



February 26, 2010

TO: Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) Award Recipients and Program Administrators

FROM: Michael A. Hiler, Office Chief, Office of Housing and Community Partnerships

SUBJECT: Amendments to NSP Target Areas

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Effective immediately, the Ohio Department of Development's Office of Housing and Community Partnerships will begin considering Ohio Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) award recipients' requests to amend a previously identified NSP target area to either expand a target area or add an additional target area. OHCP will carefully review such requests and will only approve, on a limited, case-by-case basis, those requests that are fully justified. NOTE: The original limitations on target area size will continue to be strictly enforced. Therefore, requests to expand an NSP target area to encompass an entire region, county or city will not be approved.

This change in policy is being implemented due to the strict and fast-approaching obligation of funds deadline (at least 75 percent of the Ohio NSP funds must be obligated by March 31, 2010) and the numerous requests by Ohio's NSP award recipients to modify the target areas.

### **Justification Requirements**

To ensure that there is only one target area amendment submission per region, the lead community must submit the amendment request to OHCP with the following documentation for each proposed target area change:

- a detailed map showing both the boundaries of the original target area(s) and the boundaries of the proposed revised target area;
- a narrative justifying the target area change, including relevant data documenting the reason(s) the proposed target area is an area of greatest need, as defined by the NSP, and identification of the problems associated with identifying and acquiring eligible property within the original target area;
- a detailed narrative describing the prior efforts to work within the boundaries of the original target area (e.g. marketing and/or outreach efforts, coordination with lenders, etc.); and
- an explanation of why the award recipient believes the proposed target area change will be effective in helping the grantee achieve the required obligation of NSP funds and will not be subject to the same issues described in the original target area.

### **Background**

The Housing and Economic Recovery Act (HERA) of 2008 required NSP award recipients to expend NSP funds in the areas of greatest need. Therefore, in the Ohio NSP application for funding, each applicant was required to identify the area to be targeted, based on greatest need.

### **Questions**

Questions regarding amendments to NSP target areas should be directed to Doug Harsany, OHCP Residential Revitalization Section Manager, by e-mail at [Doug.Harsany@development.ohio.gov](mailto:Doug.Harsany@development.ohio.gov) or by telephone at (614) 466-2285.

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