



City of New Bedford
Jonathan F. Mitchell, Mayor

City of New Bedford
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P R E S S R E L E A S E

Mayor Mitchell, Congressman Keating and Other Local Officials to Celebrate 40th Anniversary of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program

New Bedford, Massachusetts- On Thursday, April 24, 2014 at 10:00 a.m., at the New Bedford Art Museum, Mayor Mitchell and Congressman William Keating will join with local officials, the City's Office of Community Development and community partners to celebrate National Community Development Week and the 40th Anniversary of the CDBG Program. Mayor Mitchell will issue a proclamation to officially declare the week of April 21-26, 2014 as National Community Development Week in New Bedford.

The theme this year is "40 Years of Building Strong Communities," in recognition of the 40th anniversary of the CDBG program. Enacted into law in 1974, under President Gerald Ford, the CDBG program is the principal federal program providing grants to States, cities, and counties to devise neighborhood approaches that will improve the physical, economic and social conditions in communities. It is administered nationally by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and locally by the Office of Housing and Community Development.

CDBG provides direct annual grants to over 1,200 state and local governments. CDBG's main purpose is to provide decent, safe and sanitary housing, a suitable living environment and economic opportunities to low- and moderate-income people. To this day, CDBG remains the principal source of revenue for localities to utilize in devising flexible solutions to prevent physical, economic, and social deterioration in lower-income neighborhoods and communities throughout the nation. Every \$1.00 of CDBG leverages another \$3.50 in other funding.

The CDBG program in New Bedford was implemented in 1974 under the leadership of then Mayor John Markey and the City has received over \$135 million in CDBG funding over the past forty years.

Mayor Mitchell said, "The CDBG program provides the City of New Bedford with critical funding to support a wide range of programs and projects that continue to enhance the

quality of life for the residents of this community. CDBG funds are leveraged to attract businesses and investment, revitalize neighborhoods, advance infrastructure projects, and support programs for low to moderate income residents. Over the past 40 years, the CDBG program has offered invaluable support to cities like ours to rebuild neighborhoods, grow jobs, and serve the public.”

"I am honored to be joining Mayor Mitchell and members of our community to kick off National Community Development Week in New Bedford," said Congressman Keating. "Countless residents of our city and across the country have benefited from CDBG grants and the projects they fund, including families, children, seniors, and job-seekers. CDBG grants are an integral part of building better cities, towns, and localities, and we must continue to support funding for these critical programs."

City Planning and Community Development Director Patrick Sullivan said, "The CDBG Program continues to provide a major source of funding for community revitalization. Improving our parks, our streets, our housing stock and most importantly assisting our residents directly through the many diverse public service programs enhances our sense of community."

CDBG Week events this year include:

Monday, April 21, 2014 –Lottery Property Open House, 14 Leland St. Open House to view renovated property owned by Community Action for Better Housing Inc. (CABH). Two-family home will be sold through a lottery process to an eligible first time home buyer.

Thursday April 24, 2014 – New Bedford Art Museum, 10:00 am. Mayor Jon Mitchell will be joined by Congressman William Keating to celebrate CDBG Week. The Program will include special recognition to Richard Pline, New Bedford’s first Community Development Director. The Program will also include the presentation of the Sister Rose Award

Thursday April 24, 2014 – 245 Purchase Street, 4:30 pm. Celebration of a newly renovated home being sold to a first time homebuyer.

For additional information on the CDBG Program please contact Patrick J. Sullivan, Planning, Housing and Community Development Director at (508) 979-1500.

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