



City of Brownsville
Office of Grants Management &
Community Development
P.O. Box 911
Brownsville, Texas 78522

December 13, 2012

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
San Antonio Field Office, Region VI
Attn: Elva F. Garcia, Director
Office of Community Planning and Development
H.F. Garcia Federal Building/ U.S. Courthouse
615 East Houston Street, Suite 347
San Antonio, Texas 78205

Subject: City of Brownsville proposed Substantial Amendment of FY 2012-2013 Annual Action Plan

Dear Ms. Garcia:

The City of Brownsville is proposing a Substantial Amendment to City of Brownsville 3rd Year Action Plan. In an attempt to utilize HUD CDBG funds in the most effective and responsible manner, we propose 12 new CDBG projects that satisfy HUD national objectives: benefit low- and moderate-income person and prevention or elimination of slums or blight.

The City proposes reallocating a total of \$2,642,637.00 in unspent CDBG funds from previous funding years, the majority of which were Street Improvement projects. These unused funds and their proposed reallocations are outlined in this document for your review and approval.

If there are any further questions or concerns, please contact our office.

Respectfully,

Stephanie Reyes, Director
Office of Grant Management
& Community Development

Enclosed: Proposed Substantial Amendment

CC: William O. Dawson III, Community Planning & Development Representative



City of Brownsville
CDBG Substantial Amendment
FY 2012-2013



| | |
|--|--|
| Grantee Name: | City of Brownsville |
| Name of Department Administering Funds: | Office of Grant management & Community Development |
| Contact Person: | Stephanie Reyes |
| Title: | Director |
| Address: | 1034 E. Levee Street |
| City, State, Zip Code: | Brownsville, TX 78520 |
| Telephone: | 956-548-6148 |
| Email Address: | stephanie.Reyes@cob.us |
| Authorized Official: | Charlie Cabler |
| Title: | City Manager |
| Address: | 1001 E. Elizabeth St. |
| City, State, Zip Code: | Brownsville, TX 78520 |
| Telephone: | 956-548-6007 |
| Email Address: | charlie@cob.us |

(Attachment A – SF-242)

Executive Summary

This **Substantial Amendment** to the 3rd Year Action Plan (currently pending HUD approval) describes program and funding amendments to the City of Brownsville FY 2012-2013 Annual Action Plan, as proposed by the City of Brownsville - Office of Grant Management and Community Development (OGM/CD). More specifically, the OGM/CD proposes reallocating unspent CDBG funding from previous funding years, the majority being Street Improvement projects. These unused funds and their proposed reallocation are outlined in this document.

The City of Brownsville is proposing reallocation of \$2,642,637.00 in unused funds to 12 new CDBG projects. These projects meet the HUD National Objective: benefit low- and moderate-income person and prevention / elimination of slums or blight.

CDBG Proposed Project (Attachment K – Project Chart)

Project Name: **Villa Nueva Sewer Improvements Project: Phase II – Construction of the Main Sewer Line**

Funding: \$100,000.00

Project Description: The City of Brownsville in partnership with the Brownsville Public Utilities Board (BPUB) proposed in 2001 the construction of Sewer Improvements at the Villa Nueva Subdivision, a Colonia located in West Brownsville along HWY 281 (Military HWY) and west of FM 3428. As per a

category report conducted in April 2005, the area lacks adequate sewer service. The project was to be completed in 3 Phases.

- Phase I: Feasibility study, environmental assessment, design and acquisition of easements. The City of Brownsville obtained funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, The Army Corp of Engineers and the Texas Water Development Board to administer Phase 1 of the project. Phase I of the project has been completed.
- Phase II (Projected in February 2013): Construction of the main sewer line. Funding in the amount of \$2,000,000.00 has been awarded to BPUB by the Texas Water Development Board for Phase II. In addition, the City of Brownsville has committed funding components of the construction, including but not limited to construction of the sanitary sewer pipe, fiberglass manhole and pavement replacement and caliche/gravel road. (Attachment B - Construction Estimate)
- Phase III (projected in June 2014): Sewer connections to the seventy-five (75) homes in the project area. The City of Brownsville will propose HUD funding for the total estimated cost of \$30,000.

Project Name: Single-Family Rehabilitation Loan Program

Funding: \$100,000.00

Project Description: The Single Family Rehabilitation Loan Program benefits only low income homeowners, living in substandard living conditions, to improve their property to a decent, safe and sanitary place to live. The program targets homeowners earning no more than 80% AMFI. Rehabilitation specifications include the following: new bedrooms and living space additions, bathrooms, kitchen cabinets, as well as repair of all construction code violations. Homes deemed irreparable to rehabilitate for less than \$24,999 will be deemed a Reconstruction.

The Program provides zero (0) - three (3) percent interest loans to homeowners interested in rehabilitating their homes:

- 80% AMFI = 3% interest rate
- 60% AMFI = 2% interest rate
- 40% AMFI = 1% interest rate
- Below / Elderly = 0%

Homeowners will have 5 years to make full repayment on their loan; monthly payments will be required and accepted at the OGM/CD. The program creates a revolving fund that will allow the City to continue the program and assist more homeowners. The program will assist a minimum of 4 homeowners.

Project Name: Substandard Structure Program

Funding: \$65,000.00

Project Description: The Program will consist of the Demolition and Clearance of dilapidated structures around the City of Brownsville which have become a hazard to the Community. The City of Brownsville - Building Inspections Department will administer the program. Currently, there are more than 27 properties deemed condemned and in need of demolition (Attachment C– Pending Condemned Cases). The number of properties continues to increase monthly. Funding will also cover advertising costs.

Project Name: Community Arts and Culture Center

Funding: \$1,000,000.00

Project Description: The City of Brownsville in partnership with the Brownsville Society of Performing Arts proposes the rehabilitation and renovation of the Stegman building located at 11th and Washington Street. The purpose of the project is to construct a Community Arts and Culture Center that will improve the quality and quantity of neighborhood facilities for low-income persons.

Construction of the facility will create a much needed art space for youth to learn and perform the art of music and dance. BSPA and other civic –academic organizations working under BSPA’s 501 © 3 non-profit umbrella are proposing to implement the El Sistema-inspired social change/youth development program that uses music to enable every child to feel like an asset within her or his community. (Attachment D – El Sistema Methodology)

El Sistema focuses on children with the fewest resources and greatest need and is delivered at no cost to participants. El Sistema is a tested model of how a music program can both create great musicians and dramatically change the life trajectory of the community’s neediest kids. (Attachment E – Fundamental Elements) CDBG Funding is being proposed for Phase I and Phase II of the project.

- Phase I: Architectural design and engineering of the facility.
- Phase II: Rehabilitation of the building, including any site work preparation necessary to meet City code, including roof replacement.

- Phase III: Renovation, including dance floors, lockers, rest rooms, performance areas, acoustic paneled practice booths, classrooms and administration offices. The City of Brownsville will propose CDBG funding for Phase III in FY 2015, any funding available in Phase II will be committed to Phase III.

Project Name: Youth Homeless Center: Phase I – Feasibility Study

Funding: \$75,000.00

Project Description: The project will include a Feasibility Study for a proposed youth homeless center located at 519 E. Madison Street (Former Mother of Perpetual Help Nursing Home). The study will serve as a foundation of best practices for providing safe, efficient and effective services in group living arrangements for vulnerable youth populations. This study will present the committee, which is comprised of local homeless advocates and political leaders, with a blueprint for the rehabilitation and renovation of the proposed youth homeless shelter, as well as recruitment of a non-profit organization qualified and capable of operating the facility.

The purpose of the proposed youth homeless shelter is to provide a haven for street youth, tend to their immediate needs, and help youth access long-term, safe and appropriate environments. The youth homeless shelter will provide services to runaway, homeless, street youth, who have been subjected to or are at risk of sexual exploitation or abuse. This area is characterized by many socio-economic problems, including extreme poverty, lack of appropriate resources and international drug trafficking. CDBG funding will be used for Phase I of the project.

