



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS**  
**Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development**  
JOSEPH A. CURTATONE, MAYOR

MEMORANDUM

Office of the Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone  
**FROM:** Monica R. Lamboy, Executive Director *me*  
**DATE:** April 22, 2010  
**SUBJECT:** Proposed HUD 2010-2011 Action Plan

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The Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development (OSPCD) respectfully requests that you forward the proposed HUD Action Plan for 2010-2011 to the Board of Alderman for their review and consideration. This Action Plan is prepared annually by the OSPCD to program the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnership (HOME), and Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) funds which are allocated to the City by the Federal Government through the U.S. Dept. of Housing & Urban Development (HUD). The Action Plan will cover the period of July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011.

**BACKGROUND**

The City's HUD Action Plan for 2010-2011 incorporates new entitlement in the amount of \$4,192,339. This equates to \$3,104,106 in CDBG funds, \$961,761 in HOME funds, and \$126,472 in ESG funds. The City has been fortunate to receive a 7.6% increase (\$220,053) in CDBG entitlement, the first increase since the steady decline that began in 2001. An anticipated \$712,816 in program income (\$50,000 in HOME funds and \$662,816 in CDBG funds) will be added for a total budget of new funds of \$4,905,155. Total HUD funding for this plan, including carry-forward funding, is estimated at \$11,201,149 for 2010-2011.

**PROPOSED PLAN**

The Office of Strategic Planning & Community Development is proposing fifty projects and/or programs for 2010-2011, of which thirteen are Economic Development, four are Transportation

& Infrastructure, fifteen are Parks & Open Space, five are Historic Preservation, seven are Housing, two are Public Services, and four are Project Management and Administration.

New to this year's plan is construction funding for parks projects at Pearl & Florence Street and Quincy Street to continue in our process of creating accessible, passive green space and community gardens in the neighborhoods of Somerville. In addition, a new Historic Façade Improvements Program is recommended which will provide grants of up to \$5,000 to homeowners making improvements to Local Historic District (LHD) designated homes. The grants can be used to either eliminate any cost differential between a product selected by the property owner and that preferred by the Historic Preservation Commission or to encourage property owners to make more extensive improvements than originally planned. Properties in CDBG-eligible areas will be automatically eligible for the program while property owners elsewhere in the city will need to be income-qualified.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

The 2010-2011 Action Plan development began in January 2010 with an assessment of existing HUD programs and projects and the City held the first of two planned public hearings on February 18, 2010 as required by HUD. OSPCD conducted its second public hearing on the HUD 2010-2011 Action Plan on April 8, 2010 to solicit input into the proposed plan. The public comment period will run from April 8, 2010 to May 10, 2010. City staff will forward any written public comments received prior to the close of the public comment period to the BOA under separate cover.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Board of Alderman approve the proposed 2010-2011 HUD action Plan. Submission of this plan to HUD is required by May 14, 2010 per Federal regulations.