

Community Development Strategy Review

What is a Community Development Strategy?

A Community Development Strategy (CDS) is, in part, a summary of our community's numerous planning documents. It outlines a plan of action intended to accomplish specific community goals. As part of its Community Development Block Program (CDBG), the Commonwealth's Department of Community and Economic Development (DHCD) requires that communities re-visit their CDS on a regular basis, to review its community goals and its List of Priorities. This process helps us as we strive to achieve our objectives with the help of DHCD-administered technical assistance and grant programs.

Clinton's current Community Development Strategy was developed in 2010. Alongside the CDS and its List of Priorities (shown below), A Target Map was also developed. The Target Map indicated the areas of town where CDBG activities are proposed to take place. This Target Area can be modified from year to year.

FY 2012 PRIORITIES

While realizing that the following tasks may not be accomplished in the exact priority listed below, the Town has established the following priorities to be pursued as part of its Community Development Strategy:

1. Rehabilitate, preserve and expand Clinton's affordable housing stock through the re-establishment of the Town's Housing Rehabilitation Program.
2. Direct investment into the Town's public and private infrastructure in a manner that will promote the redevelopment of commercial, mixed-use and underutilized factory buildings and shopping plazas.
3. Secure grant funding to renovate the Clinton Home for the Aged for a new senior center.
4. Implement Social Service Programs to assist Clinton's elderly population with health and social service needs.
5. Implement Social Service Programs that assist low and moderate-income people who are in temporary financial distress that will help prevent mortgage foreclosures.
6. Continue to preserve and expand the town's inventory of protected Open Space.
7. Improve and expand the town's inventory affordable housing.
8. Create a connected pedestrian and bicycle environment that provides alternatives to automobile driving, encourages physical activity and creates a space for community interaction.
9. Improve and make public facilities accessible (such as schools, municipal buildings and recreational facilities) by implementing key components of the Town's ADA Transition Plan.
10. Seek additional funding to improve offerings at Rauscher Farm.
11. Explore the feasibility of the eventual return of commuter rail service to Clinton.

Community Development Block Grant

What is The Community Development Block Grant?

The primary objective of the federal statute creating the CDBG Program is: *“...to develop viable, urban communities by providing decent housing and suitable living environment and expanding economic opportunities principally for low- and moderate-income persons.”* DHCD will fund eligible projects designed to meet this objective, and that are consistent with the Commonwealth’s sustainable development principles listed in Exhibit 5. DHCD encourages:

- development and preservation of affordable housing;
- proactive and coordinated planning oriented towards both resource protection and sustainable economic activity;
- coordinated, integrated community development initiatives that are targeted to neighborhoods or particular geographic areas, that meet the needs of these areas, and are designed to demonstrate measurable improvements in the physical, social, and economic conditions of the area;
- community revitalization that is integral to community development;
- public social services designed to build economic security and self sufficiency; and
- broad local participation in meaningful community-based planning that assesses needs and identifies strategies for addressing those needs.

The following projects are eligible for funding under the Massachusetts Community Development Block Grant Program:

- planning;
- housing rehabilitation and creation of affordable housing;
- economic development projects which create and/or retain jobs including awards to existing regional entities for regional economic development loan funds;
- efforts directed toward rehabilitation and stabilization of existing neighborhoods, commercial areas and downtowns;
- infrastructure;
- construction and/or rehabilitation of community facilities; and
- public social services.