

00:35:17 ShaMecha King Simms: I imagine today will be light on attendance...we shall see.

00:36:08 Michael Bell: Fireworks hangovers. OK. :-)

00:37:58 Citizen Advisory Council: Good evening,

00:38:30 Citizen Advisory Council: Please be sure to put your name and NIA/Organization in the chat for attendance purposes. Thank you.

00:46:30 Michael Bell: Back to the property maintenance program. Are door hangers placed 1st advising that there might be help available before violations are given to property owners?

00:50:33 Citizen Advisory Council: Please be sure to put your name and NIA/Organization in the chat for attendance purposes. Thank you.

00:51:04 Debra McClelland: Debra McClelland, HNTE, secondary rep.

00:52:24 Michael Bell: Regarding the last program, what are the 41 partner agencies?

00:53:17 Citizen Advisory Council: I will get with Carrie and we will get that information sent out to the group.

00:53:30 Michael Bell: Yay!

00:57:09 Michael Bell: Can't hear the members in the room.

00:57:21 ShaMecha King Simms: Gonna was trying to coordinate with Carrie

00:59:16 ShaMecha King Simms: chiggins@topeka.org

01:19:57 ShaMecha King Simms: chrome-extension://bdfcnmeidppjeaggnmidamkiddifkdib/viewer.html?file=file:///Users/shamechathechangemaker/Downloads/CAC%20Infrastructure%20Work%20Grp%20Final%20Rpt%204-2-23.pdf

01:47:57 Debra McClelland: So, that leaves which recommendations to consider?

02:00:25 Debra McClelland: What are the costs of providing utilities to the older neighborhoods as opposed to the newer neighborhoods?

02:03:57 Debra McClelland: What are the costs and timeline for updating the older infrastructure?

02:07:07 Karen Hiller: I might be able to help on that one.....

02:16:15 Debra McClelland: I don't think people are in agreement with the modern version of street mte.

02:19:04 Debra McClelland: I agree with Michael.

02:22:20 Sylvia Ortiz: I have a

02:27:15 Debra McClelland: I agree with Susan. All households need internet access.

02:42:16 ShaMecha King Simms: KCC Every Rates Meeting at Washburn Tech East at 6 PM

02:43:49

Kristin Moorhead, City of Topeka:

Thank you

Housing Services

June 2023 updates



Accessibility Program

JANUARY - MARCH 2023



Planning & Development
Housing Services Division

About:

The Housing Services Division administers the **Accessibility Program** which assists low-income homeowners who need to make immediate repairs to their homes in order to deal with immediate health or safety problems such as the following:

- Exterior Ramp
- Bathroom Modifications
- Door Widening
- High Rise Toilet
- Grab Bars

Accessibility Program Grant January-December

| 2023 | Funds | Grant Amount |
|------|-------|--------------|
| | | \$109,459 |

Accessibility Statistics

| | |
|-------------------------------|---------|
| Number of Households Assisted | 4 |
| Average Cost of Repairs | \$4,209 |
| 30% LMI or Below | 0% |
| 80% LMI to 30% | 100% |

Accessibility Demographics

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| # of White Households | 2 |
| # of Black Households | 2 |
| # of Asian Households | 0 |
| # of Black and White Households | 0 |
| # of Hispanic Households | 0 |
| # of Women Head of Household | 2 |
| # of Disabled Households | 4 |
| # of Seniors Households | 2 |

"This was one of the best experiences in my life! The ramp allows me to step out of my door and keep walking to my car."



Emergency Repair Program

JANUARY- MARCH 2023



Planning & Development
Housing Services Division

About:

The Housing Services Division administers the **Emergency Repair Program** which assists low-income homeowners who need to make immediate repairs to their homes in order to deal with immediate health or safety problems such as the following:

- Furnace Replacement
- Sewer Line Collapse
- Water Heater Replacement
- Significant Waterline, Wasteline, or Gas Line Leakage
- Medically Required and Documented Mechanical Systems
- Roof Replacement (not repair)

Emergency Repair Program Grant January-December

| 2023 | Funds | Grant Amount | \$289,347 |
|------|-------|--------------|-----------|
|------|-------|--------------|-----------|

