



COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO
MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT OF VEGA BAJA
PO Box 4555
Vega Baja, PR 00694

PUBLIC NOTICE
THE MUNICIPALITY OF VEGA BAJA
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

PUBLICATION DATE: JULY 6, 2009

PUBLISHED IN: WEBSITE URL: <http://www.buengobiernopr.com/arra/comunicados.html>

On July 30, 2008 the United States Congress approved Public Law 110-289 – Title III of the Housing and Economic Recovery Act, 2008 (HERA), appropriating to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funding for emergency assistance for the redevelopment of abandoned and foreclosed homes and residential properties. HERA was amended, and appropriated an additional \$2 billion nationwide for the same purpose. This second round of neighborhood stabilization funds, referred to as Neighborhood Stabilization Program 2 (NSP-2) is available through a competitive process and in order for the Municipality of Vega Baja to obtain these funds; the Municipality must submit a funding application to HUD no later than July 17, 2009.

HUD's Description, Neighborhood Stabilization Program 2

The purpose of the Neighborhood Stabilization Program is to assist in the redevelopment of abandoned and foreclosed residential properties. All activities funded under the program must be used to provide benefits to individuals and families whose incomes do not exceed 120% of the median income. At least 25% of the grant must be expended on eligible activities that will provide housing for persons or families whose income is at or below 50% of the area median income. NSP eligible activities include: A) creation of financing mechanisms for purchase and redevelopment of foreclosed upon homes and residential properties; B) purchase and rehabilitate homes and residential properties that have been abandoned or foreclosed upon in order to re-sell, rent, or redevelop; C) establish land banks for homes that have been foreclosed upon; D) demolish blighted structures; and E) redevelop demolished or vacant properties.

Proposed Program Activities

HUD requires that localities receiving NSP funds direct the funds to the “areas of greatest need,” which includes areas with the greatest numbers and percentages of home foreclosures, with the highest numbers and percentage of homes financed with subprime loans, and which are likely to face a significant rise in the rate of home foreclosures.

The Municipality of Vega Baja proposes to direct its invest of NSP2 funds to the eligible Census Tracts which were identified in data received from HUD depicting areas with high risks for foreclosures. These tract numbers include: 72145560400, 72145560500, 72145560701, 72145560802 and 72145560900.

Proposed programs will include, but not limited to rehabilitation of private properties, upgrades to low-income rental units, New Hope Homeless Center, Payment of Section 108 Loan Guarantees, and Homeownership Assistance.

The Municipality invites comments, herein, on its proposed uses of the NSP2 funds and any Program Income generated from the use of NSP grant funds.

Written comments on the proposed projects, geography, or use of the NSP2 grant funds should be mailed to: P.O. Box 4555 Vega Baja, PR 00694, sent by FAX to (787) 855-8987 or sent by email to: ddec@coqui.net. All written comments **MUST BE RECEIVED** by the Municipality of Vega Baja by **1:00 P.M. local time, July 16, 2008**. The public comment period for the NSP2 Period is 10 days, as specified in the rules governing the NSP2 Program.

Edgar Santana Rivera
Mayor