

The City of South Salt Lake is in its fourth year of Community Connection, the City's targeted neighborhood revitalization program. The program's goal is to strategically allocate CDBG resources into one qualified, targeted neighborhood each year to maximize the collective impact of limited grant funds. The idea for the program came through the leadership of Mayor Cherie Wood who wanted to re-focus how the City was expending Community Development Block Grant funding and create partnerships in re-establishing strong neighborhoods. This neighborhood revitalization program focuses City, non-profit, local business, volunteer and citizen resources in three specific areas:

1. Quality and improved housing
2. Reduced crime
3. Building capacity through citizen engagement and outside partnerships

Specifically, the program's goals are to:

- Target neighborhoods most in need of improvement
- Ensure that CDBG resources go to homeowners most in need.
- Leverage federal, city, and donation funds with volunteer labor for optimal impact.
- Resolve lingering code and life safety issues
- Advance South Salt Lake's strategic objective to establish a safe, clean, and beautiful city.

During the last four years, the following projects were completed with the assistance of CDBG funding:

- Roofs replaced - 13
- Homes painted – 32
- Yards cleaned and/or landscaped - 95
- Fences replaced or repaired - 8
- Park stripes replaced and landscaped - 45
- Other miscellaneous home repairs, including accessibility upgrades - 19
- Neighborhood park projects - 21

In order for funding resources to stretch further, the City of South Salt Lake created partnerships with a number of non-profit, religious, educational and business foundations. In total, 36,000 hours of service were rendered by 5,537 volunteers in the above stated projects. The following groups participated in the Community Connection events:

- Broadview University
- The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
- Comcast
- GE
- K2 The Church
- Kyle Korver Foundation
- Larry H. Miller Group of Companies
- Rotary Club of Millcreek
- South Salt Lake Residents

- South Salt Lake Youth City Council
- South Salt Lake Employees
- United Way
- Westminster College

South Salt Lake City is involved in a number of other projects to enhance livability and support affordable housing:

- **Streetcar Corridor:** South Salt Lake City has partnered with Salt Lake County, PRATT, Salt Lake City, and UTA to create a multi-modal trail along the S-Line Streetcar Corridor. The City is finishing its planning process for the corridor, with the adoption of a form-based code, developed from a template funded through HUD's sustainable communities initiative, that will promote residential development along the corridor. South Salt Lake residents now have access to Sugar House Park via a safe and pleasant trail.

In 2014, South Salt Lake City worked with Midtown Community Health Centers to locate a community clinic at State Street, right on the streetcar corridor. This community clinic has excellent transit access and provides an affordable health option to nearby residents.

- **Neighborhood Centers:** Central to the City's goal to facilitate community services in a highly targeted way, South Salt Lake partners with the United Way and others in supporting nine community centers spread throughout South Salt Lake. Though small in size, these centers provide job training, language skills, limited childcare and early childhood education, and a safe place for people to gather and network. In the last year, South Salt Lake City reallocated nearly \$300,000 in unused CDBG funds to facilitate the construction of a new Head Start Early Learning Center on the site of an old school at 2825 South 200 East, in Census Tract 1114. The new Early Learning Center is now open, serving over 100 local youth. Furthermore, the Center's kitchen provides over 2,400 nutritious meals for the children in Head Start's programs across the region. Along with the existing Pete Suazo Boxing Gym/PAL facility that provides after-school and summer programming for city youth, the combined Central Park Community Center provides a range of programming and activities for South Salt Lake residents. This year, South Salt Lake is partnering with the Utah Transit Authority to locate a new neighborhood center in an existing building that UTA owns at 3600 South 700 West. This center will serve the fast-growing youth population in the Southwest corner of the city. South Salt Lake's neighborhood centers and community recreation program serve over 2,400 residents.
- **Educational Opportunities:** Building previous efforts to enhance school choice in South Salt Lake by partnering with two charter schools (Alianza and the Utah International High School) to grow in the community, South Salt Lake has partnered with Westminster College on two community initiatives.

