



# City of Grand Island

Tuesday, April 14, 2009

Council Session

## Item C1

**Proclamation "Community Development Week" April 12-18, 2009**

Staff Contact: Joni Kuzma

# Council Agenda Memo

**From:** Joni Kuzma, Community Development

**Meeting:** April 14, 2009

**Subject:** Community Development Week  
April 12-18, 2009

**Item #'s:** C-1

**Presenter(s):** Joni Kuzma, Community Development  
Administrator

## Background

Since 1969, the Grand Island Community Development Division has been committed to providing safe, affordable housing, improving infrastructure, financing new and expanding business to create quality jobs, and working in collaboration with community programs that impact social, economic, and cultural norms.

In 1981, the Nebraska Department of Economic Development (DED) instituted a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program and in 1986, the National Community Development Association initiated National Community Development Week to remind Congress of the importance of the CDBG program. This reminder is more important today than at any other time in history.

The Nebraska Department of Economic Development encourages communities to celebrate Community Development Week through a variety of activities to increase public awareness and educate residents about development activities occurring in Nebraska communities. In conjunction with other activities throughout the state, the City is proclaiming April 12 – 18, 2009 as Community Development Week in Grand Island.

Community Development applies for and receives funds from many local, state, and federal grant sources including the Department of Economic Development, Nebraska Department of Roads, the Nebraska Investment Finance Authority, the U.S. Department of Justice, Region 3 Behavioral Health, state and local foundations, and many other federal and state agencies.

## Discussion

This proclamation acknowledges the value of the Community Development Block Grant program to Grand Island. The Community Development Division provides grant writing, grant administration, reporting, program administration, research, and fiscal management services (grants) for the City. The Division manages funding for economic development, collaboration building, housing, substance abuse prevention, programs for children and families, transportation, and other community development activities. The following are highlights of 2008 Community Development Division activity, grant work, program management, and partnerships. .

In 2008, Community Development completed twenty-seven grant applications totaling \$4,143,196.47. Grant awards from these applications totaled \$1,298,525.72 with another \$2,256,394 in applications pending. In January 2008, the City received a prestigious national award as one of the “100 Best Communities for Young People.” Community Development Administrator, Joni Kuzma, worked with Carol Bryant, Grand Island Public Schools, and Bill Brennan, Saint Francis Medical Center, to complete the nomination for Grand Island.

Many state and federal grants require multi-agency collaboration and often call for participation by local municipal government. Some of those collaborations include participation in the Grand Island Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition (Drug Free Communities and other substance abuse prevention grants,) the Coalition for Children (Nebraska Children and Families Foundation Demonstration grant,) North Central Continuum of Care (HUD homeless and near homeless grants), and the Heartland Family Visitation Center (Safe Havens: Supervised Visitation and Safe Exchange, Dept. of Justice grants.) *Community Development is building a stronger community by securing funding, managing programs, serving on community boards and coalitions, and functioning as a community resource to enhance “quality of life” opportunities for residents.*

Down payment assistance, owner-occupied rehab programs, and economic development grants result in economically proven benefits to the community. CDBG programs increase the property tax base, improve property values, and create jobs for low-income residents. The CDBG program reports that for every \$1.00 of CDBG money invested in a community, \$6.85 is spent privately. Grand Island is fortunate to receive continued Community Development Block Grant funding.

THE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
City of Grand Island  
State of Nebraska

PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS, Nebraska's communities are the foundation for providing a high quality of life for its residents; and
- WHEREAS, the City of Grand Island has demonstrated dedication to the economic, social and cultural growth in this community; and
- WHEREAS, the City of Grand Island has actively supported community development activities including a first-time homebuyer down payment assistance program; owner-occupied rehabilitation program; public works and economic development projects, and development of quality programs that serve children and families; and
- WHEREAS, the City of Grand Island partners with many community organizations to expand and improve housing, infrastructure, and services.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Margaret Hornady, Mayor of the City of Grand Island, Nebraska, do hereby proclaim the week of April 12-18, 2009 as

***"COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WEEK"***

in the City of Grand Island, and encourage all citizens of Grand Island to support community development activities this week and throughout the year.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the City of Grand Island to be affixed this fourteenth day of April in the year of our Lord Two Thousand and Nine.



*Margaret Hornady*  
Margaret Hornady, Mayor

Attest:

*RaNae Edwards*  
RaNae Edwards, City Clerk