- Phase I : Feasibility Study
- Phase II: Rehabilitation of the facility to meet City Code, including all engineering and infrastructure improvements

Phase III: Renovation of the facility, including beds, kitchen, technology, security equipment, (i.e. cameras), etc. The City of Brownsville will propose CDBG funding for Phase III in 2015.



Project Name: Downtown Brownsville Wayfinding

Funding: \$200,000.00

Project Description: The purpose of this project would be to develop and install directional signage in the City of Brownsville’s downtown historic district which has been locally designated as a

blighted area under State of Texas legislative code 374.003. "Blighted area" means an area that is not a slum area, but that, because of deteriorating buildings, structures, or other improvements; defective or inadequate streets, street layout, or accessibility; unsanitary conditions; or other hazardous conditions, adversely affects the public health, safety, morals, or welfare of the municipality and its residents.

Brownsville's downtown satisfies this state criterion through a combination of deteriorated or deteriorating structures, predominance of defective or inadequate street layout, and the existence of conditions which endanger life or property by fire and other causes resulting in the economic underdevelopment of the area substantially impairing the sound growth of the City of Brownsville. In addition to the state of deteriorated and/or deteriorating buildings, Brownsville's downtown street layout is currently so confusing that most travelers (both resident and out-of-town) to the area either do not know how to find the downtown or how to access it. With such conditions, Brownsville's historic downtown district is one of the most devalued commercial areas in the city, with some of the prime ground floor retail space being leased out for second-hand clothing stores, better known as *ropa usadas*.

In 2012, the City of Brownsville recognized the deterioration of its historic downtown. (Attachment F— Resolution & Attachment G – CDBG –Eligible Map) Currently there is very little extant signage directing both residents and travelers to downtown Brownsville from any of the main arterials, and upon arrival in the downtown core, there is very little extant wayfinding signage directing travelers through the maze of one-way streets and principal arterials that circumvent downtown Brownsville, and little or no signage directing travelers to downtown parking.

As per above, this lack of signage and street confusion contributes to the state of slum and blight in the downtown historic district by substantially impairing the economic sound growth of the downtown area. It is the intent of this project to help arrest that economic decline by installing a signage program. CDBG funds will be used to develop, purchase and install signage for wayfinding, parking and gateways.

Project Name: Elderly Replacement Program

Funding: \$100,000.00



Project Description: The City of Brownsville in partnership with the Amador Rodriguez Juvenile Detention Center proposes funding to continue the Elderly Housing Replacement Program. The program consists of the reconstruction of single-family homes for homeowners that are elderly and earning no more than 80% of the AMFI. The project provides valuable job training to youth, as well as provides affordable housing to Brownsville residents. Funding will be used for reconstruction of 2 homes, including demolition, permits, materials and labor.

Project Name: Belden Trail Improvements

Funding: \$200,000.00

Project Description: Brownsville Community Improvement Corporation (BCIC) the Belden Trail Improvement project will convert an abandoned railroad located along West 3rd Street (formally known as Belden Street) into a 10 ft. wide, concrete pedestrian/bicycle trail approximately 1-mile in length. The trail will be ADA accessible and include appropriate signage and lighting.

Located in West Brownsville, the trail will serve as a recreational trail and safe pedestrian route to school for a low-income area. Ongoing community engagement meetings have been held for the past two months at Skinner Elementary School in order to give residents the opportunity to provide feedback regarding design, including safety measures such as bollards that will help decrease the vehicular traffic at Fronton/W. 3rd Street (end of trail) which currently poses concern for the residents and administrators at Skinner Elementary.

Additional funding in the amount of \$151,274 is being provided by the Texas Parks and Wildlife, a grant awarded in May of 2012. The total project cost is an estimated \$355,000.

Project Name: 5-Mile Hike & Bike Trail

Funding: \$150,000.00

Project Description: The purpose of this project is to construct a 5-mile Hike and Bike Trail that improves alternative transportation opportunities throughout the community, including grocery stores, clinics, bus stops, schools, etc. The trail will provide access to outdoor resources and community destinations by developing a network of off-street multi-use trails and on-street linkages. The City is proposing funding for Phase I of a multi-phase project.

- Phase 1: All regulatory work and architectural design, including surveying of ROW, Trail Design, and Environmental Review.
- Phase 2: (2.5) miles of a concrete or asphalt trail will be constructed, (dependant on funding).
- Phase 3: Additional construction of 2.5 miles of trail and trail amenities
- Phase 4: Park Development at specific sites along the trail.

This trail is important for the further development of the Brownsville Trail Network. Not only will it allow for people to move throughout their immediate area but also throughout the city. In addition, the trail will provide excellent recreational opportunities for Brownsville citizens and motivate citizens to increase their level of activity and thereby improving their health.



Project Name: Oliveira Park Skate Park

Funding: \$150,000.00

Project Description: The project includes installation of a Skate Park at Oliveira Park located in West Brownsville across the street from Pace High School at 104. East El Paso Road, an area of low-income residents. Funding will be used for design, purchase and installation of the skate park. The addition of a skate park feature at Oliveira Park will deter individuals from the dangers of using parking lots and streets as an alternative. This park improvement will serve as a venue for recreation, as well as a safe alternative space for youth to gather after school.

Project Name: Sacred Places Gardens – Phase I

Funding: \$200,000.00

Project Description: The Project aims to connect Brownsville’s rich, cultural heritage with one of its ecological treasures (Town Resaca) through design and construction of Open Space Sacred Place at historic City Cemetery located at 600 East Jackson Street. It will facilitate the connection of disenfranchised neighborhoods with reclaimed public space that will provide the community with an opportunity to obtain peace, solitude, and tranquility at Open Space Sacred Place.

Funding will be used for Phase I of a multi-phase project. (Attachment H – Master Plan)

- Phase I: Architectural Design & Engineering
- Phase II: Demolition and environmental protection, grading and site prep, and structural elements

- Phase III: Hardscape, including decomposed granite trails, community garden, sculpture garden and park amenities.
- Phase IV: Softscape, including landscaping, lighting, automotive irrigation system, and related features.

The City of Brownsville will propose additional CDBG funding for each phase until completion of project.

Project Name: Consolidated Plan FY2013-2017

Funding: \$75,000.00

Project Description: The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires each local jurisdiction to consolidate into a single submission the planning & applications for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Program, and HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME). In accordance with HUD regulations, the City is required to submit a new Consolidated Plan (Plan) for FY 2013 for a 5 year term. This includes both a planning document and an application for the CDBG, ESG, and HOME Programs that are developed to achieve the goals to principally assist with funds received under these programs and other HUD Programs that help to meet the housing and community development objectives. This project proposal will in essence fund the preparation needed with the assistance of a consultant to conduct a new Consolidated Plan FY2013 to FY2017. This will also include updating the Analysis of Impediments which outlines Federal Laws, Policies and Compliant Laws, and Impediments of Fair Housing Choice and remedial activities to address impediments.

CERTIFICATIONS

- (1) **Affirmatively furthering fair housing.** The jurisdiction will affirmatively further fair housing, which means that it will conduct an analysis to identify impediments to fair housing choice within the jurisdiction, take appropriate actions to overcome the effects of any impediments identified through that analysis, and maintain records reflecting the analysis and actions in this regard.
- (2) **Anti-displacement and relocation plan.** The jurisdiction will comply with the acquisition and relocation requirements of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4601), and implementing regulations at 49 CFR part 24; and it has in effect and is following a residential anti-displacement and relocation assistance plan required under section 104(d) of the housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, in connection with any activity assisted with funding under CDBG-R.
- (3) **Drug Free Workplace.** The jurisdiction will or will continue to provide a drug-free workplace by:

