

NEIGHBORHOOD AND COMMERCIAL REVITALIZATION

PROGRAM MISSION

The mission of the Neighborhood Strategy Area Program is to facilitate sustainable communities, as defined by their residents, through training and education; increasing civic participation; connecting residents with needed services; and facilitating physical improvements in targeted neighborhoods. The mission of the Commercial Revitalization Program (CRP) is to maximize the County's investment and enhance the County's image through the implementation of comprehensive area improvement plans and revitalization strategies in targeted commercial areas throughout Arlington.

The Neighborhood Strategy Area and Commercial Revitalization Program have been combined within this section to highlight the County's revitalization efforts in low to moderate income communities and within older and major commercial areas in and adjacent to residential neighborhoods. While the programs are separate and distinct in terms of their operations, they share similar missions and overlap geographically - more neighborhoods were designated NSAs in FY 2005 and many of them have or are adjacent to an eligible commercial area.

- **The Neighborhood Strategy Area Program** has four (4) service delivery areas: strategic planning, program development and funding, outreach and training and resident capacity building. Staff develops strategically-focused action plans for designated low to moderate income areas and works with residents and county staff to achieve action plan objectives. Staff also provides educational and training opportunities to educate residents on techniques on how to become more involved in the community and that provides guidance on how to engage County government and partner with community agencies/organizations to address issues in their neighborhoods. Currently there are 3.5 FTEs supporting this program including 0.5 FTE from the Housing Division and 3.0 FTEs from the Neighborhood Services Division. The Community Development Block Grant Program funds 2.5 FTEs for this program. The program currently serves eleven (11) neighborhoods via a tiered system of services and support activities that are based on area need as measured by demographic data, resident participation in existing human services programs, and physical neighborhood conditions. The tiers include:
 - **Neighborhood Focus Areas (NFA)** that reflect the greatest needs and includes Nauck, Columbia Heights West, Pike Village Center, and Buckingham. These areas will receive the highest level of program assistance including strategic planning, program development and funding, systematic code enforcement and proactive resident training and capacity building.
 - **Neighborhood Enhancement Areas (NEA)**, the middle tier, reflecting moderate needs. It includes Arlington View, Radnor Fort Myer Heights, and Long Branch Creek that will receive assistance in developing and implementing plans focusing on the areas' top community issues and targeted code enforcement issues.
 - **Neighborhood Outreach Areas (NOA)** reflects the lowest level of need and includes Penrose, Barcroft, Westover, and Lyon Park. These areas will receive special outreach to encourage participation in existing programs and services.
- **The Commercial Revitalization Program** was created during the development of the FY 2003 – FY 2008 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) to increase the County's emphasis on revitalization efforts throughout Arlington. The Commercial Revitalization Program provides for targeted commercial revitalization within two service areas: major commercial areas throughout Arlington and smaller commercial areas within Arlington neighborhoods. The development of a strategic geographical focus will serve to maximize the County's capital investments and enhance the County's image. This program incorporates the former County

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programs of streetscape, utility undergrounding, commercial streetlights, and the Apartment and Business Conservation Programs. There is currently one FTE (Program Coordinator) allocated to this program.

PROGRAM FINANCIAL SUMMARY

	FY 2005 Actual	FY 2006 Adopted	FY 2007 Proposed	% Change '06 to '07
Personnel	\$91,656	\$176,280	\$152,156	-14%
Non-Personnel	51,483	36,738	35,492	-3%
Total Expenditures	143,139	213,018	187,648	-12%
Total Revenues	-	-	-	-
Net Tax Support	\$143,139	\$213,018	\$187,648	-12%
Authorized FTEs	2.0	2.0	2.0	
Funded FTEs	2.0	2.0	2.0	

SIGNIFICANT BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

- ↓ The overall decrease in personnel costs (\$24,124) reflects a two percent market pay line adjustment, a 10% increase in employer health insurance costs, and an increase in employer retirement contributions to maintain full funding of the retirement fund offset by attrition.
- ↓ The decrease in non-personnel costs (\$1,246) reflects a reduction in County telephone charges from DTS.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Neighborhood Strategy Area

	FY 2002 Actual	FY 2003 Actual	FY 2004 Actual	FY 2005 Actual	FY 2006 Estimate	FY 2007 Estimate	FY 2007 Goal
Percentage of CDBG funded NSA programs meeting targets	N/A	75	100%	90%	90%	95%	100%
Small grants awarded to resident initiated projects	14	20	20	12	15	20	20
Percentage of small grants awarded to resident-initiated projects	70%	50%	50%	68%	65%	70%	70%
Percent of the Neighborhood College participants satisfied with the program	N/A	100%	100%	99%	95%	95%	100%
Annual enrollment in the Neighborhood College Program	19	19	24	19	23	33	33
Percent graduated from the Neighborhood College Program	95%	95%	80%	84%	95%	96%	100%
Cumulative number of graduates from the Neighborhood College Program since FY 2001	47	65	84	103	126	159	159

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Commercial Revitalization

	FY 2002 Actual	FY 2003 Actual	FY 2004 Actual	FY 2005 Actual	FY 2006 Estimate	FY 2007 Estimate	FY 2007 Goal
Number of projects funded	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	2	3	5
Percentage of cost of private development relative to the cost of adjacent County funded public improvements	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	90%	90%	90%
Ratio of private investment to public investment of funded and proposed projects	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	5 to 1	5 to 1	5 to 1

FUTURE BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS

- Under the new NSA program strategy all eleven (11) Neighborhood Strategy Areas will receive some level of assistance through the program so as to “leave no neighborhood behind”. CDBG dollars have been reduced by 16% and prospects appear likely for funding to be continuously reduced over the next several fiscal years, yet needs and expectations within these low and moderate income areas continue to increase.