

# DeKalb



# County

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Department of Finance

Internal Audit and Licensing

DATE: May 4, 2010

TO: Chris Morris, Director of Community Development

FROM: Deputy Director of Finance, Internal Audit and Licensing (DIAL)

SUBJECT: American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA)

RE: Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP)

### General Information

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) was enacted in February, 2009. Goals of ARRA were to create new jobs, save existing jobs, spur economic activity, and invest in long-term growth. ARRA's methods of achieving these goals included increasing federal funds for education, healthcare, and entitlement programs by \$224 billion and providing \$275 billion for federal contracts, grants, and loans.

More than 700 homeless individuals in DeKalb County were found when the 2007 Homeless Census point in time was performed. Under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP) grant was obtained by Community Development Department on behalf of DeKalb County. Community Development was awarded \$2,359,998 (Award# 601016) "to provide financial assistance and services to either prevent individuals and families from becoming homeless or help those who are homeless to be rapidly re-housed and stabilized." The HPRP funding will "assist the homeless service providers in the County in addressing the problems of homelessness and homelessness prevention."

Fourteen agencies provided financial services, housing relocation and stabilization services to the citizens of DeKalb County. As of April 7, 2010, approximately \$510,475 was disbursed to the fourteen agencies. The agencies are as follows:

<b>Homeless Services Providers</b>	<b>Contract Amount</b>	<b>Total Expenditures as of April 7, 2010</b>
Atlanta Legal Aid Society, Inc.	\$50,000.00	\$6,250.00
Caring For Others, Inc.	\$91,000.00	\$23,413.56
Decatur Cooperative Ministry	\$673,579.00	\$145,368.80
Dekalb Community Service Board	\$131,204.00	\$27,290.15
Interfaith Outreach Home, Inc.	\$40,000.00	\$9,520.00
Marcus Jewish Community Center of Atlanta	\$45,527.00	\$9,088.59
MLK Poor Peoples Church of Love	\$41,000.00	\$7,704.70
Nicholas House, Inc.	\$204,000.00	\$18,545.93
Oakhurst Recovery Center, Inc.	\$40,000.00	\$6,538.60
Pathways Community Network, Inc.	\$134,599.00	\$7,535.46
Refugee Family Services, Inc.	\$51,000.00	\$29,873.52
St Jude's Recovery Center	\$322,300.00	\$63,869.59
The Center For Pan Asian Community Services, Inc.	\$78,200.00	\$7,127.17
Transition House, Inc.	\$40,000.00	\$0.00
Travelers Aid of Metropolitan Atlanta	\$335,679.00	\$148,349.30
Community Development Administrative Cost	\$81,910.00	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,359,998.00</b>	<b>\$510,475.37</b>

### **Purpose & Scope**

The purpose of the audit is to ascertain the level of compliance of all agencies receiving funds with existing contracts and grant agreements in the Community Development Department for ARRA funds.

### **Scope**

Our audit covered the period April 28, 2009 through April 07, 2010. We interviewed personnel responsible for recording, tracking, and reporting ARRA funds and reviewed and evaluated contracts/agreements, policies, procedures, bank statements, invoices and other supporting documentation related to ARRA fund expenditures.

### **Conclusion**

Based on our review, we have concluded Community Development is in compliance with the guidelines set forth by ARRA as of April 7, 2010, except for the issues noted below.

### **Issues**

A payment of \$9,088.31 was disbursed twice for December 2009 Homeless Prevention and Financial Services to St Jude's Recovery Center (Payments disbursed were \$9,088.31 on January 14, 2009 for Homeless Prevention and Financial Services, \$1,819.49 on January 28, 2010 for Homeless Prevention and \$7,268.82 on February 10, 2010 for Financial Services).

Approximately \$13,064.00 was disbursed twice for November 2009 and December 2009 Homeless Prevention services to Travelers Aid of Metropolitan Atlanta.

### **Recommendation**

We recommend that Community Development deduct the overpayments from subsequent payments

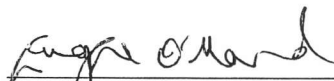
due to St. Jude's Recovery Center and Travelers Aid of Metropolitan Atlanta.

**Management's Response**

- Community Development will deduct overpayments from future payments to St. Jude's Recovery Center and Travelers Aid of Metropolitan Atlanta and will provide Internal Audit with the documentation.
- Improve tracking system by adding expenditure period.

Internal Audit expresses appreciation for the assistance provided by your staff during our review. Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



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Eugene O' Mard

Cc: Keith Barker, Chief Operating Officer and Executive Assistant  
Dr. Michael J. Bell, Chief Financial Officer  
Jonathan Weintraub, Deputy Chief Operating Officer of Development  
Deborah Sherman, Finance-Budget and Grants/CIP Manager  
Robyn Trotter, GAO Senior Analyst-Strategic Issues

EO/CL