

CITY OF ASHTABULA
OFFICE OF CITY MANAGER
MUNICIPAL BUILDING
4717 Main Avenue
Ashtabula, OH 44004



JAMES M. TIMONERE
CITY MANAGER

Office (440) 992-7103
FAX (440) 992-4515

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For More Information Contact:

Mary Church, Project Administrator, Planning and Community Development
440-992-7195

In June of 2013, the City of Ashtabula applied for a Downtown Revitalization Grant and a Critical Infrastructure Grant for the Bridge Street area. "We are extremely proud to announce the City of Ashtabula was awarded \$289,200 for our Downtown Revitalization project and \$300,000 for our Critical Infrastructure project," said Jim Timonere, Ashtabula City Manager. The City was also awarded an additional \$89,000 in the form of an Allocation Grant.

The Office of Community Development (OCD) recently completed its review of seventy-six (76) FY 2013 Community Development Program Competitive Set-Aside applications. Funding requests for the Competitive Set-Asides, which include Neighborhood Revitalization, Downtown Revitalization and Critical Infrastructure projects totaled \$21,424,600.00.

Upon completion of the review process, \$8,168,500.00 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) dollars was awarded to the twenty-nine (29) top ranked proposals.

Thirty-nine (39) Critical Infrastructure Applications were received and fourteen (14) were funded. Ten (10) Downtown Revitalization Applications were received with only three (3) awarded funding, including the City of Ashtabula.

"Mary Church, our Project Administrator, did an outstanding job on these applications," Timonere said. "With the help of Luciana Ratermann, Director of Planning & Community Development, they put in many long hours and produced a product which impressed those evaluating the applications and ultimately lead to the City's award."

Many others had a hand in compiling data and assisting with the grant. Charlene Kerr from Poggemeyer, Evelyn Schaeffer from the Lift Bridge Community Association (LBCA), Shelly Mullen from the LBCA and Sarah Jammal who was a high school senior doing service projects all assisted in the information gathering process.

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The City will use these funds to further the many private investments already made on Bridge Street. With the Downtown Revitalization Grant, the City will create a public parking lot complete with lighting and landscaping. The City will also have \$100,000 available to businesses and building owners in \$10,000 increments for building improvements such as façade updates. The business owners or building owners must match the initial funds in order to receive the grant.

“We are excited to move this project forward for the Harbor Area,” Ratermann said. “This is an example of how collaboration between the public and private sectors can make a significant impact on our entire community.”

In addition, the north side of Hulbert Hill will be re-bricked with the Critical Infrastructure Grant.

“Hulbert Hill is certainly a project we could not do on our own without the assistance of grant dollars. It will make a huge improvement and a safer road condition,” Timonere said.

The Allocation grant will be used as match funds for the Downtown and Critical Infrastructure projects.

The City will have two years to complete the projects for the Harbor Area.

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