Emergency Repair Statistics

| | |
|---|---------|
| Number of Households Assisted | 16 |
| 30% LMI or Below | 18% |
| 30% LMI to 60% | 82% |
| Average Cost of Repairs | \$4,258 |
| Applicants in Intensive Care or At Risk | 20% |
| Applicants in NIA Neighborhood | 50% |

Emergency Repair Demographics

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| # of White Households | 5 |
| # of Black Households | 5 |
| # of Asian Households | 0 |
| # of Hispanic Households | 1 |
| # of Women Head of Household | 7 |
| # of Disabled Households | 5 |
| # of Seniors Households | 5 |

"The Staff went above and beyond. I can't say enough good things about this service"



Emergency Repair Program

JANUARY - March 2023

Planning & Development
Housing Services Division



Completed Projects

Roof Replacement



before



after



before



after

Furnace Placement

Hot Water Heater Placement



before



after

Replacement of Collapsed Sewer Line





Property Maintenance Rehabilitation

JUNE 2022-

Planning & Development
Housing Services Division



About

The Housing Services Division administers the **Property Maintenance Repair Program** which assists low-income homeowners who need repairs to bring their homes up to code and make the home safe, livable, and healthy. City of Topeka Property Maintenance staff refer homeowners into the program. All eligible households must have an active property maintenance code violation and be on the deed of the property. Housing code violations must be for the home the person is residing in. Detached garages, weed violations, tree and trash removal are not eligible. The program is funded through a grant from the Federal Home Loan Bank (FHLB) of Topeka. For assistance, contact Shane Wilson by phone (785-368-3711) or email (swilson@topeka.org).



after



before



after

Property Maintenance Rehab Grant

| Funds | Paid | Committed | Uncommitted | Grant Amount |
|--------|----------|-----------|-------------|--------------|
| TOTALS | \$22,825 | \$15,350 | \$711,825 | \$750,000 |

Property Maintenance Rehab Statistics

| | |
|--------------------------------|----|
| # of Households Approved | 15 |
| # of Persons Approved | 36 |
| # of Persons over 50 years old | 24 |
| # in Help Area | 8 |
| # in NRA Area | 15 |

Property Maintenance Rehab Demographics

| | |
|---------------------------------|----|
| # of White Households | 22 |
| # of Black Households | 1 |
| # of Asian Households | 1 |
| # of Black and White Households | 1 |
| # of Hispanic Households | 3 |
| # of Non Hispanic Households | 22 |
| # of Women Head of Household | 12 |
| # of Disabled Households | 8 |

Property Maintenance Rehab Grant Programs

| | |
|---------------------------------------|----|
| Applications Received | 51 |
| Applications Declined | 24 |
| Incomplete Applications in Process | 10 |
| Applications in Reimbursement Process | 1 |
| Applications Complete | 15 |



TOTO Program

This program is a partnership with Housing and Credit Counseling Inc. to provide education, financing, and home rehabilitation to assist first time home buyers.

2022:

- 6 TOTO rehabs were completed
- Average cost was \$21,002

2023 to date:

- 2 homes are in closing
- Contractors are working on 3 additional homes

- Requirements:
 - \$500 for a down payment
 - Purchase anywhere in the City
 - Sales price cannot exceed \$75,000
 - Credit readiness and approval
 - Budget evaluation
 - Attend a total of 12 hours of home buyer maintenance training



Weatherization

Assists low income homeowners who need to make immediate repairs to their homes in order to better weatherize.

2022

- 32 Households assisted
- Average cost \$4427

2023 to date:

- 13 homes completed
- Working on 29 additional homes

Types of Assistance:

- Furnace Replacement
- Roof Replacement
- Insulation in attic and walls
- Exterior door and broken windows
- Sealant and caulking to seal leakage



Impact Avenues — assists homeless students and families in Shawnee County. Provides wrap around services with 41 partner agencies to help families get and stay housed.

Totals
to
Date:

- 562 families referred
- 357 families participating
 - This includes 865 children
- 164 families have permanent housing
 - This includes 396 children
- 992 classes taken
- Over 5096 touch points made by partner agencies
- 97% success rate - families staying housed



Equity. Access. Shelter.

