potential, including waterfront sites in the Cities of Beacon and Poughkeepsie.
- Support the conversion of surplus state properties near rail stations in eastern Dutchess County to provide creative small and large-scale TOD models.
- Support transportation options that address the issue of limited service to some rural areas and outlying large employers.
- Support alternative options for transportation for seniors to fill the gap from recent cutbacks in transportation services by Dial-A-Ride.
- Support activities that address the bus transportation issues such as trip length, confusing schedules, and inconvenient or infrequent service times.

WATER & WASTEWATER STRATEGIC ACTIONS FOR DUTCHESS COUNTY:

- Support the compilation of critical data and funding opportunities for water and sewer projects.
- Support central water and/or wastewater systems so that municipalities can expand economically, for both business and housing.
- Support activities that promote Greenway Connections principles and guides that require compatible wastewater solutions, including: strengthening community centers as primary growth centers; promoting conservation subdivisions; constructing on-site wastewater solutions for small lots and environmentally sensitive areas.
- Promote a central database to map existing water and sewer systems and provide information about capacity.
- Support projects in municipalities that have properly set user charges (i.e., water and sewer rates) to fund the water and/or sewer systems, including necessary maintenance and repair and replacement of short-lived assets.
- Support efforts to study and/or develop a water/sewer revolving loan fund program where funds spent in the project development phase can be recouped through later project financing to give the County dollars for water and sewer infrastructure development in the form of both development and capital costs.
- Support the use of alternative wastewater systems in existing and emerging centers, cluster subdivisions, small or substandard lots or lots in environmentally sensitive areas.
- Encourage new techniques to contain drainage such as green streets, pervious parking lots, and rain gardens in areas where runoff and infiltration of storm water into sewer systems is a severe problem.

WATER & WASTEWATER STRATEGIC ACTIONS FOR CITY OF POUGHKEEPSIE:

- Fund the maintenance of public water facilities to ensure the continued availability of a safe and reliable system.
- Fund improvements to aging sewer systems to provide good functioning sanitary lines through scheduled preventative maintenance.

PUBLIC SERVICES

PRIORITY: Support the use of CDBG human service program services funds for activities that specifically benefit and address the issues of housing and homelessness; youth and job mentoring, substance abuse and homeless prevention, educational/after-school programs; and services to senior citizens. Available funding will determine the potential for support of the remaining priorities of basic needs, child abuse, child care, domestic violence and literacy services.

Priority will be given to programs which support the identified needs and goals of the Dutchess County Continuum of Care and the 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness, and are provided by agencies who actively participate in the Dutchess County Housing Consortium.

STRATEGIC ACTIONS FOR DUTCHESS COUNTY & CITY OF POUGHKEEPSIE:

HOMELESSNESS

- Support existing shelters and programs for the homeless, including homeless and runaway youth, especially those with street-based outreach programs.
- Support homeless outreach, including presentations and distribution of information to increase awareness of available resources for at-risk youth.
- Support programs that provide homeless emergency housing and those providing short-term/respite housing.
- Support programs that provide counseling and assistance in addressing immediate needs and in locating suitable housing, employment, educational/vocational training, therapy, medical assistance, financial support, and other services.
- Assist homeless individuals, especially homeless youth, in developing independent-living skills.

YOUTH

- Support programs that provide general counseling, juvenile delinquent diversion, services to youth and youth outreach.
- Support programs that provide job mentoring for low to moderate income and poor youth age 16-24 with academic and vocational training and employment opportunities.
- Support programs that encourage partnerships with schools and business. Fund job internship programs for at-risk teenagers from income eligible families to learn skills to succeed in the workplace.
- Support programs that develop high quality workforce skills for youth and provide technology training, work readiness skills and educational support services to enhance workforce skills.
- Support programs that prepare youth for jobs in the emerging green sector to prepare students for careers with photovoltaic and geothermal energy.
- Support programs that provide occupational training, and assist high school aged students with obtaining their diplomas or GEDs.
- Support programs and agencies attempting to address the gaps in services left by the closure of youth programs.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- Support residential services that facilitate the recovery of chemical dependent individuals and families.
- Support emergency housing for individuals with active chemical dependency problems and for individuals who may not be intoxicated, but are at risk of relapse and homelessness.
- Support follow-up chemical dependency treatment programs to prevent further homelessness.
- Support programs that address accidental fatal drug overdoses, which have soared in past ten years, mostly due to the abuse of prescription painkillers.
- Support programs to address the unmet need for services for individuals age 12-17 and the high incidence of alcohol and other drug abuse in the schools.

