

# Seven communities receiving grant-funded home rehab work

By Staff reports Daily Telegram Posted Jun 10, 2011 @ 01:34pm

ADRIAN, Mich. —

Seven communities are getting a piece of Lenawee County's housing rehabilitation grant action so far.

County commissioners were given an update Wednesday on the current two-year grant program, now administered by the Community Action Agency. Commissioners said spreading the funds more evenly across the county than in the past was a goal when the Community Action Agency was picked to replace the city of Adrian to manage the latest grant.

There is \$300,000 in federal money available to meet a target of 12 full rehabilitation projects and 13 emergency home repair projects.

Burt Fenby of the CAA office in Adrian reported that seven home rehabilitation projects have been identified so far: one each in the cities of Adrian, Tecumseh, Hudson and Morenci and in the villages of Onsted, Britton and Fairfield.

The first full rehabilitation project is to begin soon in Morenci, Fenby said. The projects require that selected houses be brought up to code, he said. Any money available after the required work is done can be used for other improvements, he said.

Five emergency repair projects identified so far have already been completed, he said.

Fenby said six Lenawee County contractors are involved in bidding on the projects.

After the grant was announced last fall, Fenby said, 101 homeowners who responded were put on a waiting list with 31 selected so far to turn in full applications. The application process is complicated and detailed, he said, so the agency is trying to avoid unnecessary efforts.

As the current list of seven rehabilitation projects is completed, Fenby said, another group of homeowners will be selected from the waiting list to do full applications.

"If people want to call in and get their names on the waiting list they are certainly welcome," Fenby said. Interested homeowners can reach the CAA office at 263-7861.

Fenby said the requirements include having a clear title to the home without any liens or delinquent property taxes. The homes must also be insured, he said.

The grant period expires Dec. 31, 2012.

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