A single point of access to help individuals with rent or mortgage assistance.

Totals to Date:

- 3,533 households have contacted us since November 1st.
- 8,560 calls have been made and received by staff.
- 956 households have completed an assessment and are on the coordinated entry list.
- 614 referrals have been made to agencies
 - 220 for vouchers - Shelter Plus Care and Emergency Housing Vouchers
 - 387 for Rapid Rehousing or Homeless Prevention Assistance
 - 5 for mortgage assistance
- 976 names are currently on the coordinated entry waitlist.



CAC Infrastructure Work Group

21st Century LMI Infrastructure Challenges and Opportunities

April 2, 2023

Following are the recommendations of the CAC Infrastructure Work Group, comprised of Jefferson Square CAC Representative Alicia Barber and CAC At-Large Member Michael Bell. These recommendations include a Sep. 22, 2022, Google Teams Meeting with Bell, Public Works Director Braxton Copley and Public Works staff members Nicole Malott, Heather Chilgren and Jessica Venvertloh.

Those recommendations are:

1. Utility rates need to be determined with the utmost respect accorded to low- to moderate-income Topeka residents, who often have to make choices about which obligations they can meet in a time of mostly stagnant wages and increasing prices. LMI people should not become unhoused because they can't pay for their utilities. Regarding utility rate discussions, Copley said during the Sep. 22, 2022 Teams meeting there had been no discussion of rates other than internal work updating the model we developed to see what the impacts of the extreme cost increases and inflation will be on the Utilities Department forecasted budget in future years. He also said that his department continues to look at opportunities to make changes to the Utility Rate Refund Program to provide assistance to a greater segment of the LMI community. Currently his recommendations are being reviewed by the city manager and staff.
2. Race and class, and how they impact low- to moderate-income people and neighborhoods, should be examined and acted on (<https://www.nrdc.org/sites/default/files/infrastructure-plan-21st-century-fs.pdf>). Nationally, the infrastructure failures in Jackson, MS and Flint, MI, immediately come to mind. In Topeka, the consequences of aged and aging infrastructure is a daily fact of life for most, if not all, of Topeka's NIAs. The 21 Topeka NIAs are where many, if not most, of our city's residents of color and LMI residents live.
3. Topeka's changes to its 50/50 sidewalk replacement program (<https://www.topeka.org/engineering/50-50-sidewalk-repair-program/>); where the city now bases the program on financial need as low- to moderate-income property owners can now have their portion of sidewalk replacement costs forgiven based on the area family income guidelines formulated by the federal government, similar to how those guidelines pertain to housing.
4. Copley said he plans on extending the new sidewalk guidelines to other infrastructure projects.
5. The original DREAMS program format, which came from the volunteer- and citizen-based Neighborhood Initiatives Work Group, of each NIA approaching Public Works/Public Utilities with its plans to address challenges and create opportunities should be pursued, not the competitive processes that the City of Topeka put into its interpretation of the DREAMS program. The original DREAMS program is what the CAC adopted.
6. Alleys should be a priority investment area in those NIAs that have them.
7. It's unknown right now what Topeka's share will be of the approximately \$34 billion in federal infrastructure funds that will pass through the state to us or what areas in which the funds can be spent. We need to know what that share will be and what those funds can be spent on, and the City of Topeka needs to commit to directing a large share of it to our city's NIAs.
8. We need to know the arrangements in place for spending the \$35 million in federal American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) funds that were earmarked for infrastructure activities to ensure that a large share of those funds go to our city's NIAs.
9. The pursuit and enforcement of the Complete Streets multi-modal transportation paradigm needs to occur WITH the complete involvement of the city's residents (from the drawing board through implementation and assessment), not having Complete Streets imposed on them with little resident input and participation like the 12th Street project. Here's a link to Complete Streets: https://s3.amazonaws.com/cot-wp-uploads/wp-content/uploads/planning/MTPO/TSC_CompleteStreets.pdf.
10. The part the digital divide plays in 21st-century infrastructure discussions (I informed Braxton that we had reached out to IBSA executive director Lazone Grays).
11. The commitment the City should have regarding LMI people and neighborhoods, exhibited by former Topeka Planning and Development Director Bill Fiander when he began working for the City in 1998: "what would you like to do and how can we help?"