1. Publishing a statement notifying employees that the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensing, possession, or use of a controlled substance is prohibited in the grantee's workplace and specifying the actions that will be taken against employees for violation of such prohibition;
2. Establishing an ongoing drug-free awareness program to inform employees about –
 - (a) The dangers of drug abuse in the workplace;
 - (b) The grantee's policy of maintaining a drug-free workplace;
 - (c) Any available drug counseling, rehabilitation, and employee assistance programs;and
 - (d) The penalties that may be imposed upon employees for drug abuse violations occurring in the workplace;
3. Making it a requirement that each employee to be engaged in the performance of the grant be given a copy of the statement required by paragraph 1;
4. Notifying the employee in the statement required by paragraph 1 that, as a condition of employment under the grant, the employee will -
 - (a) Abide by the terms of the statement; and
 - (b) Notify the employer in writing of his or her conviction for a violation of a criminal drug statute occurring in the workplace no later than five calendar days after such conviction;
5. Notifying the agency in writing, within ten calendar days after receiving notice under subparagraph 4(b) from an employee or otherwise receiving actual notice of such conviction. Employers of convicted employees must provide notice, including position title, to every grant officer or other designee on whose grant activity the convicted employee was working, unless the Federal agency has designated a central point for the receipt of such notices. Notice shall include the identification number(s) of each affected grant;
6. Taking one of the following actions, within 30 calendar days of receiving notice under subparagraph 4(b), with respect to any employee who is so convicted:
 - (a) Taking appropriate personnel action against such an employee, up to and including termination, consistent with the requirements of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; or
 - (b) Requiring such employee to participate satisfactorily in a drug abuse assistance or rehabilitation program approved for such purposes by a Federal, State, or local health, law enforcement, or other appropriate agency;
7. Making a good faith effort to continue to maintain a drug-free workplace through implementation of paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6.

(4) Anti-lobbying. To the best of the jurisdiction's knowledge and belief:

1. No Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid, by or on behalf of it, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the awarding of any Federal contract, the making of any Federal grant, the making of any Federal loan, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement;

2. If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement, it will complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying," in accordance with its instructions; and

3. It will require that the language of paragraph 1 and 2 of this anti-lobbying certification be included in the award documents for all subawards at all tiers (including subcontracts, subgrants, and contracts under grants, loans, and cooperative agreements) and that all subrecipients shall certify and disclose accordingly.

(5) **Authority of Jurisdiction.** The jurisdiction possesses the legal authority to carry out the programs for which it is seeking funding, in accordance with applicable HUD regulations and other program requirements.

(6) **Consistency with Plan.** The housing activities to be undertaken with CDBG-R funds are consistent with its consolidated plan.

(7) **Section 3.** The jurisdiction will comply with section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968 (12 U.S.C. 1701u), and implementing regulations at 24 CFR part 135.

(8) **Community development plan.** The jurisdiction certifies that the consolidated housing and community development plan identifies housing and community development needs and specifies both short-term and long-term community development objectives that have been developed in accordance with the primary objective of the statute authorizing the CDBG program.

(9) **Following a plan.** The jurisdiction is following a current consolidated plan that has been approved by HUD.

(10) **Use of funds.** The jurisdiction has developed activities so as to give the maximum feasible priority to activities that will benefit low- and moderate-income families or aid in the prevention of slums or blight. Additional activities may be included that are designed to meet other community development needs having particular urgency because existing conditions pose a serious and immediate threat to the health or welfare of the community where other financial resources are not available to meet such needs. It has complied with the following criteria:

1. **Maximum Feasible Priority.** With respect to activities expected to be assisted with CDBG funds, it certifies that it has developed its Action Plan so as to give maximum feasible priority to activities which benefit low and moderate income families or aid in the prevention or elimination of slums or blight. The Action Plan may also include activities which the grantee certifies are designed to meet other community development needs having a particular urgency because existing conditions pose a serious and immediate threat to the health or welfare of the community, and other financial resources are not available);
2. **Special Assessments.** The jurisdiction will not attempt to recover any capital costs of public improvements assisted with CDBG funds by assessing any amount against properties owned and occupied by persons of low- and moderate-income, including any fee charged or assessment made as a condition of obtaining access to such public improvements. However, if CDBG funds

are used to pay the proportion of a fee or assessment attributable to the capital costs of public improvements (assisted in part with CDBG funds) financed from other revenue sources, an assessment or charge may be made against the property with respect to the public improvements financed by a source other than CDBG funds. The jurisdiction will not attempt to recover any capital costs of public improvements assisted with CDBG funds, unless CDBG funds are used to pay the proportion of fee or assessment attributable to the capital costs of public improvements financed from other revenue sources. In this case, an assessment or charge may be made against the property with respect to the public improvements financed by a source other than CDBG funds. In addition, with respect to properties owned and occupied by moderate-income (but not low-income) families, an assessment or charge may be made against the property with respect to the public improvements financed by a source other than CDBG funds if the jurisdiction certifies that it lacks CDBG funds to cover the assessment.

(11) **Excessive Force.** The jurisdiction certifies that it has adopted and is enforcing: (1) a policy prohibiting the use of excessive force by law enforcement agencies within its jurisdiction against any individuals engaged in non-violent civil rights demonstrations; and (2) a policy of enforcing applicable State and local laws against physically barring entrance to or exit from a facility or location that is the subject of such non-violent civil rights demonstrations within its jurisdiction.

(12) **Compliance with anti-discrimination laws.** The CDBG grant will be conducted and administered in conformity with title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d), the Fair Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 3601-3619), and implementing regulations.

(13) **Compliance with lead-based paint procedures.** The activities concerning lead-based paint will comply with the requirements of part 35, subparts A, B, J, K, and R of this title.

(14) **Compliance with laws.** The jurisdiction will comply with applicable laws.

(15) **Compliance with ARRA.** The jurisdiction will comply with Title XII of Division A of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

(16) **Project selection.** The jurisdiction will select projects to be funded, by giving priority to projects that can award contracts based on bids within 120 days from the date the funds are made available to the recipient, and that will ensure maximum job creation and economic benefit.

(17) **Timeliness of infrastructure investments.** When the jurisdiction uses CDBG funds for infrastructure investments, the grantee will give preference to quick-start and finish activities, including a goal to use at least 50 percent of the funds for activities within 120 days of enactment of the Recovery Act.

(18) **Buy American provision.** The jurisdiction will ensure that all iron, steel and manufactured goods used in construction, alteration, repair, or maintenance of a public building or public work project assisted with CDBG funds under the Recovery Act must be produced in the United States unless the Secretary finds that: (1) the requirement is inconsistent with public interest; (2) those goods are not reasonably available or produced in sufficient quantity in the U.S.; (3) or the use of the goods will increase the project cost by more than 25 percent.

(19) **Appropriate use of funds for infrastructure investments.** The Governor, mayor, or other chief executive, as appropriate certifies, that any infrastructure investments have received the full review and

vetting required by law and that the chief executive accepts responsibility that the infrastructure investment is an appropriate use of taxpayer dollars. Alternatively, a grantee's chief elected official certifies that infrastructure investments will receive the full review and vetting required by law and that the chief executive accepts responsibility that the infrastructure investment is an appropriate use of taxpayer dollars.

(20) **70% of CDBG for LMI.** The aggregate use of CDBG funds shall principally benefit persons of low and moderate income in a manner that ensures that at least 70 percent of the grant is expended for activities that benefit such persons over the life of the CDBG grant.



Signature/Authorized Official 12/13/12
Date

City Manager
Title

Public Notice

The City of Brownsville provided public notice in the local newspaper, The Brownsville Herald on Friday, November 9, 2012 which began a 30-day comment period (November 1, 2012 - Monday, December 10, 2012). During this period, any interested parties were to submit their verbal or written comments regarding the proposed Substantial Amendment to Ms. Stephanie Reyes, Director of Grant Management & Community Development Department. (Attachment I – Public Notice)

On December 10, 2012, the Office of Grant Management provided the Brownsville Citizens Advisory Committee (BCAC) with the proposed Substantial Amendment.

On December 11, 2012, the proposed Substantial Amendment was presented as a Public Hearing and Action to the Brownsville City Commission.