SENIOR CITIZENS

- Support programs that address the concerns of seniors, including understanding health insurance/Medicare, keeping up with medical costs, and knowing where to obtain information about services and benefits.
- Encourage programs that address concerns of individuals working with seniors, including transportation, loneliness and isolation, and insufficient money for food, shelter or clothes.

OTHER HUMAN SERVICE NEEDS

Basic Needs

- Support programs that prevent people from going without basic needs, such as food or medical treatment due to lack of income.
- Support daily meal programs and soup kitchens throughout Dutchess County.
- Support programs that assist with expanded transportation options, especially to increase employment opportunities.
- Support programs that provide assistance in meeting housing and utility needs, such as rent or utility bills and payment for heat and electricity.

Child Abuse & Child Care

- Support programs to reduce the incidence of child abuse in Dutchess County.
- Provide support to programs that serve abused and at-risk children and provide support and education services to the involved adults.
- Support after school and child care programs.

Domestic Violence

- Support existing emergency shelters and transitional housing complexes and counseling sessions and in-house trainings.
- Support programs that address the increase in domestic violence in recent years.
- Support programs that address the increase in fatal or near fatal domestic violence incidents.

Literacy

- Support literacy programs that help during the critical early years of cognitive development so impoverished children have opportunities to build their literacy skills.

- Support programs that improve youth literacy to prevent school dropouts, drug abuse, domestic violence, teenage pregnancy, poor academic achievement and crime.
- Provide support to programs that improve the literacy skills of Latinos, which are significantly lower than those of other racial and ethnic groups.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

HOUSING AFFORDABILITY

PRIORITY: Increase and improve housing affordability through the creation of new affordable rental housing, and reduction of housing costs for existing homeowners, particularly cost burdened senior citizens, and promotion of inclusionary zoning and mixed-income housing.

STRATEGIC ACTIONS:

Rental Housing

- Fund the creation of new rental housing through new construction, rehabilitation of vacant deteriorated residential buildings, and adaptive reuse of former commercial or industrial buildings/properties.
- Prioritize rental housing with the following characteristics:
 - Intergenerational or non-restricted housing which address the housing needs of individuals, families and seniors.
 - Housing in communities with limited affordable opportunities, or in the case of the City of Poughkeepsie in neighborhoods with limited affordable opportunities, to increase housing choice opportunities for all residents.
 - Housing that sets aside a portion of the units for hard-to-serve special needs populations such as chronically homeless, substance abusers, mentally ill and formerly incarcerated. Focus on single-room occupancy (SROs) and studio units for these populations.
 - Housing which also support the needs and goals of Dutchess County Continuum of Care and the Dutchess County 10-Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness, and will be developed by agencies who are active participants in the Dutchess Housing Consortium.
 - Housing which:
 - Is located in established or emerging town/village centers
 - Is located along transit routes, and near employment and services
 - Incorporates active design guidelines (examples - playgrounds, walking trails, bike racks and indoor bike storage, stairwell design and signage to encourage stair usage, community gardens)
 - Incorporates universal design criteria to address to the housing needs of a wide spectrum of the population
 - Incorporates green infrastructure (examples - energy efficient mechanical systems, environmentally friendly storm water management)
 - Is designed with consideration for the surrounding architecture and use high-quality materials as appropriate such as fiber cement siding (example –

HardiePlank), exterior stone, shake or scalloped siding; wrought iron or composite decking (example – Trex) materials.

