

 <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Council Communication</b> Office of the City Manager</p>	<b>Date</b>	December 7, 2009
	<b>Agenda Item No.</b> <b>60</b> <b>Roll Call No.</b> <b><u>09-</u></b> <b>Communication No.</b> <b><u>09-859</u></b> <b>Submitted by: Randy Wetmore, Assistant City  Manager and Chris Johansen, Assistant City  Manager</b>	

**AGENDA HEADING:**

Authorizing the Mayor to sign a Letter of Support for the submittal of an application by Rebuilding Together, Inc. for a competitive Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG), Retrofit Ramp-Up Program.

**SYNOPSIS:**

Rebuilding Together, Inc., a nationwide 501(c)(3) organization, plans to apply on behalf of Rebuilding Together of Greater Des Moines for a competitive Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG), Retrofit Ramp-Up Program. This application will be in partnership with the City of Roanoke, VA and potentially the City of Sacramento, CA. Total funding requested is \$35 million with approximately \$5 million for Rebuilding Together of Greater Des Moines.

**FISCAL IMPACT: NONE**

Amount: N/A

Funding Source: N/A

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

Rebuilding Together, Inc. will prepare the grant application for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) competitive funding announcement, under the Retrofit Ramp-up Program. The EECBG funding is administered by the Department of Energy (DOE) and is part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009. The competitive EECBG funds are to be used for projects that fundamentally and permanently transform energy markets in a way that makes energy efficiency and renewable energy the options of first choice; and sustain themselves beyond the grant monies and grant period.

The proposed Retrofit Ramp-up Program would aim to stimulate activities and investments which would:

- Deliver a targeted marketing and public education campaign, leveraging existing ENERGY STAR and US Green Building Council’s (USGBC) Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED).
- A lead-by-example program targeting demonstration facilities showcasing energy efficiency upgrades.

- Train existing vendors and home renovation companies on how to weatherize a home or business efficiently and effectively using Home Performance with ENERGY STAR, Residential Energy Services Network (RESNET), Building Performance Institute (BPI) or North American Board of Certified Energy Providers (NABCEP) standards.
- Leverage funds from financial institutions, utility entities, manufacturers, performance contracts, existing federal and state funds, and home/business owners.
- Provide a field of organizers to provide the outreach, technical support, evaluation and removal of energy efficiency barriers to continue long term sustainability of the program.
- Leverage economies of scale to decrease the cost of energy efficiency retrofits
- Provide economic financing options to reduce the barriers for property owners and businesses to conduct energy efficiency retrofits.

The grant application for Rebuilding Together, Inc. plans to prove at the local level in three geographically and demographically different cities – and replicate in approximately 65 cities in 32 states with strong Rebuilding Together affiliates – a new, unique public-private-volunteer partnership model of delivering energy retrofits to primarily owner-occupied, single-family low-income homes that are already slated for renovation as part of a neighborhood revitalization effort.

Rebuilding Together of Greater Des Moines plans to partner with local non-profits, Mid American Energy, Iowa State University, and local banks to provide this program in Des Moines. The design of this program is being modeled after the Thrivent program that has been underway in the King-Irving and Mondamin neighborhoods. If the application is awarded funding, this program would be continued in these neighborhoods.

The City of Des Moines will assist Rebuilding Together of Greater Des Moines in preparing information for the application, serve as the fiscal agent, and provide adequate controls and administration of the grant.

**PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S): NONE**

**BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE**

**ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE**

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