The first initiative is the Write Here Community Writing Center. The Center is a project to encourage literacy, creativity and life-long communication skills. The project is a

partnership between the Promise South Salt Lake initiative and Westminster College. The writing center is housed the South Salt Lake City's Historic Scott School Community Center in a room dedicated to this purpose.

The writing center is open evenings and serves people of all ages. The intent is to help anyone improve their writing skills and write materials they need for school, work or pleasure. The center is staffed by trained college students, who act as coaches, not critics, helping with whatever style writing is needed. Students can get help with writing assignments and college applications. Adults can get help with resume writing, technical writing and other needs. Everyone is welcome to work on creative writing projects. Hours and programs will expand as need grows.

The center can serve up to ten patrons at a time and is designed to also host writing workshops and guest writers. An adjacent large meeting room is available for big events. It is a part of the city's Historic Scott School "Arts and Community" campus, with numerous art classes, afterschool programs, adult education and community events. The center also helps South Salt Lake build a partnership with a university, encouraging college attendance and graduation.

The Scott School also hosts Venture, a partnership between South Salt Lake City, Westminster College, and the Utah Humanities Council that allows qualifying adults to participate in a tuition-free collegiate humanities course for credit.

South Salt Lake continues to support and grow the Police Athletics League, which runs a boxing studio and after-school program that operates at the Central Park Community Center. Graduates of the program are demonstrating greater academic success and more community engagement.

- **Sustainable Design:** Sustainable design is an important element in making new housing affordable, and South Salt Lake is encouraging builders to incorporate sustainability principles into home design. In 2013, South Salt Lake City adopted new residential design standards that promote sustainable landscaping and building design, and facilitates increased densities where appropriate.
- **New Housing:** Since 2006, South Salt Lake has issued building permits for 155 new single-family homes, 25 home additions, 343 townhomes, and over 200 new apartment units, including Terra Sol, a signature sustainable project affordable to the median income in Salt Lake County. South Salt Lake approved a new 60-acre mixed-use neighborhood at approximately 3700 South and 700 West, that will include 288 apartments, 56 single-family homes, and over 400,000 square feet of flex office in an integrated, mixed use neighborhood. The project will include significant open space amenities, including trail access to the Jordan River. The Granite School District may be locating a new elementary school in the heart of the development, serving the many students in the area.

In August 2014, The Utah Non-Profit Housing Corporation acquired land near West Temple and State Street to build 58 units of senior housing, affordable to 40 to 55 percent of the area's median income. This will be the first affordable project subject to the City's new residential design standards. The need for affordable senior housing has been identified in the City's General Plan.

- **Housing Rehabilitation Loan Fund.** In 2013, South Salt Lake approved six loan packages for roofs, HVAC, accessibility upgrades, and structural improvements as part of a revolving loan fund that utilizes CDBG monies. South Salt Lake continues to allocate a portion of its annual CDBG allotment to recapitalize the Housing Rehabilitation Loan Fund.
- **New Initiatives for 2014.** In 2014, South Salt Lake implemented three new initiatives, responding to the Strategic Housing and Neighborhoods Plan, drafted in 2012. They are as follows:
 - **Abandoned Housing Rehabilitation.** South Salt Lake identified an home at 2112 South Roberta Street that was in critical need of rehabilitation. Using municipal funds recaptured from the sale of real property, South Salt Lake contributed \$24,000 to rehabilitating the home for purchase as an affordable home. South Salt Lake partnered with the Community Development Corporation of Utah, who will provide credit counseling and down-payment assistance if needed to a qualifying homeowner.
 - **Microenterprise Loans.** South Salt Lake allocated a tranche of CDBG funds to support microenterprise loans for up to six qualifying South Salt Lake residents and entrepreneurs.
 - **Down Payment Assistance.** South Salt Lake allocated \$30,000 in CDBG funds to support several down payment assistance grants starting in 2014. South Salt Lake will be working with the Community Development Corporation of Utah, a proven partner with a long track record of providing fair housing opportunity in the State of Utah.