

County awarded housing grant

\$300,000 grant to be used for housing rehabilitation projects

By Dennis Pelham Daily Telegram Staff Writer

ADRIAN — Lenawee County has been awarded a new \$300,000 grant for housing rehabilitation projects over the next two years. The grant is included in \$2 million in Housing Resource Fund grants announced Monday by the Michigan State Housing Development Authority. Seven counties and three cities are to receive the funds.

“Projects that stem from these grants have great potential to create a positive and sustained community impact,” said Scott Woosley, executive director of MSHDA. “As the physical condition of housing in these areas improves, pride of ownership is restored and nearby homeowners feel empowered to improve their homes and businesses. All of this has a significant ripple effect on the area and its residents.”

Rules for the new round of community development block grants are aimed at maximizing the impact on specific neighborhoods, rather than spreading projects around the county, said Burt Fenby of the Lenawee County office of Community Action Agency. Lenawee County contracted with CAA to administer the housing grants several years ago. “Making a community a better place to live is the idea behind it,” Fenby said.

State officials briefed grant recipients on the new approach in a conference call on Tuesday.

Lenawee County Administrator Martin Marshall said 50 percent of the county’s grant is to go into targeted areas under a place-making strategy. MSHDA officials are to visit in four weeks to provide more details of how the grant funds are to be used, he said. County and local economic development efforts are to be taken into consideration in selecting a target area, Marshall said. And more than one area may be identified for the place-making approach, he said.

County officials will make the decision on where the targets areas will be, he said.

“I think in the end it’s a county grant and it’s an overall county strategy,” Marshall said.

Lenawee County’s grant is intended to finance rehabilitation of 12 owner-occupied homes and help with repairs of 13 other homes.