



## Residential Rehabilitation Program Funding Available for Home Improvements

*Town is Now Taking Applications from Interested, Eligible Homeowners*

### ***For Immediate Release***

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**Stratford**— The Town of Stratford Department of Community/Economic Development is again accepting applications for assistance from homeowners who need help with home improvements. The program, called the **Residential Rehabilitation Program**, offers no-interest, forgivable loans of up to \$20,000 for a five-year term to make repairs. Loans of up to \$25,000 are available in the case of a home needing lead paint hazard control work. The program is open to any single-family homeowner in the Town of Stratford who meets income eligibility guidelines and other criteria. The purpose of the program is to improve the housing stock in the Town of Stratford and benefit low to moderate income homeowners whose homes are in need of repair to bring them up to current code standards. Funding for the program is made available through the federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). While the program is not new to Stratford and 32 homeowners have benefited from the program since 2001, no new applications to the program had been processed since June 2008 because the backlog of applications to the program was expected to exceed the amount of funds allocated to the program.

With new funding available, however, in this year's CDBG budget and more planned in the program year beginning July 1, the Town is making the program available again to the general public. This program is for repairs ranging from \$2,000 to \$20,000 in cost and will focus on correcting housing

code violations. A five-year, forgivable lien will be placed on the successful applicant's home for the value of the improvements to secure the federal government's interest in the property. Funding is made available on a first-come, first-served basis and then according to need in accordance with the program guidelines.

Homeowners may obtain a copy of the application package and the Program Guidelines at the Office of Community Development, Birdseye Municipal Complex, 468 Birdseye Street, Room 112, Stratford. Office hours are Monday thru Friday, 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM. The telephone number is 203-385-4028.

For more information, interested homeowners can also pick up a program brochure in one of the following locations:

- the Baldwin Center,
- the Department of Community Services,
- the South End Community Center, or
- the Stratford Library.

The Town of Stratford Department of Community/Economic Development does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, national origin, sex, age, or handicap.

