



Planning Progress

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Dr. Bernice A. King to speak at Fair Housing Luncheon

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The Stark County Fair Housing Department, City of Canton Fair Housing Commission and Stark Metropolitan Housing Authority are honored to announce that Dr. Bernice King, Minister, CEO, Attorney, Author and daughter of the late Coretta Scott King and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., will be the Luncheon Speaker on October 30, 2018. This year marks the 50th Anniversary of the Fair Housing Act and the tragic death of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. In commemoration of these historic events, the three

agencies have come together to host a special Fair Housing Luncheon. The theme for the event is “50 Years of Fair Housing... Celebrating Our Progress.”

Don't miss the multifaceted speaker, Dr. Bernice A. King, at the Fair Housing Luncheon. Mark your calendars now! The event will be held on October 30, 2018 from 11:30 am – 1:30 pm at the Conference Center at Kent State University at Stark. Additional information, including registration, can be found on Stark County Regional Planning Commission's website at www.rpc.starkcountyohio.gov.

ADOPTED FY 2018 STARK COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) AND HOME PROGRAMS

On June 6th, the Board of Stark County Commissioners adopted the FY 2018 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME programs, July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019. This adoption took place after the thirty-day comment period for both programs expired on April 11th and the funding allocation was received from HUD on May 15th. Both the FY 2018 CDBG and HOME programs were previously adopted by the CDBG Citizens' Advisory Council in late February and the Stark County Regional Planning Commission in early March, prior to the March 21st public hearing. Following is the breakdown of the FY 2018 CDBG and HOME programs.

FY 2018 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM

The Board of Stark County Commissioners will undertake the following housing and community development activities during FY 2018.

PROJECTS	FY 2018
CDBG Administration	161,000
Comprehensive Planning	105,186
Housing Rehab- Full/Emergency Rehab	165,000
Housing Rehab- Direct/Program Operation	235,000
Fair Housing	75,000
CommQuest Services, Inc. - Family Living Center	18,000
Alliance for Children & Families - Alliance Emergency Residence	16,640
Prescription Assistance Network of Stark County - Prescription Medicine Access	22,000
Stark County Mental Health Board - Centralized Intake & Coordinated Assess.	30,000
Village of Minerva - Pennsylvania Water Main Replacement	70,000
Canton Township - Moreland Allotment Sanitary Sewer Installation	422,805
Contingencies	10,299
Total Available FY '18	\$ 1,330,930

The county has a balance of \$300,000 in the Housing Rehab Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) for use with the program. All program income earned from the RLF will revolve back into this program.

FY '18 is the first year of a three-year funding plan for future infrastructure projects. The "West Lincoln Way Water Main Replacement" project, located in the Village of Minerva, is expected to receive \$135,000 in CDBG funding during FY '19. As the balance of FY '19 funding remains to be allocated outside of this infrastructure project, the Board will accept applications later this year to complete the FY 2019 funding plan; with additional applications accepted in the fall of 2019 to complete the FY 2020 funding plan.

FY 2018 HOME PROGRAM

The Board of Stark County Commissioners, as the lead agency for the HOME Consortium, is proposing the following expenditure of funds for the HOME program, which follows the same program year as the CDBG program.

PROJECTS	FY 2018
Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO) (future project)	123,083
Stark County Housing Rehabilitation	375,401
City of Massillon - Homebuyer and Housing Rehab Activities	123,083
City of Alliance - Housing Rehabilitation	116,928
Administration	82,055
Total FY '18 Funding	\$ 820,550

In addition, HOME program income earned, \$150,000, will be utilized under the Stark County Housing Rehabilitation project.

After adoption by the Board of Stark County Commissioners, Stark County RPC submitted the fully-approved "Stark County FY 2018 CDBG and HOME Programs - One-Year Action Plan" to the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for their acceptance. It is expected that HUD will release funding under the FY 2018 in the late summer/early fall 2018.

