



**Inc. Village of Hempstead Community Development Agency
Annual Report
June 1, 2021- May 31, 2022**

Introduction

Inc. Village of Hempstead Community Development Agency (CDA) Mission Statement- To plan, execute, and effectuate projects, programs, and policies which address community revitalization; prevent and/or arrest conditions that create blight and deterioration; develop a viable community; create opportunities for economic development, affordable housing, and a better quality of life for the residents of the Village of Hempstead.

Agency Organizational Chart

Agency Chairman

Mayor Waylyn Hobbs, Jr.

Agency Members and Officers

Mayor Waylyn Hobbs, Jr., Chairman

Ubah Mohammed, Vice-Chairperson

Keria L. Blue, Member

Rosanne Small-Morgan, Member

Curtis Watts, Member

Danielle Oglesby, Commissioner

Ricky Cooke, Business Development/Agency Secretary

Sarian Parker, Executive Assistant/Acting Secretary

Committees

Audit and Finance Committee:

Mayor Waylyn Hobbs, Jr., Chairman

Keria L. Blue, Member

Ubah Mohammed, Member

Governance Committee:

Mayor Waylyn Hobbs, Jr., Chairman

Rosanne Small-Morgan, Member

Curtis Watts, Member

Major Initiatives

CDBG Program Accomplishments

The Agency applies every year on behalf of the Village of Hempstead to Nassau County Office of Community Development for U.S. Housing and Urban Development Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) funding. Funding is available annually to communities that are awarded from September 1st to August 31st. Agency staff attends the Nassau County Office of Community Development public hearing annually to be informed of any changes to the program. CDA applied for the Village of Hempstead's 48th year CDBG funding including a budget for the upcoming fiscal year. The Agency's proposed agreement is prepared by the Commissioner and approved by the Board after a CDA Public Hearing. Activities included in the application must meet the national objectives of the program (benefiting low- and moderate-income person defined as below 80% of Nassau County's median income) and/or aiding in the prevention or elimination of blight. Nassau County has reviewed the Village of Hempstead's application and has made suggestions to HUD for funding. CDA anticipates receiving our 48th year CDBG funding contract award in November 2022. CDA staff works closely with our public services to provide services to the community. CDA schedules meetings to prepare public service providers for the federal requirements under the community development block grant every year in February and March. The Agency held a CDBG public hearing and Workshop on February 10, 2022.

Residential Rehabilitation

The Village of Hempstead Community Development Agency (CDA) is pleased to offer Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for income eligible senior citizens age 60+ and/or handicapped persons for home repairs, energy conservation, remediation of code violations and to make handicap accommodations for homes in the Village of Hempstead. Funding is available only to homeowners who have lived in their homes to be improved for a minimum of one (1) year who meet income guidelines and are current in the payment of Nassau County and Village of Hempstead taxes. Applications can be found online at <https://www.villageofhempsteadcda.org/programs-residential-rehabilitation>. CDA has assisted four homeowners in 2022.

Commercial Rehabilitation

Ongoing maintenance and improvement to businesses within the Village of Hempstead is key to the Community Development Agency (CDA). CDA's goal is to encourage merchants to renovate or spruce-up their storefronts, attract new businesses, and strengthen existing ones creating a pleasant walkable community for everyone. To help achieve these goals CDA offers a Sign and or Awning Grant, up to a maximum of \$2,500.00 per business, as a contribution towards a new sign and or awning available to businesses. Applications are available on the CDA website.

Acquisition

CDA continues to work towards removing blight and providing affordable housing to Hempstead residents. CDA is currently implementing plans to rehabilitate the 40 Byrd Street property, a property owned by the Agency. The CDA strives to create safe and affordable housing in the

Village of Hempstead. The public is informed of ongoing projects via the Agency's website and CDA Board meetings.

Community Beautification

CDA uses Community Development Block Grant Funding to perform clean up events in the Village of Hempstead. In coordination with Village of Hempstead Beautification, the Department of Public Works, the Police, and many volunteers, we are able to create and maintain flower beds, clean up litter, and paint equipment around the community. Some of our annual volunteers include the Adelphi University Freshman Community Action Program, the Adelphi Gives Back Committee, Village of Hempstead Beautification, and local public service organizations.

Community Empowerment Resource Center

The Community Empowerment Resource Center continues to collaborate with residents to provide information and translation for:

Rental Assistance Programs- offered by the Town of Hempstead Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP)- Program may cover costs incurred on or after March 13,2020 for rental arrears, prospective rent (up to 3 months), Utilities and home energy cost arrears and other expenses related to housing. ESG Homeless Prevention from the Salvation Army-Covers rental arrears if resident has received 21-day eviction notice from the court in addition to other eligibility.

Utility Resources- Governor Hochul has announced that a total of \$567 million is available to help low-income electric and gas utility customers pay off past utility bills. Under the bill credit program, the Public Service Commission is leveraging the \$250 million from the FY 2023 Enacted State Budget to require utilities to provide a one-time credit to customers enrolled in the Energy Affordability Program that will eliminate unpaid utility bills that have accrued through May 1, 2022. NYS Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP)- Helps eligible New Yorkers heat and cool their homes. Once eligible residents will receive one regular HEAP benefit per program year and could also be eligible for emergency HEAP benefits if you are in danger of running out of fuel or having your utility service shut off. NYS Cooling Assistance Benefit - eligible residents receive one Cooling Assistance benefit per applicant household for the purchase and installation of an air conditioner or a fan to help your home stay cool.

