

A partnership has developed between the Town, the Lee Community Development Corporation, the Berkshire Regional Housing Development Corporation and the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC) in order to position Lee for a CDBG grant application for FY 2011. CDBG funds must be used primarily to benefit low to moderate income persons or to help revitalize deteriorating areas.

Numerous activities identified in past planning activities were vetted for eligibility, competitiveness and ability to proceed. The following are proposed for inclusion in this application:

<u>Housing</u>	<i>Support an existing housing retention program modified to address the needs of displaced workers, intended for the prevention of future blight and maintenance of surrounding property values.</i>
<u>Public Infrastructure</u>	<i>Safety upgrades and pedestrian amenities directing foot traffic from East Side parking project to Main Street. Program activities will likely include lighting, drainage, signage, improved sidewalks and a walkway.</i>
<u>Demolition</u>	<i>Building demolition and basic surface preparation at the site of the former Bull's Eye Pub.</i>
<u>Planning</u>	<i>Comprehensive site planning for West Side, likely including strengths, weaknesses and recommendations for physical improvements, zoning modifications, and marketing and use, as well as funding research.</i>

Proposed timeline:

September 7	Public Hearing for Community Development Strategy (CDS) and draft grant components.
September 14	Comments in writing requested by this date (or at September 7 hearing).
September 21	Selectmen's approval of final CDS.

Comments or questions can be directed to Mackenzie Greer, BRPC Planner at 413-442-1521 ext. 32 or mgreer@berkshireplanning.org.