No formal comments were received.

| Application for Federal Assistance SF-424 | | Version 02 |
|---|--|--|
| *1. Type of Submission | | *2. Type of Application *If Revision, select appropriate letter(s): |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Preapplication | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Application | | <input type="checkbox"/> Continuation * Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Changed/Corrected Application | | <input type="checkbox"/> Revision |
| *3. Date Received: Dec 10, 2012 | | 4. Application Identifier: DUNS 74615097 |
| 5a. Federal Entity Identifier: Department of Housing and Urban Developmt | | *5b. Federal Award Identifier: CDBG |
| State Use Only: | | |
| 6. Date Received by State: | | 7. State Application Identifier: |
| 8. APPLICANT INFORMATION: | | |
| * a. Legal Name: City of Brownsville | | |
| * b. Employer/Taxpayer Identification Number (EIN/TIN): 74-6000422 | | *c. Organizational DUNS: DUNS 74615097 |
| d. Address: | | |
| *Street1: 1034 E. Levee St. 2nd Floor, City Plaza | | |
| Street 2: | | |
| *City: Brownsville | | |
| County: Cameron | | |
| *State: TEXAS | | |
| Province: | | |
| Country: U.S.A | | *Zip/ Postal Code: 78520 |
| e. Organizational Unit: | | |
| Department Name: Office of Grant Management | | Division Name: Community Development Division |
| f. Name and contact information of person to be contacted on matters involving this application: | | |
| Prefix: Mrs. | | First Name: Stephanie |
| Middle Name: | | |
| *Last Name: Reyes | | |
| Suffix: | | |
| Title: Director | | |
| Organizational Affiliation: Local Government | | |
| *Telephone Number: 956-548-6150 | | Fax Number: 956-548-6134 |
| *Email: stephanie.reyes@cob.us | | |

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

Version 02

9. Type of Applicant 1: Select Applicant Type: C. City or Township Government

Type of Applicant 2: Select Applicant Type:
- Select One -

Type of Applicant 3: Select Applicant Type:
- Select One -

*Other (specify):

*10. Name of Federal Agency:
United States Department of Housing and Urban Development

11. Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number:

14.218 Entitlement Grant

CFDA Title:

*12. Funding Opportunity Number: 14.218 Entitlement Grant

*Title:
CDBG Substantial Amendment FY 2012-2013

13. Competition Identification Number:

Title:

14. Areas Affected by Project (Cities, Counties, States, etc.):

City of Brownsville, Tx

*15. Descriptive Title of Applicant's Project:

14.218 Entitlement Grant

Attach supporting documents as specified in agency instructions.

| | | |
|--|--------------------------------|------------|
| Application for Federal Assistance SF-424 | | Version 02 |
| 16. Congressional Districts Of: 27th | | |
| *a. Applicant | *b. Program/Project: | |
| Attach an additional list of Program/Project Congressional Districts if needed. | | |
| 17. Proposed Project: | | |
| *a. Start Date: October 1, 2012 | *b. End Date: August 31, 2013 | |
| 18. Estimated Funding (\$): | | |
| *a. Federal | \$2,140,000.00 | |
| *b. Applicant | | |
| *c. State | | |
| *d. Local | | |
| *e. Other | | |
| *f. Program Income | | |
| *g. TOTAL | \$2,140,000.00 | |
| *19. Is Application Subject to Review By State Under Executive Order 12372 Process? | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> a. This application was made available to the State under the Executive Order 12372 Process for review on <input type="checkbox"/> b. Program is subject to E.O. 12372 but has not been selected by the State for review. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> c. Program is not covered by E.O. 12372 | | |
| *20. Is the Applicant Delinquent On Any Federal Debt? (If "Yes", provide explanation.) | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No | | |
| 21. *By signing this application, I certify (1) to the statements contained in the list of certifications** and (2) that the statements herein are true, complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I also provide the required assurances** and agree to comply with any resulting terms if I accept an award. I am aware that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or claims may subject me to criminal, civil, or administrative penalties. (U.S. Code, Title 218, Section 1001) | | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> **I AGREE | | |
| ** The list of certifications and assurances, or an internet site where you may obtain this list, is contained in the announcement or agency specific instructions. | | |
| Authorized Representative: | | |
| Prefix: Mr. | *First Name: Charlie | |
| Middle Name: | | |
| *Last Name: Cabler | | |
| Suffix: | | |
| *Title: City Manager | | |
| *Telephone Number: 956-548-6000 | Fax Number: | |
| *Email: charlie@cob.us | | |
| *Signature of Authorized Representative: | Date Signed: December 11, 2012 | |

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

Version 02

***Applicant Federal Debt Delinquency Explanation**

The following field should contain an explanation if the Applicant organization is delinquent on any Federal Debt. Maximum number of characters that can be entered is 4,000. Try and avoid extra spaces and carriage returns to maximize the availability of space.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE SF-424

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 60 minutes per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (0348-0043), Washington, DC 20503.

PLEASE DO NOT RETURN YOUR COMPLETED FORM TO THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET. SEND IT TO THE ADDRESS PROVIDED BY THE SPONSORING AGENCY.

This is a standard form (including the continuation sheet) required for use as a cover sheet for submission of preapplications and applications and related information under discretionary programs. Some of the items are required and some are optional at the discretion of the applicant or the Federal agency (agency). Required items are identified with an asterisk on the form and are specified in the instructions below. In addition to the instructions provided below, applicants must consult agency instructions to determine specific requirements.

