

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Hamilton County Commissioners Award Nearly \$1 Million to Five Community and Economic Development Projects

CINCINNATI – Hamilton County Planning + Development is pleased to announce that \$900,000 of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds were awarded for five projects through the new Community and Economic Development Assistance Program (CDEAP). These funds, with \$585,000 in loans and \$315,000 in grants for the \$900,000 CEDAP awards, will leverage an additional \$1,495,000 in investment, or \$.60 for every \$1.00 of CDBG funds.

The County utilized a Request for Proposals (RFP) process to solicit applications for economic development projects throughout Hamilton County. The RFP was published on 6/30/17 and proposals were due on 9/15/17.

The Board of County Commissioners approved funding for five projects listed below as recommended by the CEDAP Advisory Council:

1. **Reading Riesenber Avenue Improvement Project** – Reading will receive a three-year, interest free \$300,000 loan that would allow the city to undertake the extension, widening and improvement of 3,000 linear feet of roadway of Riesenber Avenue. This street provides existing access to three commercial properties, including the former Dow Chemical site, former Cincinnati Drum site and the MSD SSO 700 site. The existing street runs through residential and recreational areas which is unsafe and inefficient for heavy trucks and limits the redevelopment potential of these key sites.
2. **Silverton Beer and Wine Garden Streetscape Improvements** – Silverton will receive \$99,990 in grant funds, and will contribute \$44,000 to create ADA-compliant streetscape improvements and to link a \$30 million redevelopment project to the \$3 million Silverton Brewing Company project three blocks away. The project would benefit all existing businesses including the post office and Meier's Winery, as well as the new brewery and restaurant, and the 60,000 square foot office building under construction with increased walkability and sense of place. This investment compliments an existing investment by the village of \$1.5 million for a road project at Montgomery Road and Stewart Road.
3. **Springfield Township Place Making** – Springfield Twp. will receive \$85,000 in grant and \$20,000 in loan funds (5 years interest free), and provide local \$25,000 funds for a \$130,000 project creating a mural and pedestrian plaza at the Brentwood shopping center for an outside civic space. The Township will build upon weekly Food Truck events started last summer in this key area.
4. **Harrison Downtown Historic Building Acquisition and Rehabilitation** – Harrison will purchase and renovate an historic building in their downtown redevelopment district using \$130,000 in grant funds and \$65,000 in loan funds (five year interest free). This property is central to redevelopment success in the historic downtown district and will be marketed for immediate sale following completion of the project.
5. **Woodlawn Business Park Pre-Development** – Woodlawn will receive a five year no interest loan for \$200,000 to acquire and clear 3 acres of land adjacent to a vacant site to create a 12 acre redevelopment opportunity. Commitments have been made by two development partners to bring 135 new jobs to this project.

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