Food Resources- Local Food Distributions are located at Iglesia Long Island de Cristo 79 Harvard St. (Every Tuesday), Agape 280 Clinton St. (every Wednesday), Primera Iglesia Bautista Buenas Nuevas de Salvacion: 80 Clinton St. ABBA Leadership Center – supplies gift cards for food and essentials.

Housing- EOC Rapid Re-housing Program through Long Island Homeless Coalition aids in relocating and finding housing for chronically homeless residents. www.reliantrs.com/ is a website used to apply to affordable housing online.

Down Payment Assistance Programs- Community Housing Innovations, Inc., through the New York State Affordable Housing Corporation, is offering First-Time Homebuyers assistance homeownership to cover down payment and/or closing costs plus rehabilitation expenses.

Legal Assistance is offered by:

- Nassau County Bar Association
- New York Legal Assistance Group
- Nassau Suffolk Law Services
- Legal Hand LI: call in center operated by Hofstra University Law School

Health- Molloy University's Mobile Health Clinic- Molloy students, working under faculty supervision, provide free heart health screenings (including blood pressure, blood sugar, cholesterol, and other tests), hearing screenings, mental wellbeing support, voter registration, music therapy, and community referrals. There are no fees. No ID and no insurance required. Every age is welcome. The Mobile Health Clinic is available to participate in village events or visit a site in need of healthcare services.

Federal and State Sponsored Grant Activities

CDA finalized the Village's Local Initiatives Support Coalition (LISC) program. The program was a success as the CDA connected with over 500 homeowners for foreclosure assistance that would otherwise not have information to help them address their mortgage delinquencies. CDA sent 3,487 targeted outreach letters with foreclosure assistance information. CDA was able to have homeowners meet face to face with their lenders and or a HUD counselor to get assistance to resolve their delinquencies to become current on their mortgage. The grant allowed the CDA to help the community address the issue of 1,264 vacant and abandoned homes. Vacant and abandoned properties can make the neighborhood less safe and undesirable. The CDA ensured properly secured properties to prevent vandalism and squatters from inhabiting the homes. In addition, the Village worked with ProChamps to register 1,953 properties, identify those in violation of the required registration of vacancy and issued notices of such. Once again, allowing the Village to maintain the safety and upkeep of the community.

CDA has completed the NYS Dept. of Transportation (DOT) Main Street Beautification Pedestrian Access Enhancement Project. DOT sent the programs official closing date as of April 20, 2022. The enhancements include re-pavement and stripping of Main Street (between Front and James A. Garner Way) new benches and garbage receptacles, trees (on both sides of Main Street), a water feature with surrounding benches, hedges, retaining fence, and new bus shelters, and enhance bus stops.

CDA has also completed the NYS DOT Safe Routes to School Project. Safe Routes to School Project initially consisted of ABGS Middle School, David Patterson, and Jackson Main. The ABGS Middle School project was decommissioned. David Patterson and Jackson Main received, wider sidewalks (encouraging students to ride bikes to school), bike racks, electric and non-electric speed signs, safe places to cross the street, handicapped street corners (safe for

wheelchairs) and trimmed trees on and around each school and over sidewalks (for better visibility). Jackson Main received a sliding fence system designed to allow buses to safely drop off and pick up students without being in the street.

The Village of Hempstead has received the NYS Department of State Brownfield Opportunity Areas (BOA) designation. CDA has been selected to continue planning efforts in the Downtown Overlay Zone through the **NYS DOS Brownfield Opportunity Area program** for pre-development activities to establish an innovation district known as the Empowerment District.

Anti-crime, Anti-gang, and Anti-violence Programs

The CDA is applying for a grant on behalf of the Village to the **NYS Office of Children and Family Services** to hold events that promote anti-crime, anti-gang, and anti-violence programs. This grant request is a Legislative Initiative by Assemblymember Darling. The CDA met with the Hempstead P.A.L. to discuss several opportunities for programming this year. There are three local events planned for 2022 at three separate locations within the village.

Long-Term Financial Planning

The revitalization of the downtown along with the potential of affordable housing projects village-wide are key components of the Agency's commitment to long-term fiscal responsibility, accountability, and efficiency. The financial plan includes projections of the Agency's activities, related sources and uses of funding, including but not limited to CDBG and grant assistance. The goal is to encourage, sustain and develop economic stability and growth.

Relevant Financial Policies

To achieve the goal of providing outstanding, cost-effective services, the Agency applies best management practices and policies. Such financial management practices have been identified by the Authority Budget Office ("ABO") and the Office of the State Comptroller. The Agency's policies include the following: Procurement, Investment, Bylaws, Code of Ethics, Employee Compensation Policy, and Whistle Blower Policy. Additional information regarding these policies may be found on the Agency's website.

Annual Plan

The Board reviews, approves, amends, and publishes an annual budget. The budget provides the Board, the Village, members of the public, and other interested parties with an overview of the Agency's status of budgeted revenues, expenditures, and adjustments. The CDBG Agreement and the Annual Budget reflect the Agency's approach to the fiscal management process.

Financial Reporting and Compliance

The Audit and Finance Committee oversees the financial reporting activities, results of operations, internal controls, and planned and long-term Agency commitments. The Audit and Finance Committee oversees and monitors the Agency's compliance with current laws and regulations and applicable ethical standards, as well as conflicts of interest and fraud policies. The Audit and Finance Committee is composed of the Chairman and two board members.