| Item | Entry: | Item | Entry: |
|------|--|------|--|
| 1. | Type of Submission: (Required): Select one type of submission in accordance with agency instructions. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preapplication • Application • Changed/Corrected Application – If requested by the agency, check if this submission is to change or correct a previously submitted application. Unless requested by the agency, applicants may not use this to submit changes after the closing date. | 10. | Name Of Federal Agency: (Required) Enter the name of the Federal agency from which assistance is being requested with this application. |
| | | 11. | Catalog Of Federal Domestic Assistance Number/Title: Enter the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance number and title of the program under which assistance is requested, as found in the program announcement, if applicable. |
| 2. | Type of Application: (Required) Select one type of application in accordance with agency instructions. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New – An application that is being submitted to an agency for the first time. • Continuation - An extension for an additional funding/budget period for a project with a projected completion date. This can include renewals. • Revision - Any change in the Federal Government's financial obligation or contingent liability from an existing obligation. If a revision, enter the appropriate letter(s). More than one may be selected. If "Other" is selected, please specify in text box provided. A. Increase Award B. Decrease Award C. Increase Duration D. Decrease Duration E. Other (specify) | 12. | Funding Opportunity Number/Title: (Required) Enter the Funding Opportunity Number and title of the opportunity under which assistance is requested, as found in the program announcement. |
| | | 13. | Competition Identification Number/Title: Enter the Competition Identification Number and title of the competition under which assistance is requested, if applicable. |
| | | 14. | Areas Affected By Project: List the areas or entities using the categories (e.g., cities, counties, states, etc.) specified in agency instructions. Use the continuation sheet to enter additional areas, if needed. |
| 3. | Date Received: Leave this field blank. This date will be assigned by the Federal agency. | 15. | Descriptive Title of Applicant's Project: (Required) Enter a brief descriptive title of the project. If appropriate, attach a map showing project location (e.g., construction or real property projects). For preapplications, attach a summary description of the project. |
| 4. | Applicant Identifier: Enter the entity identifier assigned by the Federal agency, if any, or applicant's control number, if applicable. | | |
| 5a. | Federal Entity Identifier: Enter the number assigned to your organization by the Federal Agency, if any. | 16. | Congressional Districts Of: (Required) 16a. Enter the applicant's Congressional District, and 16b. Enter all District(s) affected by the program or project. Enter in the format: 2 characters State Abbreviation – 3 characters District Number, e.g., CA-005 for California 5 th district, CA-012 for California 12 th district, NC-103 for North Carolina's 103 rd district. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If all congressional districts in a state are affected, enter "all" for the district number, e.g., MD-all for all congressional districts in Maryland. • If nationwide, i.e. all districts within all states are affected, enter US-all. • If the program/project is outside the US, enter 00-000. |
| 5b. | Federal Award Identifier: For new applications leave blank. For a continuation or revision to an existing award, enter the previously assigned Federal award identifier number. If a changed/corrected application, enter the Federal Identifier in accordance with agency instructions. | | |
| 6. | Date Received by State: Leave this field blank. This date will be assigned by the State, if applicable. | | |
| 7. | State Application Identifier: Leave this field blank. This identifier will be assigned by the State, if applicable. | | |
| 8. | Applicant Information: Enter the following in accordance with agency instructions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Legal Name: (Required): Enter the legal name of applicant that will undertake the assistance activity. This is the name that the organization has registered with the Central Contractor Registry. Information on registering with CCR may be obtained by visiting the Grants.gov website. b. Employer/Taxpayer Number (EIN/TIN): (Required): Enter the Employer or Taxpayer Identification Number (EIN or TIN) as assigned by the Internal Revenue Service. If your organization is not in the US, enter 44-4444444. c. Organizational DUNS: (Required) Enter the organization's DUNS or DUNS+4 number received from Dun and Bradstreet. Information on obtaining a DUNS number may be obtained by visiting the Grants.gov website. d. Address: Enter the complete address as follows: Street address (Line 1 required), City (Required), County, State (Required, if country is US), Province, Country (Required), Zip/Postal Code (Required, if country is US). e. Organizational Unit: Enter the name of the primary organizational unit (and department or division, if applicable) that will undertake the | 17. | Proposed Project Start and End Dates: (Required) Enter the proposed start date and end date of the project. |
| | | 18. | Estimated Funding: (Required) Enter the amount requested or to be contributed during the first funding/budget period by each contributor. Value of in-kind contributions should be included on appropriate lines, as applicable. If the action will result in a dollar change to an existing award, indicate only the amount of the change. For decreases, enclose the amounts in parentheses. |
| | | 19. | Is Application Subject to Review by State Under Executive Order 12372 Process? Applicants should contact the State Single Point of Contact (SPOC) for Federal Executive Order 12372 to determine whether the application is subject to the |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---------------------|--|----------------------|--|--------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|--|---------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|---|--|--|---|---|--|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------|-----|---|
| | <p>assistance activity, if applicable.</p> <p>f. Name and contact information of person to be contacted on matters involving this application: Enter the name (First and last name required), organizational affiliation (if affiliated with an organization other than the applicant organization), telephone number (Required), fax number, and email address (Required) of the person to contact on matters related to this application.</p> | | <p>State intergovernmental review process. Select the appropriate box. If "a." is selected, enter the date the application was submitted to the State</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | 20. | <p>Is the Applicant Delinquent on any Federal Debt? (Required) Select the appropriate box. This question applies to the applicant organization, not the person who signs as the authorized representative. Categories of debt include delinquent audit disallowances, loans and taxes.</p> <p>If yes, include an explanation on the continuation sheet.</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 9. | <p>Type of Applicant: (Required) Select up to three applicant type(s) in accordance with agency instructions.</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>A. State Government</td> <td>M. Nonprofit with 501C3 IRS Status (Other than Institution of Higher Education)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>B. County Government</td> <td>N. Nonprofit without 501C3 IRS Status (Other than Institution of Higher Education)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>C. City or Township Government</td> <td>O. Private Institution of Higher Education</td> </tr> <tr> <td>D. Special District Government</td> <td>P. Individual</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E. Regional Organization</td> <td>Q. For-Profit Organization (Other than Small Business)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>F. U.S. Territory or Possession</td> <td>R. Small Business</td> </tr> <tr> <td>G. Independent School District</td> <td>S. Hispanic-serving Institution</td> </tr> <tr> <td>H. Public/State Controlled Institution of Higher Education</td> <td>T. Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>I. Indian/Native American Tribal Government (Federally Recognized)</td> <td>U. Tribally Controlled Colleges and Universities (TCCUs)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>J. Indian/Native American Tribal Government (Other than Federally Recognized)</td> <td>V. Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian Serving Institutions</td> </tr> <tr> <td>K. Indian/Native American Tribally Designated Organization</td> <td>W. Non-domestic (non-US) Entity</td> </tr> <tr> <td>L. Public/Indian Housing Authority</td> <td>X. Other (specify)</td> </tr> </table> | A. State Government | M. Nonprofit with 501C3 IRS Status (Other than Institution of Higher Education) | B. County Government | N. Nonprofit without 501C3 IRS Status (Other than Institution of Higher Education) | C. City or Township Government | O. Private Institution of Higher Education | D. Special District Government | P. Individual | E. Regional Organization | Q. For-Profit Organization (Other than Small Business) | F. U.S. Territory or Possession | R. Small Business | G. Independent School District | S. Hispanic-serving Institution | H. Public/State Controlled Institution of Higher Education | T. Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) | I. Indian/Native American Tribal Government (Federally Recognized) | U. Tribally Controlled Colleges and Universities (TCCUs) | J. Indian/Native American Tribal Government (Other than Federally Recognized) | V. Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian Serving Institutions | K. Indian/Native American Tribally Designated Organization | W. Non-domestic (non-US) Entity | L. Public/Indian Housing Authority | X. Other (specify) | 21. | <p>Authorized Representative: (Required) To be signed and dated by the authorized representative of the applicant organization. Enter the name (First and last name required) title (Required), telephone number (Required), fax number, and email address (Required) of the person authorized to sign for the applicant.</p> <p>A copy of the governing body's authorization for you to sign this application as the official representative must be on file in the applicant's office. (Certain Federal agencies may require that this authorization be submitted as part of the application.)</p> |
| A. State Government | M. Nonprofit with 501C3 IRS Status (Other than Institution of Higher Education) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| B. County Government | N. Nonprofit without 501C3 IRS Status (Other than Institution of Higher Education) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| C. City or Township Government | O. Private Institution of Higher Education | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| D. Special District Government | P. Individual | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| E. Regional Organization | Q. For-Profit Organization (Other than Small Business) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| F. U.S. Territory or Possession | R. Small Business | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| I. Indian/Native American Tribal Government (Federally Recognized) | U. Tribally Controlled Colleges and Universities (TCCUs) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| J. Indian/Native American Tribal Government (Other than Federally Recognized) | V. Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian Serving Institutions | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| K. Indian/Native American Tribally Designated Organization | W. Non-domestic (non-US) Entity | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| L. Public/Indian Housing Authority | X. Other (specify) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| CONSTRUCTION ESTIMATE | | | | | |
|---|---|------|-----------|------------|---------------------|
| VILLA NUEVA COLONIA SEWER IMPROVEMENTS | | | | | |
| Sewer Laterals A, B, C, & D | | | | | |
| ITEM NO. | DESCRIPTION | UNIT | Total Qty | UNIT COST | ESTIMATE TOTAL COST |
| 1 | 8" Sanitary Sewer Pipe for stubouts SDR-35 | LF | 1,375.00 | \$38.00 | \$52,250.00 |
| 2 | 48" Dia. Sewer Fiberglass Manhole | EA | 4.00 | \$4,500.00 | \$18,000.00 |
| 3 | Single Sewer Service | EA | 16.00 | \$1,200.00 | \$19,200.00 |
| 3 | Double Sewer Service | EA | 5.00 | \$1,600.00 | \$8,000.00 |
| 4 | Pavement Replacement (6 inch limestone & 2 inch HMAc, 4' wide) | LF | 325.00 | \$12.00 | \$3,900.00 |
| 5 | Caliche/Gravel Driveway (6 inch limestone, 4' wide) | LF | 1,050.00 | \$5.00 | \$5,250.00 |
| 6 | Trench Safety System Plan (> 5'deep) for laterals A, B & C (to go under waterlines) | LF | 1,050.00 | \$5.00 | \$5,250.00 |
| Total Estimate Cost | | | | | \$111,850.00 |
| Topographic Survey Fee: Includes showing dwellings | | | | | \$3,600.00 |
| Engineering Fee: Design and Construction, As-builds & Close-out | | | | | \$11,000.00 |
| Total Project Cost | | | | | \$126,450.00 |



