

**Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development****Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)****Grant Recipient: Federation of Community Councils****Federal Tax ID: 920063045****Project Title:****Project Type:** Planning and Research

# **Federation of Community Councils, Inc. - Fairview Community Planning and Revitalization Strategy Development**

**State Funding Requested: \$20,000****House District: 23 / L**

One-Time Need

**Brief Project Description:**

Develop a realistic strategy and implementation plan to promote Fairview's economic progress.

**Funding Plan:**

Total Project Cost:	\$125,000
Funding Already Secured:	(\$20,000)
FY2012 State Funding Request:	<u>(\$20,000)</u>
Project Deficit:	\$85,000

*Funding Details:*

FY 2012

**Detailed Project Description and Justification:**

The long-term goal of the Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Area (NRSA) is greater self-sufficiency for neighborhood residents. The Municipality of Anchorage can use the NRSA as a tool for community reinvestment, provided communities document and demonstrate distress, the activities are economically feasible and use a comprehensive approach to encourage citizen participation. The Community Development Division will be willing to fund NRAs that are well documented, economically feasible, and exhibit comprehensive citizen participation.

Please see backup materials for more background and project goals and guidelines.

**Project Timeline:**

FY 2012 - FY 2017

**Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:**

Fairview Community Council

**Grant Recipient Contact Information:**

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Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority?  Yes  No

*For use by Co-chair Staff Only:*

## **Community Planning and Revitalization**

### **BACKGROUND**

On February 21, 2001, the Municipal Assembly adopted the final version of the Anchorage 2020 Comprehensive Plan. Strategies to implement this overarching vision call for development of several smaller plans with a specific focus. The draft Fairview Community Plan is an implementing plan for Anchorage 2020.

Anchorage 2020 also calls for the development of functional plans that focus on a specific area or need such as the Anchorage Long Range Transportation Plan or the Housing and Community Development Consolidated Plan. These planning efforts call for the Municipality to pursue design and construction of the Highway-to-Highway Connection and the creation of a Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Area, which focuses on improving the economic vitality of specific neighborhoods.

The Highway-to-Highway Connection project has obtained start-up funding and work has begun on production of an Environmental Impact Statement. Advance acquisition of right-of-way is also occurring with funds appropriated from the Alaska Legislature.

In February of 2008, the Anchorage Housing and Neighborhood Development Commission approved a Resolution encouraging Municipal staff to assist the Fairview Community Council with developing a Fairview Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy for their Council area. This Revitalization Strategy effort is to be crafted concurrently with the Highway-to-Highway Connection project. The purpose is to ensure that construction of a limited access freeway through a predominately low-income area is done in such a way that the Fairview area receives significant economic and community benefits.

The following description is from the 2003-2007 Consolidated Plan.

#### **Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Area (NRSA)**

"NSRA" is a formal designation from HUD concerning a distressed area of a community that allows more effective targeting of community development resources. Pursuing NSRA designation presents an opportunity for Anchorage to formally recognize a distressed community area as the target for a coordinated effort to leverage funding partnerships to spur reinvestment into local human and economic capital.

The long-term goal of an NRSA is greater self-sufficiency for all of a neighborhood's residents. The Municipality can use NRSAAs as a tool for community reinvestment, provided communities document and demonstrate distress, the activities are economically feasible and use a comprehensive approach to encourage citizen

participation. The Community Development Division will be willing to fund NSRAs that are well documented, economically feasible, and exhibit comprehensive citizen participation.

A successful NRSA effort must do the following:

- Obtain commitments to neighborhood building.
- Make neighborhoods attractive for investments, thereby creating a market for profits.
- Generate neighborhood participation to ensure that the benefits of an economic activity are reinvested in the neighborhood for long-term community development.
- Support the use of neighborhood organizations such as community development organizations, community development financial institutions, community housing development organizations, and religious institutions to bridge the gaps between local government, the business community, community groups, and residents.
- Foster the growth of resident-based initiatives to identify and address their housing, economic, and human service needs.
- Upon designation, HUD eases some of the regulatory restrictions otherwise placed on the use of CDBG funds. To receive the designation, the Municipality must:
  - Identify the neighborhood's boundaries. All of the boundaries must be contiguous.
  - Demonstrate that the selected area is primarily residential and contains a high percentage of low- and moderate-income residents. The threshold is usually 70 percent, but may be as low as 51 percent.
  - Describe how the strategy was developed with consultation of the area's stakeholders, including residents, business owners, financial institutions, community groups, and local non-profits that serve the neighborhood.
  - Assess the economic conditions of the area and examine the potential opportunities and problems likely to be encountered.
  - Develop a realistic strategy and implementation plan to promote the area's economic progress, create meaningful jobs for the low and moderate income residents, and promote substantial revitalization.

### **What is the current status of the Fairview Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy?**

Council leadership continues to coordinate with the Municipal Department of Neighborhoods and important stakeholders. The Community Development Plan - 2010 Action Strategy allocated \$20,000 for the effort. The Council has worked with the Administration and the Assembly to include a request for an additional \$20,000 in the official Anchorage Legislative Request package. We have had informal meetings with Cook Inlet Housing Authority and the Rasmussen Foundation seeking financial and/or in-kind support. Discussions have been productive.





*Municipality of Anchorage*  
Housing and Neighborhood  
Development Commission

HANDR 2008-1  
February 13, 2008

**A RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING THAT THE HOUSING AND NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION CONSIDER THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION STRATEGY FOR FAIRVIEW.**

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WHEREAS, the Municipal HAND Commission is responsible for administering the effective use of federal HUD Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds; and,

WHEREAS, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) encourages CDBG entitlement grantees to develop a comprehensive Neighborhood Revitalization Strategies (NRS); and,

WHEREAS, HUD recognizes the fundamental necessity of partnering in problem-solving to achieve much greater success in urban revitalization strategies; and,

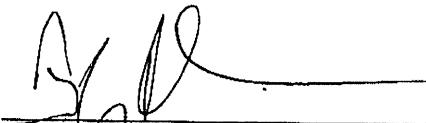
WHEREAS, a preliminary analysis by the Municipality has determined that the Fairview community meets the criteria to become a HUD NRS area because more than 70% of the residents qualify as having low to moderate incomes; and,

WHEREAS, the Fairview Community Council has developed a draft Fairview Community Plan that addresses many fundamental challenges to revitalizing their community; and,

WHEREAS, a NRS plan would recognize impacts and obstacles associated with the large volumes of inter-regional traffic that pass through the Fairview neighborhood on daily basis and would work in partnership with the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) and the Municipality of Anchorage to develop the Highway-to-Highway Connection; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the HAND Commission requests Municipal staff to assist in the development of a Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy for Fairview, in partnership with the Fairview Community Council and other major stakeholders, during the 2008 program year.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Housing and Neighborhood Development Commission this thirteenth day of February 2008



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Tyler Robinson, Secretary



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Timothy M. Sullivan, Sr., Chair