

Lakewood Division of Community Development

Applicant Narrative

The Division of Community Development (DCD) is responsible for planning, managing, coordinating, and implementing federal, state, and local programs and projects that enhance neighborhood vitality, housing stability, public infrastructure, and economic opportunity throughout the City of Lakewood. DCD partners with residents, not-for-profit agencies, financial institutions, Cuyahoga County, and the business community to promote an inclusive, vibrant, and equitable Lakewood.

DCD manages resources the City receives from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) including Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) funds — that address critical community needs and primarily benefit low- and moderate-income (LMI) residents — and delivers the following CDBG- and HOME-funded affordable housing programs that fortify the City's housing stock by offering no and low-interest loans, rebates, and outright grants that enable LMI homeowners and landlords with LMI tenants to correct code violations, address health and safety concerns, enhance accessibility/visitability, and improve energy efficiency.

- Low Interest Home Rehabilitation Revolving Loan Fund
- Repair Accessibility & Maintenance Program (RAMP)
- Home Improvement Grant Program
- Home Weatherization Assistance Program
- Nuisance Rehabilitation Program
- Nuisance Demolition Program
- Multi-Family Rental Restoration Program
- Single-Family Home Rehabilitation Program
- First Time Homebuyer Downpayment Assistance

The Division also administers the CDBG-funded Storefront Renovation Program that fortifies the City's commercial corridors and incentivizes significant private investment by providing business owners with a 40% rebate on total rehabilitation project costs up to \$30,000.

DCD is committed to transparency, community engagement, historic preservation, equity, and environmental protection, and ensuring its initiatives address documented needs, strengthen Lakewood's neighborhoods and commercial corridors, and improve quality of life for all residents, particularly those in low-moderate-income areas.

2024 Accomplishments

- Issued approximately \$425,000 in CDBG-funded low- & no-interest loans and grants resulting in the rehabilitation of (25) units housing units via the Low-Interest Home Rehabilitation Revolving Loan Fund, and the Repair Accessibility & Maintenance, Home Improvement Grant, and Weatherization Assistance programs.
- Approved the rehabilitation/improvement of an additional 7 units of affordable housing with a total investment of up to \$110,000 in federal funds.
- Partnered with the Emerald Development & Economic Network (EDEN) to complete Phase I (\$350,000) and initiate Phase II (\$450,000) of the Nelson Court HOME Project which is developing 10 units of affordable rental housing for very-low income families.
- Initiated the HOME-funded rehabilitation of 1472 Belle Avenue. The low-moderate income buyer of this single family home will receive \$10,000 in HOME Down Payment Assistance to enhance long-term affordability.
- Strengthened Lakewood's commercial corridors by investing approximately \$275,000 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to renovate commercial facades and signage for 15 small businesses through the Commercial Property Revitalization Program which leveraged approximately \$500,000 in private investments;
- Partnered with LakewoodAlive to complete 9 lead-compliant Paint Rebate Program projects totaling 10 units of affordable housing and provide \$28,500 in rebates to low-moderate income homeowners.