Stark County Housing Rehab Program

Program Basics-

- Combination grant/deferred loan
- Brings home up to code – safe and sanitary conditions
- Work could include-electric, plumbing, roofs, windows, siding, etc.
- Projects can be up to \$25,000

Qualifications-

- Properties must be owner-occupied
- Homeowner must be owner of record for at least one year
- Applicants must be income-qualified according to HUD's most current median income limits
- Must live in Stark County excluding the cities of Canton, Massillon, Alliance, and the village of Hills & Dales
- Cannot be delinquent in their mortgage payment or monies owed to any government entity nor have any outstanding liens, judgments, or suits

Emergency Repair Program- repairs under this program are for emergency situations that occur or have occurred in the past 3 months and include such things as furnace repairs, water wells, roof repairs, etc. that pose an immediate threat to the health or safety of the occupants.

Call for more information or to get on waiting list - 330-451-7399.

Stark County's FY 2019 HOME Funding

The Stark County Regional Planning Commission is under contract to the Board of Stark County Commissioners to administer the Stark County HOME program. Stark County receives this federal funding as a direct entitlement grant from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Last year, the county received \$820,550 in HOME funding; this was a 39% increase from the previous year. It is expected the county will receive approximately this same amount in FY 2019 funding. This funding will be available for use between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020.

HOME eligible activities are housing-related projects that benefit low-and moderate-income persons/households. Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDO) are encouraged to apply as 15% of the overall HOME allocation is required to be allocated to qualified CHDO projects. As such, the Consortium plans to provide approximately \$123,000 of HOME funding to such activities.

Stark County participates in the HOME program as a consortium with both of the cities of Massillon and Alliance, thus a portion of Stark County's HOME funding will be provided to each. The cities will receive 20% and 19%, respectively, of the HOME grant balance after CHDO apportionment for use in their jurisdictions.

Major regulation changes took place with the HOME Investment Partnership (HOME) Program five years ago; as these amendments were very significant to the overall program, potential HOME applicants are asked to familiarize themselves with the 2013 "HOME Final Rule" document and the changes it made to the overall HOME program.

A HOME "Request for Proposal" workshop will be held on Wednesday, November 14th, with applications for this upcoming HOME program being due by Friday, January 4th at Noon. After the applications are received, they will be reviewed. A decision in regard to the 2019 program is expected to be presented to the public by mid-March, with a public hearing to take place in late March/early April presenting the proposed program to the Board of Stark County Commissioners. For questions about the HOME program, please contact either Katie Phillips, Planner, at 330-451-7247 or Lynn Carlone, Chief of Community Development at 330-451-7774.

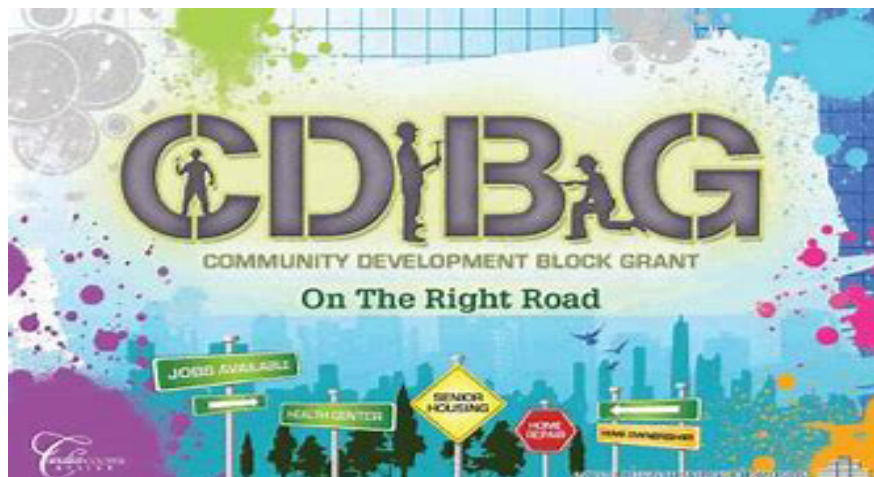
Stark County CDBG Department Accepting Applications

The Stark County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) department is currently accepting applications for the next three year CDBG funding cycle, FY 2019-2021. Funding would be available from July 1, 2019 until June 30, 2022. Applications for public service and economic development projects will be accepted for FY '19 only, while applications for infrastructure and public facility improvement projects will be accepted for FY '19, '20, and/or '21.

On August 29th, the Stark County CDBG staff held a workshop for potential applicants. Over 35 different political subdivisions and non-profit agencies & organizations attended. The agenda for the workshop included an explanation of the FY 2019-2021 application form, its accompanying instructions and guidelines, discussion of eligibility requirements, selection of five members of the upcoming application review committee, and sample projects.

Though attendance at the workshop was not required, additional ranking points will be awarded to all applications in which the applicant attended, though persons who did not attend the workshop are still encouraged to submit an application(s).

If your community, organization, agency, etc. is interested in receiving Stark County CDBG funding, now is the time to plan for and submit an application for funding. Persons interested in obtaining an application packet can do so by visiting the Stark County RPC website at www.rpc.starkcountyohio.gov or contact Lynn Carlone, Chief of Community Development at 330-451-7774. Stark County CDBG applications are due by Friday, November 2nd at Noon at the RPC offices.



FY 2019-2023

Stark County Consolidated Plan

The Regional Planning Commission (RPC) is currently preparing a five-year Consolidated Plan for FY 2019-2023 (July 1, 2019-June 30, 2024) for Stark County. The Consolidated Plan serves as the framework to identify housing and community development needs and set goals, objectives and strategies for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) programs that receive funding from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). A community-wide survey was available to the public from January 2, 2018-June 30, 2018 to collect data and help prioritize community development and housing needs for the new Consolidated Plan. Questions in the survey asked participants to rate the priorities of services/needs within the following categories: Permanent Housing; Homeless Housing Facilities; Public Services; Infrastructure Improvements; Public Facilities; and Economic Development. Over 130 survey responses were received.

RPC held 4 visioning meetings in May 2018 to provide a background of the CDBG and HOME programs, review the preliminary results of the survey and collect additional public input. The results from the survey and comments received at the visioning meetings will aid in prioritizing how funding would be anticipated to be allocated over the 5-year fiscal period (2019-2023). There were 62 attendees at the visioning meetings. These individuals represented local government agencies, Stark County residents and businesses, non-profit organizations, past CDBG and HOME applicants and sub-recipients and persons of general interest. The results of the survey are available on the RPC website for review. RPC will continue to collect additional data for the Consolidated Plan through the end of 2018. The Consolidated Plan for FY 2019-2023 will be submitted to HUD, as required, in May 2019.

To review the 2019-2023 Consolidated Plan survey results, please visit the following link: <https://www.starkcountyohio.gov/StarkCounty/media/RPC-Planning/Con-Plan-Survey-Results.pdf>

Hall of Fame Land Use and Transportation Study Update

Since the June 12th public meeting and the July 11th steering committee meetings, the consultants for the study have been working on prioritizing recommendations and placing them in three scenarios: projects that would provide the most benefit if conditions remain close to existing conditions; those that would be useful if a moderate growth in visitation occurs; and those that will be needed if the project meets its forecast goal in development and visitation.

Committee members were asked to rank suggestions and assist in weighting criteria for each scenario. Ten project criteria were identified: (1) Project Cost: How expensive the improvement will be. Lower cost improvements rank highest; (2) Political Priority: A project a local jurisdiction has identified as a priority in previous plans or expressed as a future goal; (3) Project Readiness: How quickly can a project be implemented (funding, design, right of way, etc. in place); (4) Public Desire: A project that the public has expressed interest in pursuing, through survey results, public meeting input or other feedback; (5) Economic Impact: A project that either directly adds jobs or encourages job growth to the immediate area; (6) Connectivity Enhancement: A project that increases transportation mobility or modal choice within the study area; (7) Traffic Impact: The positive effect a project will have on future traffic congestion and traffic safety; (8) Quality of Life Benefit (Local): How a project will increase health, safety, mobility or the opportunity for employment for local residents; (9) Visitor Benefit: How the improvement enhances a visitor's experience in the area or encourages additional visitors to frequent the area; and (10) Transformative Project: A project that is iconic either in scale or beauty, providing additional or enhancing local attractions.

Weights were assigned to the criteria based on survey results and project rankings have been made within the various scenarios. Tables are being developed which will show recommendations for each scenario, as well as for general recommendations.

At the latest steering committee meeting held on August 21st, members reviewed recommendations for the various scenarios and suggested additional elements of importance that should be reviewed. The next public meeting will be October 17th to review the Draft Plan.

