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County, city get $24M to ease blight

BY JESSICA BROWN • JLBROWN@ENQUIRER.COM • JANUARY 14, 2010

Several Hamilton County and Cincinnati neighborhoods hit hard by the housing crisis will receive around $24 million in federal stimulus money to fix blighted and abandoned properties.

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The city and county were notified of the award Thursday.

The award is part of $175.2 million in stimulus money distributed in Ohio through the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Neighborhood Stabilization Program. Cuyahoga County received $40.8 million. Columbus will get $23.2 million and Dayton will get $29.4 million.

Hamilton County and Cincinnati applied jointly for the money through a competitive process. The money will be spent in the Cincinnati neighborhoods of Avondale, East Price Hill, Evanston, Northside and the Hamilton County communities of Lincoln Heights, Mount Healthy and Golf Manor, according to the application.

"These funds are about helping Main Street recover from the economic crisis," said U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown, D-Ohio in a prepared statement. "By putting vacant properties and lots to good use and targeting funds to the hardest-hit communities, we can rebuild our downtowns and strengthen our communities."

The money will be used to buy, tear down and in some cases rehab foreclosed and blighted homes. The homes will be turned into housing for low-, moderate- and middle-income households.

This is the second round of stimulus money awarded to Hamilton County and Cincinnati through the Neighborhood Stabilization program. Cincinnati and Hamilton County received around $8 million last year.

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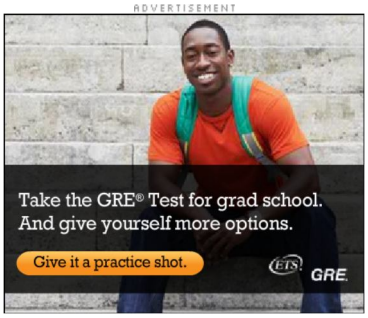

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