- Fund and support implementation of the Distressed Properties Initiative being conducted by the City of Poughkeepsie and the PACE Land Use Law Center using County/City HOME funds and City CDBG funds to the extent its priorities are consistent with the rental housing priorities outlined above.
- Use resources of the CDBG Program and Dutchess County Water and Wastewater Authority, as well as State and local funding, to expand the availability of water and wastewater systems that support the development of proposed affordable housing. The City of Poughkeepsie will continue to utilize a portion of its CDBG funds for improvements to its systems in income eligible neighborhoods.
- Support the strategic plan goals of the public housing agencies and their ongoing maintenance and quality management. Work to incorporate public housing agencies and their residents to take active roles in public housing management, Consolidated Plan/Action Plan development, the Dutchess County Housing Consortium/Continuum of Care, and other community coalitions as appropriate.
- Promote the use of the www.nyhousingsearch.gov website, an online affordable housing locator database, with landlords and the public to help improve access to affordable housing units.
- Due to limited and decreasing public funds, private financing will be increasingly important for the renovation of existing and construction of new affordable housing. County staff will maintain knowledge of private underwriting standards and provide technical assistance and referrals to private landlords to help them access private financing for renovations and new construction.

Owner-Occupied Housing

- Rehabilitation Programs –
 - Fund senior rehabilitation programs at the County and City level in an effort to alleviate the high level of cost burden identified for senior households and help them maintain their independence.
 - Fund volunteer rehabilitation programs such as Rebuilding Together and Habitat for Humanity which provide cost effective rehabilitation to low and moderate income homeowners.
 - All rehabilitation programs shall focus on:
 - Removal of code violations
 - Improving energy efficiency through use of energy-efficient appliances and mechanical systems to help lower utility costs/housing cost burden
 - Handicapped accessibility and other improvements which help maintain a household's independence, particularly for the elderly and disabled.
- Fund and support implementation of the Distressed Properties Initiative being conducted by the City of Poughkeepsie and the PACE Land Use Law Center using County/City HOME funds and City CDBG funds to the extent its priorities are consistent with the owner-occupied housing priorities outlined above.

- Work with local municipalities and non-profits to identify low-income homeowners in need of assistance with home repairs and connect them with the appropriate agency.
- Promote NYS energy efficiency initiatives to encourage homeowners to assess their energy efficiency needs and use NYS resources to make needed energy efficiency improvements.
- Promote the activities of the NeighborWorks HomeOwnership Center for households interested in purchasing a home. Outreach to realtors and lender to improve understanding of the HomeOwnership Center's activities.
- Promote the NeighborWorks HomeOwnership Center's foreclosure prevention services until foreclosures stabilize at long term historic levels.
- Promote the NeighborWorks HomeOwnership Center's reverse mortgage counseling as one option to help seniors alleviate their housing cost burden and help maintain their independence.

Inclusionary Housing/Mixed-Income Housing

- Promote the development of affordable housing, both rental and owner-occupied, through inclusionary zoning. Provide technical assistance to municipalities with inclusionary zoning and others interested in implementing such ordinances.
- Encourage the development of privately financed housing that offers a variety of housing types including a mix of market rate and affordable units where the market rate units provide an internal subsidy.
- Give priority to any County discretionary funds (including but not limited to CDBG and Partnership for Manageable Growth) to projects in communities which have taken actions to affirmatively further fair housing choice, including but not limited to: inclusionary zoning; creation of housing committees; and zoning revisions which encourage affordable housing

IMPROVE ACCESS OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING

PRIORITY: Decrease barriers to access housing and reduce/eliminate discrimination in housing choice

The County and City's recently completed *Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice (2012)* provides details regarding the County and City activities in this area. The following is a summary of those activities:

STRATEGIC ACTIONS:

- Work to improve the local land use approval process to assist with and encourage the development of a wider variety of housing options, particularly affordable housing.
- Work to improve the availability of water and wastewater infrastructure which is critical to the development of affordable housing.
- Improve coordination of transportation systems and promote site selection that emphasizes transit access and walkability.
- Develop and participate in educational opportunities to address NIMBY (Not-in-My-Backyard) issues.
- Develop fair housing education, marketing, outreach and advisory capacity within the Department of Planning and Development.