Building Inspections

List of pending condemned cases

| | Owners name | Property address | Dated condemned | Mailing address | Phone number |
|----|---------------------|--------------------|-------------------|--|--------------|
| 1 | Rogelio Garza Jr. | 1557 Arthur St. | April 26,2012 | 2116 -37 th Ave. Bradenton Flo. | |
| 2 | Jose L. Rodriguez | 154 Augusta | January 17,2012 | 1200 Toledo Dr. B,ville | 956-266-3387 |
| 3 | Maria Elena Lucio | 515 Club House | June 14,2011 | 3724 Boca Chica | |
| 4 | Simon Fernandez | 1183 Fannin Ave. | February 17,2012 | 1183 Fannin | |
| 5 | Marisela Reyes | 117 E. Monroe St. | October 11,2011 | 6624 Carolina Pine | 650-8933 |
| 6 | Celia E. Martinez | 208 Nopal St. | February 12,2012 | 208 Nopal St. | |
| 7 | Maria L. Alcalá | 1954 Ringgold St. | November 1,2008 | | |
| 8 | Luis Hernandez | 1524 Southmost Rd. | April 11,2012 | | 579-5051 |
| 9 | Jose A. Montelongo | 5980 Southmost Rd. | October 14,2011 | 207 N. Perez St. Houston Tx. | 713-459-9586 |
| 10 | Tomas Guzman | 1604 E. Van Buren | October 12,2011 | | |
| 11 | Rodolfo Guerra | 1724 E. Van Buren | April 29,2012 | | |
| 12 | Tina Oropeza | 3005 Vanessa | June 28,2012 | | |
| 13 | Lydia B. Barton | 346 Boise Ct. | December 7,2011 | | |
| 14 | Maria Gaedchens | 65 Zena Dr. | April 20,2012 | | |
| 15 | Roberto De Luna jr. | 1538 E. Tyler St. | August 30, 2012 | 2100 San Marcello#19 | |
| 16 | Santiago Vidal Rico | 834 E. Jackson St. | January 13,2012 | 834 E. Jackson St. | |
| 17 | Rodolfo Guerra | 1905 E. Tyler St. | September 4, 2012 | 4014 Ivy Wood Pearland Tx.77584 | |
| 18 | Guadalupe Garza | 134 Fresno St. | January 7,2009 | 134 Fresno St. | |

| | | | | | |
|----|---------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|--|
| 19 | Dora Merrill | 1500 Morningside Rd. | April 8, 2012 | 1500 Morningside Rd. | |
| 20 | Juan A. Moran Jr. | 1734 W. Adams St. | September 1, 2010 | 2693 Naples St. | |
| 21 | Guadalupe Benavides | 4501 Lisa Ave. | 09-05-12 | 4501 Lisa Ave. | |
| 22 | Gilberto Garza | 28 W. Cowan Terrace | 09-05-12 | 28 W. Cowan Terrace | |
| 23 | Domingo Gomez | 303 Mesquite St | 09-14-12 | 303 Mesquite St. | |
| 24 | Est Eloisa Cisneros | 55 W. 13 th St. | 09-19-12 | 55 W. 13 th St. | |
| 25 | Carlos A. Rodriguez | 257 E. Adams St. | 04-26-11 | | |
| 26 | Snake Vending | 2601 Old Port | 09-20-12 | 3100 E. 14 th St. | |
| 27 | Elena M. Carhu | 2234 E. Jackson St. | 09-20-12 | 2405 E. Van Buren St. | |

El Sistema methodology

El Sistema is a tested model of how a music program can both create great musicians and dramatically change the life trajectory of hundreds of thousands of a nation's neediest kids. El Sistema's approach to music education emphasizes intensive ensemble participation from the earliest stages, group learning, peer teaching and a commitment to keeping the joy and fun of musical learning and music making ever-present. Sometimes referred to as "passion first/refinement second," the El Sistema methodology is in marked contrast to much of music education training outside of Latin America. The backbone of El Sistema student training is preparation for participation in orchestral ensembles, which are at the soul of the Núcleo community and culture. Of equal importance is choral singing and various other ensembles, which adapt well to a diversity of musical genres and origins.

Learning sequence: kids of preschool age begin with work on body expressiveness and rhythm. Encouraging the children to keep their bodies active while playing (without losing technique) is a key feature of the program in later years. At age 5, children pick up their first instruments, starting with the recorder and percussion. They also join a choir in order to build community through ensemble work. By age 7, all students can pick their first string or wind instrument. Kids can change instruments but are not encouraged to do so frivolously.

Instruction: early instruction includes singing and playing with the student's instrument, often focusing on a single note within a group song; this helps to develop a sense of quality sound. Learning how to use full standard notation often takes many years and is incorporated into their learning organically. There are three levels of practice every week: full ensemble work, section work and private lessons. Students often encounter the same teacher in both their group and personal lessons. This allows student to progress quickly, as bad habits are quickly corrected and good habits are regularly enforced.

Learning through performing: students play in front of audiences as much as possible. This reduces the pressure of formal performance, and allows performing to become a natural part of their musical life. Students frequently watch their fellow students perform, allowing them to both see and be inspired by the accomplishments of their peers. From a young age, the students are exposed to the variety of orchestras within the system, from the lowest level to the internationally successful Simón Bolívar Youth Orchestra.

The environment: El Sistema's primary focus is to create a daily haven of safety, joy and fun that builds every child's self-esteem and sense of value. Discipline is relaxed but enforced. Attendance is not an issue; the children want to be at their local Núcleo for themselves, their teachers and their fellow

students. Hard work and true achievement are crucial to the success of El Sistema. However, a feeling of fun is never forgotten.

Teachers: the majority of El Sistema teachers and Núcleo leaders are former students of the program. They understand both the social and musical mission of the program — they nurture both the individual person and the musician at the same time. Teachers are able to provide individual attention to each student. If they notice a child has missed a second day at the Núcleo without prior notice, they often go to the home to enquire about the absence.

Curriculum: El Sistema has a national curriculum, including an established musical sequence. However, local leaders can customize their program. The entire musical curriculum starts with simple arrangements of big pieces with big sound. These masterworks are often reintroduced as the children progress through the system. As Gustavo Dudamel says, "We have lived our whole lives inside these pieces. When we play Beethoven's Fifth, it is the most important thing happening in the world."

Music: El Sistema introduces its students to both internationally known classical composers and Latin American composers and Venezuelan folk musicians.

Work with parents: El Sistema takes considerable time working with the parents of students. For a child of age 2 or 3, teachers make home visits to ensure that the family understands the level of commitment required of them. As the students begin to learn their instruments, teachers instruct parents on how best to support their child's practice schedule at home, giving feedback and encouragement. If a student gets into a youth or city orchestra, they will receive a stipend; this not only honors his/her accomplishments but places real value on the music making for the family, so they don't need to pull the child out of El Sistema to work.

Fundamental Elements of an El Sistema-inspired Program

El Sistema is a set of inspiring ideals that has led to an intensive after-school music program that seeks to effect social change through the pursuit of musical excellence. El Sistema focuses on children with the fewest resources and greatest need and is delivered at no cost to participants.

Core values:

- Every human being has the right to a life of dignity and contribution.
- Every child can learn to experience and express music and art deeply and receive its many benefits.
- Overcoming poverty and adversity is best done by first strengthening the spirit, creating, as Dr. Abreu puts it: “an affluence of the spirit.”
- Effective education is based on love, approval, joy and experience within a high-functioning, aspiring, nurturing community. Every child has limitless possibilities and the ability to strive for excellence. “Trust the young” informs every aspect of the work.
- Learning organizations never arrive but are always becoming—striving to include more students, greater musical excellence, better teaching. Thus, flexibility, experimentation, and risk-taking are inherent and desirable aspects of every program.

* * * * *

1. Mission of social change. [Tocar y Luchar; To Play and To Struggle]

El Sistema is a social change/youth development program that uses music to enable every child to feel like an asset within her or his community, inside and outside the “nucleo.” Students feel an ownership of the music making process, taking responsibility for both individual and group improvement. For example, they often take on teaching roles themselves starting at an early age.

2. Access and excellence.

El Sistema includes as many children as it can, bringing young people into its community whenever possible, as young as possible, for as long as possible, whatever their background or abilities. As El Sistema strives singlemindedly toward musical excellence for all students, it also provides intensive training at “Academies” for the most committed and gifted, preparing them for the highest-level national orchestras and cultivating them as leaders in their own communities. In this way and others, the ideals of access and excellence are maintained in a productive balance that maximizes both the fullest success for all and highest accomplishment for some.