12. Understanding that the City may not be able to help in ways we'd prefer but can look for alternative ways to achieve NIA goals ("there's more than one way to get to Kansas City").

Regarding the digital divide, its place as an infrastructure issue and its impacts on LMI people and neighborhoods, IBSA, Inc. Executive Director Lazon Grays, who has been a leading local voice on the topic, has offered the following plan currently being pursued in Pittsburgh, PA as a template for what could happen in Topeka:

"Organizations involved in the Pittsburgh Digital Equity Coalition will come together every few weeks to build a detailed playbook for closing the digital divide in Pittsburgh in 5 years. The playbook will:

1. Describe the history of the digital divide in Pittsburgh, including our unique challenges;
2. Map the great work that has already been done by our local organizations, big and small;
3. Outline actions that we must all take to ensure everyone has access to affordable internet service, user-relevant Computers, and the skills to safely and securely use the internet; and
4. Set the stage to apply for federal digital equity grant dollars to make the plan a reality.

<https://pittsburghpa.gov/press-releases/press-releases/5873>

"PDEC's strategy to close the digital divide will focus on achieving:

1. Reliable, robust broadband internet for all residents at a price point they can afford;
2. Access to a computing device that meets the needs of the end-users;
3. Digital skills to safely and securely use the internet for resident needs; and
4. Accessible technical support when technology breaks."



★ NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMS & PROJECTS

SUPPORT PROGRAM

Total Budget – \$65,000
 2023 Spent to Date – \$16,221.52*
 2022 – \$63,567.95
 2021 - \$47,281.72

*Denotes – pending updates or encumbrances

2020 EAST TOPEKA NORTH SORT

Infrastructure
 Budget – \$2.49M
 Spent to Date
 1,797,472.00*
 Streets – 10
 Sidewalks – 8
 Alleys – N/A
 Utilities/Other – 4

Housing
 Budget – \$330,000
 Spent to Date – \$84,850
 Applications – 2*
 Major – 2
 Minor – N/A
 Demolition – 0
 Infill – 1 Cornerstone

Status - Construction

2021 VALLEY PARK SORT

Infrastructure
 Budget – \$2 M
 Spent to Date – \$62,831.90*
 Streets – 12 / Design
 Sidewalks – 3 / Design
 Alleys – N/A
 Utilities/Other – 0

Housing
 Budget – \$330,000
 Spent to Date – \$122,000
 Applications – 20
 Major – 3
 Minor – 1
 Demolition – 0
 Infill – 0

Status – Construction Bid

2023 HISTORIC HOLIDAY PARK DREAMS 1

Infrastructure & Utilities
 Budget – \$1.81*
 Spent to Date – \$642.07
 Streets – N/A
 Sidewalks – N/A
 Alleys – N/A
 Utilities/Other – N/A

Housing
 Budget – \$330,000
 Spent to Date – N/A
 Applications – N/A
 Major – N/A
 Minor – N/A
 Demolition – N/A
 Infill – N/A

Status - Planning

*Includes 2023 Sidewalk Replacement Program Funds

DREAMS 2 PROGRAM

Total Budget – \$1.7 M
 Spent to Date – \$92,598.16
 Total Projects – 7
Status of Projects:
 Planning – 1
 Design – 6
 Construction – N/A

DREAMS 2 HOUSING PROGRAM

Hi-Crest NIA Housing
 Budget – \$330,000
 Spent to Date – N/A
 Applications – N/A*
 Major – N/A
 Minor – N/A
 Demolition – N/A
 Infill – N/A

DREAMS 3 PROGRAM

Total Budget – \$387,880
 Spent to Date – \$21,779.68
 Total Projects – 15
Status of Projects:
 Planning – 9
 Design – 4
 Construction – 2

TOTAL IMPACT

Neighborhoods
 NIA Support – 21 (15 active neighborhoods)
 Programs – 4 (4 neighborhoods)
 Projects – 22 (9 neighborhoods)
Funding
Total Budgeted – \$9,512,880
 Total Spent to Date - **\$2,309,245.00**