

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CITY OF BENTON HARBOR AWARDED MSHDA GRANT TO REHABILITATE HOMES

The City of Benton Harbor Office of Community and Economic Development were recently awarded a grant from the Michigan State Housing Development Authority to supplement their Targeted Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy. This grant will allow them to rehabilitate a number of owner occupied houses within a specific target area in the city of Benton Harbor.

The target area lies within the boundaries as follows: South of Empire Avenue, North of May Street, West of Hurd Avenue and East of Superior Street. This neighborhood is in the midst of the community's residential district and these boundaries were chosen to help ensure stability in that sector.

Applications will be available for pickup beginning February 5, 2010, at the Office of Community and Economic Development in City Hall (200 E. Wall Street) in Benton Harbor. Applications must be completed and submitted no later than March 5, 2010.

Completed applications include a completed application form, a copy of a recorded warranty deed or recorded land contract, homeowners insurance, a copy of the homeowner's most recently paid tax receipt and most recently paid water bill and proof of income for everyone in the home. Applicants are eligible if their income is at or below 80% of Area Median Income, based on household size. The applicant must own and have resided in the home for at least two years at time of application. Applicants who are accepted for rehabilitation should be advised that they will be required to relocate from their home for 45 days if lead based paint is identified within the house.

A home rehabilitation through this program involves a variety of completed repairs including roofing, siding, electrical, lead paint restoration, plumbing, heat, insulation, windows, and many others necessary in bringing the home up to minimum housing quality standards. Applications will be approved based on the severity of code violations in the home.

For more information, contact the City of Benton Harbor Community and Economic Development Department at (269) 927-8420.