

National Community Development Week April 21- 25

This week, communities throughout the United States celebrate National Community Development Week. This nationally-proclaimed week gives recognition to the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program and its vital role in communities large and small. This year's celebration is particularly noteworthy as 2014 marks the 40th anniversary of the CDBG program.

The City of Santa Barbara has been a recipient since the early days of the CDBG program, receiving more than \$44 million since 1975. These funds have been used to develop a viable urban community by providing decent housing, a suitable living environment and expanding economic opportunities for low and moderate-income persons.



Bus Shelters

Throughout its history in Santa Barbara, CDBG funds have been used to rehabilitate hundreds of homes; renovate parks and community centers throughout the City; install sidewalks, lighting and bus shelters in low-income neighborhoods; provide small business loans to microenterprises; provide shelter for victims of domestic violence, homeless individuals, families, runaway youth, and persons in need of hospice; and complete countless other capital improvements.

Here's a snapshot of just a few of the people that benefit from the programs supported with CDBG funds.

- One woman received a scholarship for Self-Employment Training at Women's Economic Ventures. When she started the program, her income was considered "very low" by federal standards, and as a result of her Self-Employment Training, she opened up her own business and employs four people. She is no longer of low-income. In Fiscal Year 2012-13, WEV provided Self Employment Training scholarships to 22 Santa Barbara residents and provided small-business loans to 4 persons.

- Girls Incorporated of Santa Barbara, which last year served 202 unduplicated girls, has had numerous facility improvements. Two girls served by Girls Incorporated, ages 6 & 11, are being raised alone by their mothers because their fathers are gone. Their mothers work full time, and earn low wages. Girls Inc. provides a wide variety of enriching activities like leadership, sports and arts and the girls are excelling. In Fiscal Year 2012-13, with a CDBG grant Girls Inc. completely replaced 65 outdated and inoperable windows of the program center on Ortega Street where these girls attend. The year before, the center's kitchen was completely rehabilitated.



Girls Inc. Kitchen

- A 23-year-old mother of two, who had been punched, beaten and raped by her partner for more than two years, received shelter and safety at Domestic Violence Solutions. She and her children received therapy, clothing and food. She transitioned to an 18-month transitional housing program where she now continues to work on her goals of obtaining a GED and employment. In Fiscal Year 2012-13, DVS provided shelter to 124 women and their children.

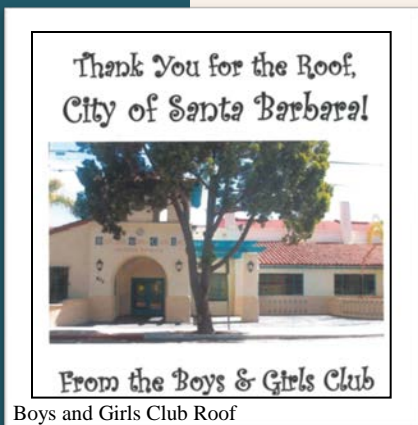
- The Boys and Girls Club of Santa Barbara on Canon Perdido recently had its leaky roof rehabilitated with CDBG assistance. The Club, an always bustling place, provides hundreds of children ages 6-18 with numerous activities including homework assistance, sports, arts, life skills. During the first 6-months of Fiscal Year 2013-14, the Club has provided homework assistance to 131 unduplicated children under this new roof.

While the need for services and infrastructure improvements is unwavering, the City has been receiving less CDBG funds due to cuts at the national level.

In 2009, the City received \$1.16 million in CDBG funds; for Fiscal Year 2014-15 the City's allocation will be just below \$789,000. This is a reduction of 32%, which was preceded

by cuts of nearly 33% since 2002. Unfortunately, despite its success, the CDBG program has consistently been targeted for cuts by the federal government.

To see more past and current projects funded by CDBG please visit <http://www.santabarbaraca.gov/services/hhs/cdbg/grant/default.asp>.



Boys and Girls Club Roof

