

**2009 STAFF REVIEW OF PROPOSALS FOR
COMMUNITY/NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT RESERVE FUNDS
(Housing Development Funds, Affordable Housing Trust Funds, Facility Acquisition/Rehab Funds, Futures Funds)**

1. **Project Name/Title:** Vera Center Rehab and Accessibility Improvements
BLW Center Rehab and Accessibility Improvements
2. **Agency Name:** Vera Court Neighborhood Center
3. **Requested Amount:** \$21,000 Total : \$6,900-\$8,000 for Vera Court Neighborhood Center
\$11,800-\$13,000 for BLW Neighborhood Center
4. **Project Type:** X New or Continuing
5. **Framework Plan Objective Most Directly Addressed by Proposed Activity:**
K-1: Community and Neighborhood Facilities: Create or improve safe, accessible and well-maintained environments for the delivery of human and recreational services to the CDBG target population.
6. **Product/Service Description:**
Vera Court Neighborhood Center will purchase and install an accessible ground cover at the playgrounds at both the Vera Court Neighborhood Center (614 Vera Ct.) and the BLW Neighborhood Center (1917 Lake Point Dr.), install a wheelchair accessible pathway at the Vera Court center and install benches at both centers.
7. **Anticipated Accomplishments (Numbers/Type/Outcome):**
Provide safe and accessible playground space for about 700 individuals per year in the Vera Court and Bridge-Lakepoint Neighborhoods. 95% have incomes below 50% of Area Median Income and over 75% are minority.
8. **Staff Review:**

In the past, VCNC has used \$20,000 in CDBG funds to match private KABOOM funds so playground equipment could be installed at the playgrounds at both centers. Both projects also contributed to successful community events at the centers. The KABOOM projects, however, did not include sufficient funds to make the playgrounds accessible. An additional \$21,000 would allow VCNC to install synthetic, accessible ground cover at both centers, build an accessible pathway from the parking lot to the playground at Vera and install benches.

Volunteers from the neighborhood would perform installation of the ground cover and benches.

Since VCNC rents space at both centers, the 2009-2010 Framework would require them to execute 10-year leases if they receive funding to make improvements at the facilities. It would be practical to waive this requirement for the BLW Center since they are in the process of starting a capital campaign to build a new center.

Total Cost/Total Beneficiaries Equals:	\$21,000/700 = \$30
CD Office Funds/CD-Eligible Beneficiaries Equals:	\$21,000/700 = \$30
CD Office Funds as Percentage of Total Budget:	100%

9. **Staff recommendation:**
Approve up to \$8,000 for accessibility improvements at the Vera Court Neighborhood Center, 614 Vera Court, under the terms of the 2009-2010 Program Funding Framework as a ten-year forgivable loan.

Approve up to \$13,000 for accessibility improvements at the BLW Neighborhood Center, 1917 Lake Point Drive, under the terms of the 2009-2010 Program Funding Framework as a ten-year forgivable loan but waive the requirement for a 10-year lease at the property.

Technical and Regulatory Issues	Project information
Within unit, capital, mortgage limits	Yes
Within Subsidy layering limits/ analysis	N/A
Environmental Review issues	No
Eligible project	Yes
Conflict of interest	No
Church/State issues	No
Accessibility of program	Yes
Accessibility of structure	Yes
Lead-based paint issues	No
Relocation/displacement	No
Zoning restrictions	No
Fair Labor Standards	Yes – using volunteers
Vulnerable populations	Yes
Matching Requirement	No
Period of Affordability for HOME funds	N/A
Site and neighborhood Standards	Yes
IZ Enhancement Benefits or issues	N/A
Supplanting issues	No
Living wage issues	No
B.A.D. building process	No
MBE goal	No – unless some of the labor is contracted
Aldermanic/neighborhood communication	Yes
Management issues:	No