3. The nucleo environment.

The nucleo is a physical location, within the students’ neighborhood where students live, that embodies the values and goals of El Sistema. It is a haven of safety, fun, joy, and friendship, with an ethos of positivity and aspiration, where all students are encouraged to explore their potential. The nucleo’s doors are always open, and community members convene in its hallways.

4. Intensity.

Students spend a large amount of time at the nucleo, many hours per day, and almost all days of the week, often building up to four hours per day, six days per week. Rehearsals are

fast paced and rigorous, demanding a durable commitment, personal responsibility, and a strong work ethic. Through frequent performances, students have many opportunities to excel and to share their accomplishments with their peers, family and community.

5. The use of ensemble.

The learning in El Sistema is based in ensemble experience in which group achievement is balanced with individualized attention. The orchestra acts as a model society in which an atmosphere of competition between individuals is replaced by shared struggle. [Dr Abreu: "The orchestra is the only group that comes together with the sole purpose of agreement."] Smaller ensembles and choruses adopt the same ethos.

6. The CATS teacher model: Citizen/Artist/Teacher/Scholar.

Those who work at the nucleo take on many jobs and multiple roles in relationship to the students. By acting as citizens, artists, teachers and scholars, these adults encourage their students to develop holistically: as active musicians, helpful educators, inquisitive learners and responsible civic contributors.

7. The multi-year continuum.

El Sistema provides a "conveyor belt" of services, supporting its students from early childhood into adulthood. Despite variation in resources and practices, all nucleos work toward a full program. The "Academies" and other national teams have formed lists of sequential repertoire, orchestral levels, and pedagogical practices that create a through line for every child's learning. Although each nucleo is encouraged to develop programs that suit its community, shared practices and unified vision allow El Sistema to provide its students with a continuous musical experience. The learning process develops the ear as the fundamental tool before the visual.

8. Family and community inclusion.

Family participation is an essential aspiration of El Sistema. Siblings often go to the same nucleo, parents attend classes with the youngest students, and families form the bulk of the audience at orchestra concerts. Many sites have parent musical ensembles, and all actively work to involve the community at large through outreach concerts.

9. Connections and network.

Although nucleos run independently and customize their programs, they are strongly connected to the national leadership organization, which provides financial resources but more importantly gives the network a unified vision. Additionally, each nucleo is indispensably tied to the many other nucleos that form the El Sistema network. These interdependent relationships are manifested through events such as "seminarios," which are intensive, project-based musical retreats where orchestras share repertoire, streamline technique, and build personal and institutional relationships. By uniting students and teachers from disparate parts of the country, the nucleo network embodies the El Sistema ideals of sharing and learning.

RESOLUTION NO. 2012-006

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF BROWNSVILLE TO
INSTITUTE A NON- PROFIT LEASING POLICY FOR THE
LEASING AND USE OF CITY BUILDINGS BY NON-
PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS**

WHEREAS, the City Commission of the City of Brownsville (the Commission) believes that all city property should be open and available to the public; and

WHEREAS, the Commission recognizes there could be instances where city property becomes available to interested non-profits and wishes to institute a Leasing Policy and Application Process in order to give all non-profit organizations the opportunity to apply for the leasing of city property as per availability of facilities; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the policy is to provide a procedural guide to the City Commission in identifying and qualifying eligible non-profits for the use of City property;

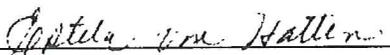
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Commission of the City of Brownsville that the Leasing and Use of City Buildings by Non- Profit Organizations shall be instituted to serve as a guide to the City Commission in identifying and qualifying eligible non-profits for the use of City property;

Passed and Adopted on this the 7th day of February, 2012.



Antonio Martinez
Mayor

Attest:



