

Neighborhood Redevelopment Division News

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City of Aurora

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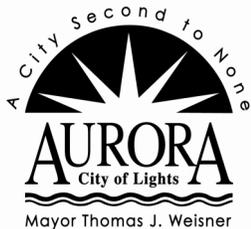
Staff

Karen F. Christensen,
Manager, 630-256-3321
kchristensen@aurora-il.org

Elizabeth Delgado, Office
Coordinator, 630-256-3325
edelgado@aurora-il.org

Rose Mudd, Financial
Specialist, 630-256-3322
rmudd@aurora-il.org

Karen Zilly, Development
Coordinator, 630-256-3323
kzilly@aurora-il.org



City of Aurora
Neighborhood
Redevelopment Division
51 E. Galena Boulevard
Aurora, Illinois 60505
630-256-3320
[http://www.aurora-il.org/
community_services/
neighborhoodredevelop-
ment/index.php](http://www.aurora-il.org/community_services/neighborhoodredevelopment/index.php)

Time for Spring Cleaning!

Spring is always a good time for clearing out the cobwebs, reorganizing, rearranging. Here at Neighborhood Redevelopment, we continue to work on refining procedures and systems to improve our overall efficiency.

We would greatly appreciate some feedback from you. Please take a moment to comment on the statements below. You can respond by sending an email to kchristensen@aurora-il.org — or, if you prefer to remain anonymous, drop Karen Christensen a note by U.S. mail (see sidebar for address info).

1. Neighborhood Redevelopment staff members are knowledgeable and helpful.
2. The subrecipient agreement and related policies are easy to understand and follow.
3. The process for submitting reports and requests for reimbursements is clear.
4. My overall experience with Neighborhood Redevelopment is positive.

And, finally, what could we do to serve you better?

NRD University—Would you enroll?

Building on the notion of continuous improvement, we are considering a plan to offer training to subrecipients this year on a number of topics, instead of hosting our CDBG “kickoff” workshop in late summer. Below is a list of ideas. Send an email to kchristensen@aurora-il.org to indicate your interest in any of these, to submit additional subjects that would be helpful to you and your organization, and to let us know your scheduling preferences.

1. A review of the ***newly-created*** *NRD Subrecipient Manual* for CDBG activities.
2. Planning construction and capital projects using federal funding
3. Setting outcome and performance measures
4. Understanding the City of Aurora Development Services process
5. Planning project budgets; allocating direct and indirect costs
6. Complying with federal reporting requirements
7. Sharing war stories/best practices/opportunities for cross-agency collaboration

I would prefer one topic at a time, in sessions lasting no more than two hours.

I would prefer half-day or day-long sessions, featuring multiple topics.

Third “Steps to Homeownership” Event Scheduled

Please join us on Saturday, April 28th from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Quad County Urban League, 1685 N. Farnsworth, for free workshops in English and Spanish on a variety of topics related to homeownership. Event sponsors include the City of Aurora, Consumer Credit Counseling Service, Joseph Corporation, the Illinois Housing Development Authority, the Quad County Urban League, and BMO Harris Bank. Representatives from Chase, Citibank, MB Financial Bank, Old Second National Bank, and Re/Max Suburban will be on hand to answer questions about financing and finding the home that’s right for you. Grocery vouchers in the amount of \$20 to be used at Cermak Foods will be awarded to 20 workshop attendees. Call Karen Christensen if you want bilingual flyers (electronic or hard copies) to distribute to your clients and friends.

City Seeks Non-Profits to Work as Parade Marshals

The City of Aurora is seeking non-profit organizations who are able to provide volunteers to act as parade route marshals for the annual Memorial Day Parade Monday, May 28th. Organizations are responsible for securing volunteers to work two to three hours the day of the parade. A donation will be made to the volunteer organizations for their efforts.

The application deadline is Monday, April 16th. Here’s the link to the application:

http://www.aurora-il.org/documents/specialevents/app_route_marshall_memorial_day_2012.pdf

Call 630-256-3400 if you have questions.

April is Fair Housing Month

If your agency receives federal funding to provide services that give access to housing, you are responsible for ensuring that compliance with the “affirmatively furthering” provision of the Federal Fair Housing Act.

On Wednesday, April 18th, DuPage County Community Services is sponsoring training to teach entitlement jurisdictions and their subrecipients about their duties under this law.

The training is scheduled from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the DuPage County Government Center Auditorium, and will be conducted by Prairie State Legal Services. Register at www.dupageco.org/communitydevelopment/communityoutreach — or contact Prairie State Legal Services at 630-232-9415 if you wish to arrange separate training for your staff, volunteers, and others who might be interested.

Upcoming events:

4/19/12, 7:00—8:15 pm, Aurora Public Library—Eola Branch, 555 S. Eola Road

Home Energy Efficiency Workshop—call 630-256-3323 to register

4/28/12, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm, Quad County Urban League, 1685 N. Farnsworth

Steps to Homeownership—no registration required; call 630-256-3320 for information

5/2/12, 3:00—5:00 pm, Location To Be Determined

Mayor’s Task Force on Affordable Housing—open to the public; no registration required

5/17/12, 7:00—8:15 pm, Aurora Police Headquarters, 1200 E. Indian Trail Road

Home Energy Efficiency Workshop—call 630-256-3323 to register