- Maximize utilization of existing local, state and federal housing assistance programs and increase availability of information on available and proposed affordable housing.

Full details for each action are available in the full Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice at <http://www.co.dutchess.ny.us/CountyGov/Departments/Planning/aifhcreport.pdf>.

HOMELESSNESS

PRIORITY: Support the Dutchess County Housing Consortium (DCHC) and Dutchess County Continuum of Care's efforts to end chronic homelessness and reduce all other forms of homelessness

STRATEGIC ACTIONS:

- Fund permanent or transitional housing for the homeless. Priority will be given to:
 - Permanent housing, as waiting lists in transitional housing are often the result of the limited permanent housing which keeps individuals and families in transitional housing for the maximum time permitted by programs.
 - Housing that address needs also identified in the Dutchess County Continuum of Care and the 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness.
 - Housing that sets-aside a portion of their units for hard-to-serve special needs populations such as chronically homeless, substance abusers, mentally ill and formerly incarcerated. Focus on single-room occupancy (SROs) and studios units for these populations.
 - Housing developed by agencies that demonstrate collaboration and are active participants in the DCHC.
- Continue a leadership role in the DCHC, a county-wide consortium whose missions is to prevent and end homelessness by facilitating collaboration, planning, education and advocacy, and by promoting the development and preservation of needed resources. The DCHC also functions as the Dutchess County Continuum of Care. County activities within the DCHC and CoC include:
 - Coordination of the submission of the annual HUD Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for the Shelter Plus Care and Supportive Housing Program which provide funding for transitional and permanent supportive housing, as well as support services for a variety of homeless populations.
 - Administration of the Shelter Plus Care programs secured through the NOFA
 - Leading the CoC Performance Review Committee
 - Coordination of the shelter based Point-in-Time (PIT) Count as well as collating sheltered and unsheltered PIT data, updating Homeless Housing Inventory Chart (HIC), reconciling HIC and PIT, and submitting documents through HUD's Homeless Data Exchange (HDX).
- Fund homeless services which support homeless housing, needs also identified in the Dutchess County Continuum of Care and the 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness, and are provided by agencies that demonstrate collaboration and are active members of the DCHC.
- Develop increased knowledge of funding opportunities to address homeless needs, focusing on new opportunities that may be available through the implementation of the Homeless

Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act and the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG).

ANTI-POVERTY

PRIORITY: Reduce the number of families living in poverty.

STRATEGIC ACTIONS:

- Support the strategic goals of public housing agencies and housing choice voucher programs.
- Fund affordable, sustainable rental housing (detailed in housing affordability priority) with a focus on providing housing for the homeless and hard-to-serve special needs populations.

LEAD BASED PAINT

PRIORITY: Reduce lead based paint hazards in the City of Poughkeepsie and Dutchess County and increase the amount of new affordable housing without lead based paint.

STRATEGIC ACTIONS:

- Keep abreast of lead-based paint regulations and insure compliance with HUD Lead Based Paint regulations for all CDBG and HOME funded rehabilitation projects.
- Inspectors for Housing Choice Voucher Programs and other federally-funded rental assistance programs will continue to identify lead based paint issues in any units currently occupied, or to be occupied with children under the age of six as well as all federally subsidized rehabilitation.
- Continue ongoing coordination with Dutchess County Health Department to determine the incidence of lead poisoning in children and cases where abatement is required. DC Health Department will continue its initiative with the City of Poughkeepsie Building Department, an area with a high concentration of cases, to complete lead hazard inspections as part of normal building department inspections and make referrals to remedy identified hazards.
- Work with DC Health Department and local building departments to encourage compliance with the EPA's Renovate, Repair and Painting (RRP) rule for all privately conducted rehabilitation projects.