Estela Von Hatten
City Secretary

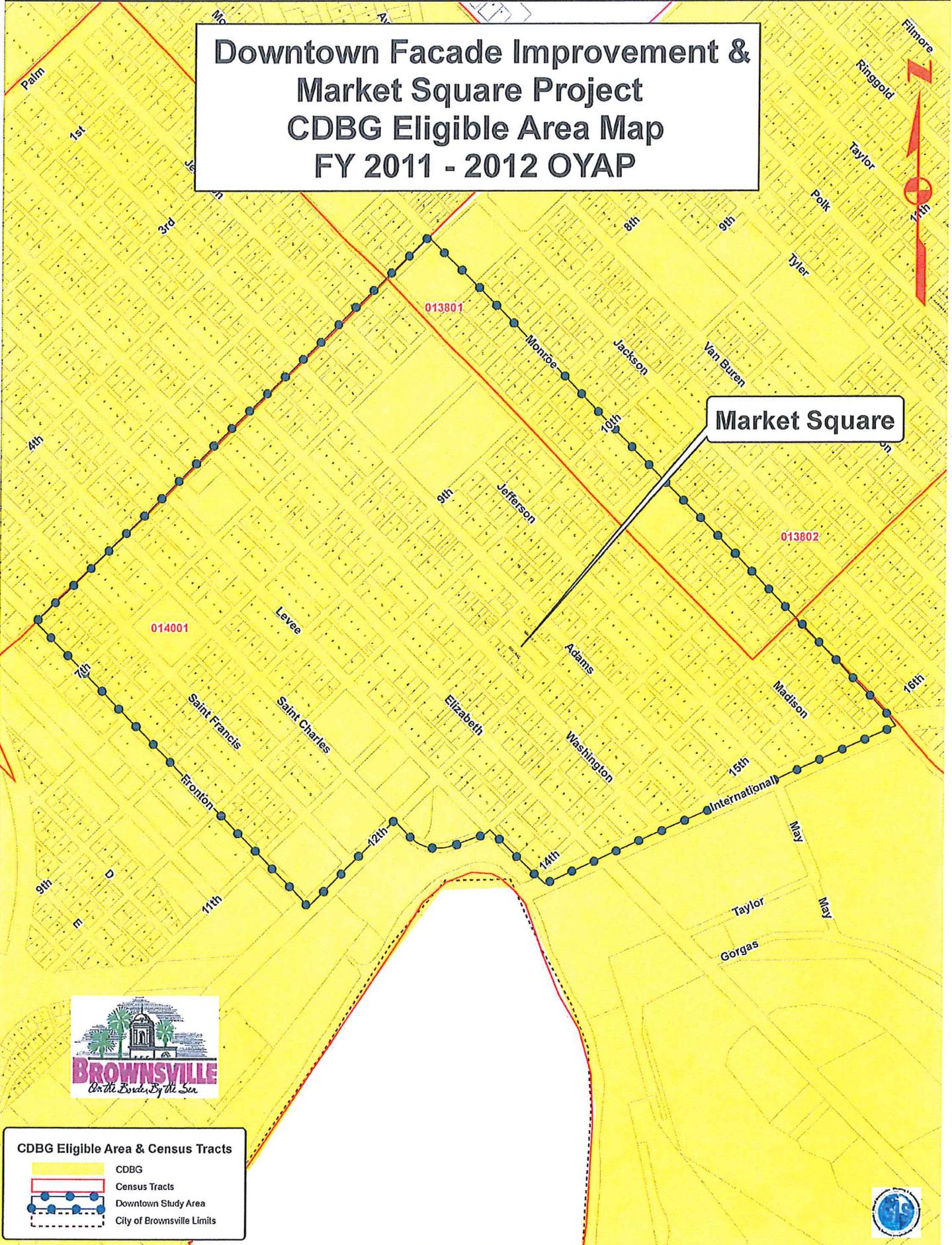


Approved as to form and legality this the
8th day of February, 2012



Mark Sossi
City Attorney

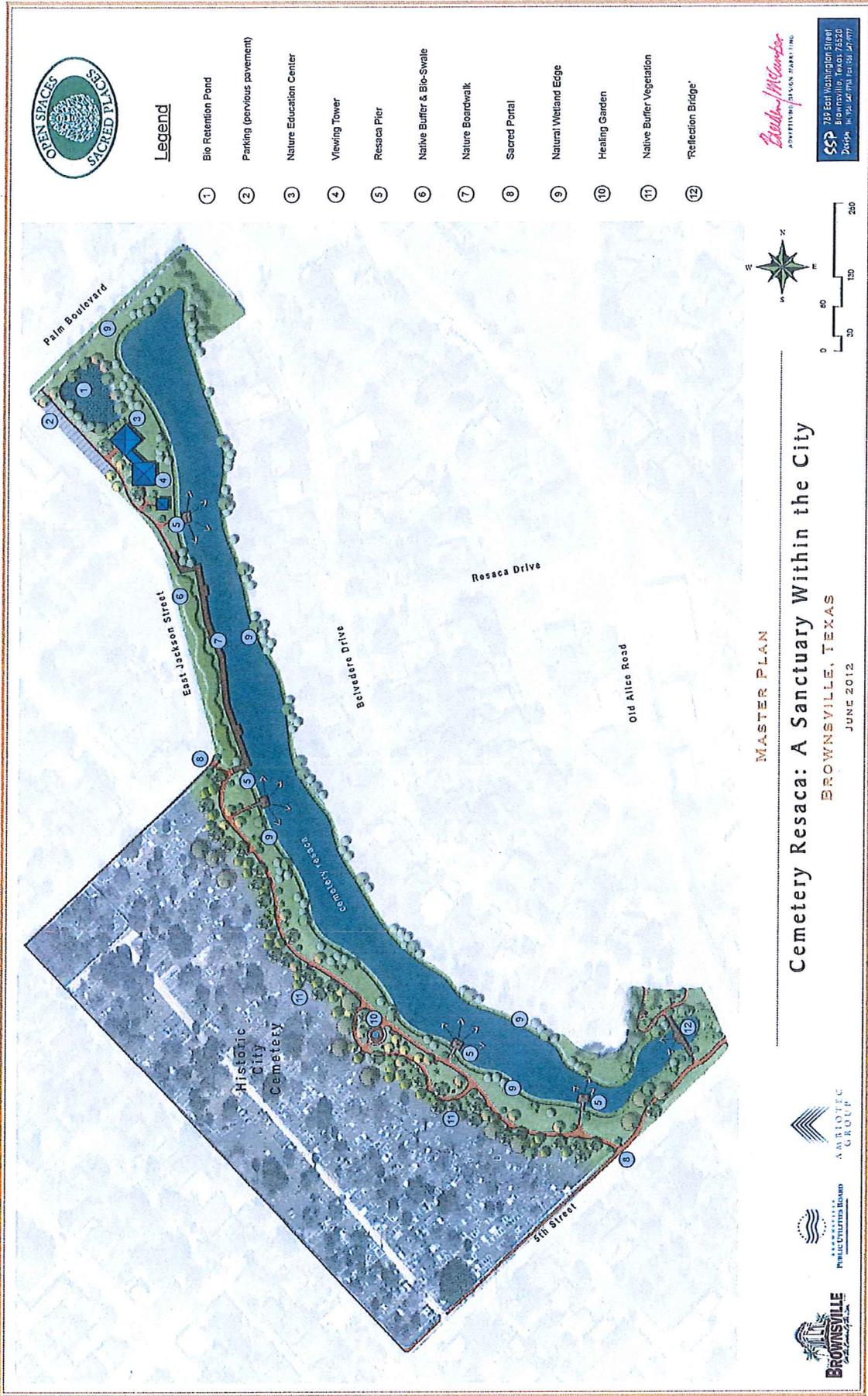
Downtown Facade Improvement & Market Square Project CDBG Eligible Area Map FY 2011 - 2012 OYAP



CDBG Eligible Area & Census Tracts

- CDBG
- Census Tracts
- Downtown Study Area
- City of Brownsville Limits





Legend

- ① Bio Retention Pond
- ② Parking (porous pavement)
- ③ Nature Education Center
- ④ Viewing Tower
- ⑤ Resaca Pier
- ⑥ Native Buffer & Bio-Swale
- ⑦ Nature Boardwalk
- ⑧ Sacred Portal
- ⑨ Natural Wetland Edge
- ⑩ Healing Garden
- ⑪ Native Buffer Vegetation
- ⑫ 'Reflection Bridge'



MASTER PLAN

Cemetery Resaca: A Sanctuary Within the City
 BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS
 JUNE 2012



BROWNSVILLE
The Herald

PUBLISHER'S AFFIDAVIT

**STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF CAMERON**

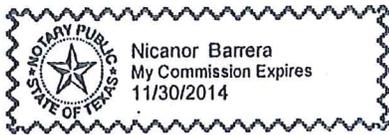
I, Julie Carrizales being duly sworn on his/her oath states that he/she is a representative of The Brownsville Herald and that the attached notice appeared in the following issues:

November 9, 2012

CITY OF BRO. PLANNING #30004845

Julie C.

Subscribed and sworn to before me on this the 09 day of November, 2012.



Nicanor Barrera

**Notary Public, Cameron County
State of Texas**

| Activity | Description | Proposed Budget | Eligibility Category | Objective | Accomplishments (Direct Beneficiaries) |
|--|---|-----------------|---|---|--|
| Villa Nueva Sewer Improvements: Phase II | Assist BPUB with construction of the main sewer line | \$100,000.00 | 03 – Public Facilities & Improvements (\$570.201(c)) | L/M Income Area Benefit (570.208(a)(1)) | 283 residents |
| Rehabilitation Loan Program | Rehabilitation of owner-occupied houses | \$100,000.00 | 14A – Rehabilitation; Single Unit Residential (\$570.202) | L/M Income Housing (570.208(a)(3)) | 4 Housing Units |
| Substandard Structure Program | Demolition of vacant substandard structures | \$65,000.00 | 04 – Clearance and Demolition (\$570.201(d)) | Spot Blight (570.208(b)(2)) | 10 Housing Units |
| Community Arts Center: Phase I & II | Rehabilitation and renovation of the Stegman Building | \$1,000,000.00 | 03 – Public Facilities & Improvements (\$570.201(c)) | L/M Income Area Benefit (570.208(a)(1)) | 1,901 residents, |
| Youth Homeless Center: Phase I | Feasibility Study | \$75,000.00 | 03 – Public Facilities & Improvements (\$570.201(c)) | L/M Income Area Benefit (570.208(a)(1)) | 1,901 residents |
| Downtown Wayfinding | Directional signage in Historic Downtown Brownsville | \$200,000.00 | 03 – Public Facilities & Improvements (\$570.201(c)) | Slum and Blight Area (570.208(b)(1)) | 4,310 residents |
| Elderly Replacement Program | Reconstruction of Homes for elderly families | \$100,000.00 | 14A – Rehabilitation; Single Unit Residential (\$570.202) | L/M Income Housing (570.208(a)(3)) | 2 Housing Units |
| Belden Trail | Construction of a 1-mile hike and bike trail | \$200,000.00 | 03 – Public Facilities & Improvements (\$570.201(c)) | L/M Income Area Benefit (570.208(a)(1)) | 8,849 residents |
| 5-Mile Hike & Bike Trail: Phase I | Architectural Design & Engineering | \$150,000.00 | 03 – Public Facilities & Improvements (\$570.201(c)) | L/M Income Area Benefit (570.208(a)(1)) | 43,635 residents |
| Community Skate Park | Installation of a skate park at Oliveira Park | \$150,000.00 | 03 – Public Facilities & Improvements (\$570.201(c)) | L/M Income Area Benefit (570.208(a)(1)) | 8,210 residents, |
| Sacred Places Gardens: Phase I | Architectural Design & Engineering | \$200,000.00 | 03 – Public Facilities & Improvements (\$570.201(c)) | L/M Income Area Benefit (570.208(a)(1)) | 2,409 residents, |
| 5-Year Consolidated Plan | Professional Services to develop the 5-Year Consolidated Plan | \$75,000.00 | 20 – Planning, Entitlement Communities (\$570.205) | N/A | N/A |

***Number of beneficiaries is calculated according to census track data.**