

## **D. GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION**

Geographic targeting will continue in some of the most severely distressed areas of the city. The targeted areas for this annual plan have been previously described in 3.A. They are also outlined on the maps in the appendix showing low-income and minority concentrations. Other funds will be distributed primarily in areas in which the majority of the residents have income at or below 80% of median i.e. the Community Development Block Grant area.

The Focus Area Plan concept will be continued in order to concentrate resources. This strategy is being developed to achieve significant results in a shorter period of time, encourage private investment, increase confidence in the areas designated, and increase property values. Code enforcement tactics will be used to help ensure success.

The City may also submit a request to the Department of Housing and Urban Development for one or more of our focus area neighborhoods to be designated as CDBG Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy area(s). We will develop two neighborhood revitalization plans for two neighborhoods during this annual plan period. Upon HUD approval of the strategy, we will obtain greater flexibility in the administration of the program.

Our housing target areas have a high concentration of renters and vacant boarded-up properties. It is the City's goal to provide those renters with decent, affordable housing while creating vibrant neighborhoods through rehabilitation. We intend to submit an application to the Illinois Housing Development Authority for its new Rental Housing Support Program since our Federal CDBG funds are limited. Existing owner occupied housing will be assisted through Rockford's CDBG and HOME entitlement funds. The vacant neglected properties, that can be rehabilitated, will be used to create home ownership opportunities through a proposed Urban Redevelopment program. This program will require funding through a competitive grant we intend to submit to the Illinois Housing Development Authority through its Trust Fund. Others will be acquired and demolished or demolished through the fast track process utilizing CDBG funds.

The City's economic development target areas are also located in the most severely distressed areas of the City and, in fact, overlap portions of the City's housing target areas. These areas have experienced significant economic disinvestment, resulting in the loss of businesses, loss of jobs, physical deterioration, high vacancy rates, and decreased availability of essential goods and services to surrounding neighborhoods. It is the City's goal to reverse the economic and physical decline of its target areas by stimulating and assisting private business investment, especially for projects that provide needed goods and services and/or job creation activities targeting low/moderate-income residents.

Homeless activities will be funded on a citywide basis. Acquisition costs, proximity to bus lines, the current location of feeding programs and other services, and the availability of funds will dictate the location of facilities and services. As a result, we anticipate acquisition, rehabilitation, and rental assistance for the homeless will more than likely occur in lower income areas within the City without concentrating projects in any one neighborhood.

#### **E. LEAD AGENCIES**

The City of Rockford Community Development Department will continue to coordinate and/or manage most, if not all, housing and publicly-funded economic development activities. In some instances, the Community Development Department will share its coordination with the Rockford Local Development Corporation on publicly/privately-funded economic development activities. Public Housing activities will continue to be the responsibility of the public housing authorities (Rockford Housing Authority and Winnebago County Housing Authority) home energy related activities including home weatherization and energy assistance along with social service activities will continue to be managed and coordinated by the City of Rockford's Human Service Department. They will also continue to assume the lead role in all homeless activities that in 2007.

In addition, the we will continue to partner with all housing non-profits and service providers, as well as neighborhood business district organizations and minority/female owned business organizations even if financial assistance from the City is not sought.

#### **F. MONITORING STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES**

The City of Rockford's Community Development Department is responsible for administering the Community Development Block Grant, HOME Investment Partnership and Emergency Shelter Grant funds received by the City of Rockford including the monitoring of activities funded with these grant dollars. Funds are used to assist to homeowners, investor-owners, businesses, sub-recipients and housing not-for-profits and are provided in the form of grants and/or loans. The grants and/or loans for housing related activities are provided for the purpose of rehabilitating properties, to persons acquiring and rehabilitating properties and to non-profits for the purpose of making improvements, which will benefit lower-income persons and/or limited clientele. Each has specific obligations to fulfill when in receipt of federal funds in support of their project and such obligations are clearly outlined in a written agreement or contract. The following are the policies and procedures the city will use to monitor compliance with contractual requirements and applicable regulations.

The City of Rockford will monitor its progress toward Consolidated Plan goals through the following process: