

Rockland Community Development Strategy (CDS)

Public Forum #1 - December 11, 2007, 7:00 p.m.

What is a Community Development Strategy?

A Community Development Strategy (CDS) represents an effort to engage in community-based planning, conduct needs assessments and identify strategies for addressing those needs. The CDS serves to summarize various planning documents developed locally and to outline a plan of action intended to accomplish specific community development goals that will have an impact on the community.

Why does Rockland need a Community Development Strategy?

DHCD requires that municipalities prepare or update a Community Development Strategy as part of any Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application. The CDS must explain how the community expects to address its established priorities with CDBG and non-CDBG funds over a 3-5 year period. A CDS should also discuss the targeting of certain portions of the Town for priority development purposes.

What are Rockland's needs and priorities?

In recent years, Rockland has completed several planning processes, including the development of a Community Development Strategy, a Slums and Blight Inventory for the central business district and an ADA Transition Plan. In its Fiscal Year 2007 CDBG grant application, the town submitted a Community Development Strategy with the following identified needs and priorities:

- Revitalization of the central business district
- New commercial and industrial development
- A capital improvement plan
- Improvements to the Senior Center and Youth Center
- ADA Design and Repair
- Improving public facilities
- Preserving existing housing stock

What are Rockland's target areas?

The town has identified a Rockland Center target area roughly bordered by North Avenue, Plain Street, Market Street, Liberty Street, Webster Street and Union Street back to the intersection with North Avenue.

What else should the Town consider?

The CDS must also discuss how the community will plan for and implement projects that are consistent with the Commonwealth's Sustainable Development Principles listed below:

- Concentrate development and mix uses
- Advance equity
- Make efficient decisions
- Protect land and ecosystems
- Use natural resources wisely
- Expand housing opportunities
- Provide transportation choice
- Increase job and business opportunities
- Promote clean energy
- Plan regionally