



**CITY OF ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN**  
100 North Fifth Ave. P.O. Box 8647  
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104-8647  
[www.a2gov.org](http://www.a2gov.org)

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**CONTACT: Jennifer Hall**

**Office of Community Development Housing Manager, 734.622.9006**

### **WASHTENAW COUNTY RECEIVES NEIGHBORHOOD STABILIZATION GRANT**

ANN ARBOR, Mich., July 9, 2009 — Washtenaw County received notification that it will receive a portion of the \$3.92 billion in grant funding from the U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to help target areas hardest hit by foreclosures.

The Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) will provide targeted emergency assistance to state and local governments to acquire and redevelop foreclosed properties that might otherwise become sources of abandonment and blight within their communities. Funds were allocated to jurisdictions based on a formula incorporating data regarding the number of home foreclosures, homes financed with sub-prime loans, and home default or delinquency rates.

“This is a signal that the severity of this situation is widespread. We are grateful to be amongst the many state and local governments across the country who will receive these funds and be able to lend a hand to struggling residents and neighborhoods,” said Jennifer Hall, Office of Community Development (OCD) Housing Manager. “Stabilizing our neighborhoods and helping to restore a sense of security and well-being is key in our community, particularly in these challenging economic times.”

Funds provided under the NSP grant are considered a special allocation of Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) under the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008. These targeted funds will be used to purchase foreclosed homes at a discount and to rehabilitate them in order to respond to rising foreclosures and falling home values according to Hall. The targeted areas include: the City of Ypsilanti, Ypsilanti Township, and Superior Township.

#### **Washtenaw County can use its Neighborhood Stabilization Grant to:**

- \* Finance the acquisition and rehabilitation of residential properties
- \* Demolish blighted structures
- \* Redevelop vacant or demolished properties
- \* Offer down payment and closing cost assistance to low-and moderate-income homebuyers (household incomes may not exceed 120 percent of the Area Median Income)

HUD has issued strict guidelines to help assist communities in the administration of this new program and to ensure that these grant funds be obligated for specific activities within 18 months. The NSP Grant also seeks to prevent future foreclosures by requiring housing counseling and prohibiting predatory lending practices for families receiving homebuyer assistance with NSP funds. Interested homebuyers should contact MSU Extension at 734.997.1678 to register for homebuyer education classes.