

**Richland County  
Community Development Department Accomplishments  
Year Ending December 31, 2014**

Department's Mission: *To transform lives in partnership with the Richland County Community through housing, education and revitalization to make a difference one household at a time*

The fiscal year in the Community Development Department is different from the County's year; it runs concurrent with the federal year of October to September. For the 2013-2014 program years, Richland County received \$1,270,319 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds and \$451,016 in HOME. In this program year, Richland County implemented traditional programs such as public services and public facilities, neighborhood revitalization, county-wide rehabilitation, emergency repair, and homeownership. The County continues to believe that these basic needs will help build strong, safe, healthy communities which will hopefully encourage a variety of economic opportunities for the County and truly contribute to an enhanced quality of life for residents, particularly the low and moderate income residents.

Below are additional departmental highlights for the year:

- ❖ Phase II construction on new **Hopkins Pediatric and Medical Family Practice in District 11** was completed in April 2014. This much needed facility is conveniently located in the lower part of Richland County providing medical assistance to insured, under-insured, and uninsured residents to assist with their healthcare needs. A grand opening for medical facility, located at 9023 Garners Ferry Road took place during 2014 Community Development Week. A total of \$731,709.90 was drawn during reporting period for project completion. As of May



2014, the practice is fully operational. Eau Claire Cooperative Health Centers (ECCHC) operates the facility, which provides accessible services to adults and children.

- ❖ Community Development in collaboration with the Planning Department continued its efforts in FY 13-14 to address the **Crane Creek Master Planning** area located off Monticello and Fairfield roads in **District 7**. Funding was drawn down for environmental assessments, appraisals, engineering and surveying for the development of a highly anticipated **park**. A total of \$15,089.69 was used during reporting period for continued activities as well as cost for significant entryway signage into the community. This project leveraged a total of \$486,000 in general funds. Park officially opened in June 2014 to serve and benefit well over 1,000 persons from all surrounding areas.



- ❖ CBDG funding was utilized for demolition and clearance of the **Columbia Mobile Home Park**. For close to two decades, the 3-acre mobile home park was dilapidated, hazardous, and an eyesore for residents within the Trenholm Acres and New Castle communities. The property located at 6319 Shakespeare Rd was properly abated, demolished and cleared within the reporting year in the drawn down amount of \$71,868.44. Now, **District 3** and surrounding areas have a parcel available for future redevelopment.



❖ **The Monticello Road Streetscape Project in District 4**

accomplished a major milestone in the completion of Phase I. Steps have been progressively made towards Phase II, which is the project's final stage. The final



phase of the project is expected to take 120 days and will implement a modular retaining wall, construction of cross walks, and 21 ornamental lights to be installed by SCE&G. During the reporting period, a total of \$116, 458.47 was drawn down for Phase I.

❖ Richland County greatly impacted the local homeless population by funding **Sister Care- Domestic Violence Shelter, United Way of the Midlands, and Columbia Housing Authority. Sister Care's** transitional housing and support services programs includes counseling, emergency shelter, and transitional shelter. The shelter serviced a total of 287 persons (180 adults and 107 children) during reporting period, which reflects a draw down amount of \$4,220.15. For the 2<sup>nd</sup> year, **United Way of the Midlands** were awarded a total of \$30,000 in match funds to administer the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). The **Job Development and Training** component- Section 3 continued to thrive during this reporting period through programs and classes offered via our partner **Columbia Housing Authority.** Almost 50 very low and low income



persons benefited in the areas of career development, GED/high school diploma and computer classes, Certified Nursing Assistants, along with medical coding classes. Activities reflect a total of \$37,577.59 drawn down.

- ❖ Six (6) homes (benefiting 15 low and moderate income persons) received assistance from the **Countywide Homeowner Rehabilitation (HR)** Program. Approximately \$200,000 was used to assist these high-need households; 6 households were elderly and 2 households were both disabled and elderly. We continue to be committed to providing safe and affordable housing to eligible residents, one house at a time.
- ❖ The **Richland County Homeownership Assistance Program (RCHAP)** using HOME funds provided 17 families, 26 low and moderate income persons the opportunity to purchase a new home. All of the down payment assistance given through this program is given in the form of a Deferred Forgivable Loan. RCHAP allows for new homebuyers to obtain not only a new home but also the opportunity to work towards building wealth and assets. During the reporting period the RCHAP program offered several homebuyers' and post homeownership workshops and informational sessions to education the public on the County's homeownership program throughout the year.



- ❖ Through partnerships with our **Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDOs)** - Columbia Housing Development Corporation (CHDC) and Benedict-Allen Community Development Corporation (BACDC), a total of \$295,483 in HOME funds were leveraged to create decent, safe, and affordable housing opportunities for households that are 80% and below the area median income in unincorporated Richland County.



CHDC received \$139,000 loan to develop a single family ownership unit found in **District 7** (in Meadow Lake subdivision) that is expected to be completed by April 2015. A HOME award of \$156,483 was

made to Benedict-Allen CDC for the development of duplex, 2-two bedroom/1 bath rental units in a **District 4** master planning area. All three units will benefit low income households within Richland County.

- ❖ Community Development Week or **CD Week 2014** was held in April with press conference and ribbon cutting at the Hopkins Family Practice with Congressional representation and local press in attendance. A number of other activities took place during CD week and as a result the department was honored as one of nineteen (19) in the United States with a **National John A. Sasso Award** in 2014. This



national award recognizes communities that exemplify the spirit of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program by showcasing its good works through the activities and events during National Community Development Week.

- ❖ Richland County Community Development joined forces with the Fair Housing Center and formed the Fair Housing Task Force. The



Fair Housing Center, a new FHAP agency to Richland County, hosted the first meeting during **Fair Housing Month**. In addition information and education activities to insure fairness, where possible in the provision of housing for residents without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, handicap, or familial status were provided. The Richland community

continues to become more aware of the availability of fair housing services through our many fair housing outreach efforts.

- ❖ Six (6) minority/women-owned businesses (**MBE/WBE**) participated in the CBDG/HOME programs, with \$385,589.14 expended. Approximately **27%** of the CBDG and HOME program funds expended were with these businesses and vendors.