12th Street Bridge in Stadium Park Reopens



One of the major improvements on the 12th street corridor has finally opened. Drivers can now travel on 12th Street between Monument Road NW and the I-77/Mercy Medical Center intersection.

This project involved realigning 12th Street as it comes down from I-77 in order to: improve the sidewalk width and usefulness, replace the bridge over the Water Works Park Raceway, replace the county bridge over the West Branch of the Nimishillen Creek and add multipurpose trail lanes underneath it, replace and widen the railroad crossing, and improve the approaches to 12th street on Stadium Drive and various trail crossings. Approach work remains in progress and should be completed within the next couple of months. The reopening of the 12th Street Corridor is a reprieve to those who have been using alternate routes throughout the construction period.

In addition to matching funds provided by Canton and Stark County, SCATS committed \$5,180,850 in STP (Surface Transportation Program) funds, \$360,000 in CMAQ (Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality) funds, and \$100,000 in Transportation Alternatives funds. An additional \$1.5 million was contributed by the District 19 Public Works Integrating Committee of Stark County.



Federal Transit Administration

5310 Grants Awarded

At its July 23rd meeting, the SCATS Policy Committee approved funding of almost \$270,000 for six projects using Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5310 Funds, the Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program. This program assists with meeting the transportation needs of seniors and those with disabilities beyond those provided by local public transportation. Grants awarded included:

- *The Association for Better Community Development, Inc.*- received funding to assist in the purchase of two MV-1 Paratransit vehicles, as well as operating funds, to aid in the transportation of Medicaid patients for dialysis and medical appointments, some of which are to facilities outside of Stark County;
- *JR Coleman Senior Outreach Services, Inc.*- received funding to assist in purchasing a light transit vehicle to aid in the transportation of adult daycare clients on day trips;
- *Mercy Medical Center, Inc.*- received operating funds to assist in patient transportation for clients, particularly those who are fragile and need to minimize the impact of traveling;
- *The Workshops Inc.*- received funding to assist in the purchase of a light transit vehicle, as well as operating funds, for transporting clients to their workplace and other community based opportunities.

It should also be noted that SARTA has initiated contracts with a number of the agencies and vehicle orders have been submitted to ODOT-approved vendors.

This completed the current round of funding using FY 2018 FTA funds. The next round of funding is expected to be late this year or in early 2019. Please contact Karl Lucas at 330-451-7386 or at kblucas@starkcountyohio.gov for additional information or to be placed on a contact list.

Attention General Contractors

Stark County Regional Planning Commission Housing Rehabilitation Department

is searching for contractors who are committed to undertaking quality rehabilitation work under a federally funded program.

**Minority/Women-Owned and Section 3
Businesses are encouraged to apply.**

Contact the Housing Rehabilitation Department
at 330-451-7302 for further information and
to obtain an application packet.



Annual Nimishillen Creek CleanUp

The 16th annual Nimishillen Creek LEAP (Litter, Elimination, Awareness, and Prevention) CleanUp was held September 15, 2018. It began at Price Park in North Canton and ran along the Zimber Ditch. The annual CleanUp is organized by the Nimishillen Creek Watershed Partners, a volunteer group of representatives from local governments, agencies, businesses, agriculture, and citizens who help facilitate the restoration and protection of Nimishillen Creek and its resources.

More than 45 volunteers participated this year and collected several bags of trash. A free lunch was provided for all of the volunteers.

The organizers and supporters for this year's CleanUp were the City of Canton, Kent State Stark University, Stark State College, Stark County Regional Planning Commission, the Northeast Ohio Four County Regional Planning and Development Organization (NEFCO), and William McKinley Presidential Library and Museum.





Stark County Regional Planning Commission
201- 3rd St. N.E.
Canton, Ohio 44702

Upcoming Events

October

9	Subdivision Review	1:30 PM
9	SCRPC	7:30 PM
22	SCATS	1:30 PM

November

5	Subdivision Review	1:30 PM
6	SCRPC	7:30 PM
26	SCATS	1:30 PM

December

3	Subdivision Review	1:30 PM
4	SCRPC	7:30 PM

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