

**2018-19 BUDGET NARRATIVE
NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES**

Strategic Initiatives, Projects and Partnerships

Overview

Riviera Beach residents and management have been very vocal about the need to focus more resources in our neighborhoods. This budget cycle, we are increasing our staff and financial resources to address various issues of code-challenged properties, infill development, vacant lots, delayed maintenance of our housing stock, community beautification and neighborhood capacity building. We are anticipating an exciting year with new and enhanced programs and initiatives developed because of input from our Board of Commissioners, residents and stakeholders. We have gotten the Marina development off to a good start. As promised, we are shifting more resources to our neighborhoods. One of the top priorities is stabilizing the neighborhoods through homeownership. Studies have shown that there is a direct correlation between economic development, improved perceptions and realities of crime, better education outcomes, and improvements in civic pride. Riviera Beach has a 65% rental rate—a trend we must reverse. Also, the proportion of vacant and derelict properties is very high. For instance, in Riviera Beach Heights, of almost 500 properties, about 200 are vacant or derelict. Riviera Beach Heights also had a high incidence of Part I crime-- in burglary and larceny. With the introduction of the SmartWater™ program into Riviera Beach Heights and Park Manor neighborhoods, along with other safety interventions, those particular crimes have drastically been reduced in numbers.

Strategic Partnerships



The Riviera Beach Community Development Corporation (CDC) has been serving as one of the nonprofit partners of the CRA. Created to qualify as a Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO), the CDC can attract federal, state, and philanthropic dollars. Many of these grants can be used to enhance or support neighborhood priorities within the CRA. Other key partnerships are with the Riviera Beach Housing Authority, several neighborhood and civic associations, our business operators, and with local contractors and subcontractors. To date, this fiscal year, CDC has over 75 people enrolled in the Riviera Beach Homebuyers Club, has assisted 8 homeowners with painting and landscaping, and welcomed more than 500 volunteers to assist throughout the neighborhoods.

The CDC currently has two infill projects in development and a 28-home project in pre-development.

RIVIERA BEACH CRA 2018-2019 BUDGET & WORKPLAN

Budget Summary Table

TYPE	AMOUNT
Program Services	
Community Garden	\$ 100,000
House X House	\$ 50,000
Smart Home Program	\$ 25,000
Housing Initiatives	\$2,450,000
HFHL	\$ 20,000
Parks, Trails & Signs	\$ 103,000
CDC Support Services	\$ 300,000
TOTAL USES	\$3,048,000

Budget Narrative

Community Garden: Includes garden managers stipends, programs, Senior Citizen Garden Club, Singer Island Garden Club, supplies, utilities, and maintenance.

House X House: Includes 15 houses – painting and landscaping.

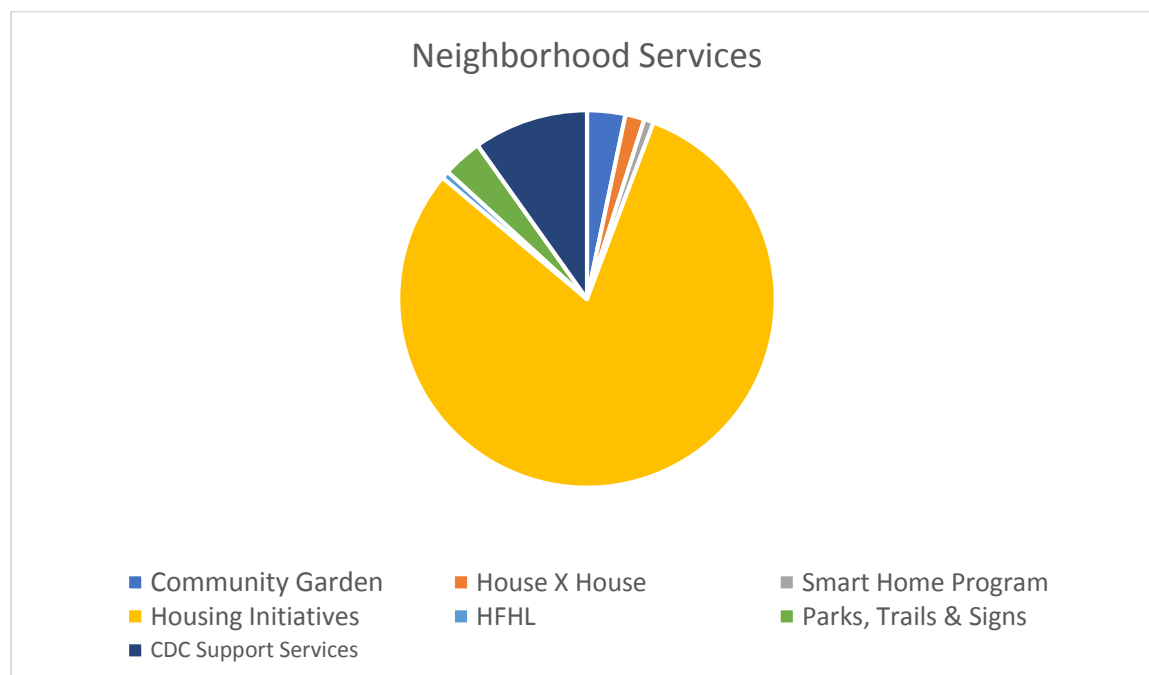
Smart Home Program: Assistance for 100 homes: SmartWater™, Motion Lights, House Numbers, RING™ service

Housing Initiatives: Assist 12 homeowners, 2 Rent to Own., 25 rehabilitations, 10 beautifications, property acquisition

HFHL: Operating and capacity building support to Healthy Food, Healthy Living, Inc.

Parks, Trails & Signs: Assistance for parklets, signs, trail links.

CDC Support Services: Staffing, office services, Homebuyers Club, economic development programs, housing programs



RIVIERA BEACH CRA 2018-2019 BUDGET & WORKPLAN

Programs

Community Garden: The Community Garden is an award-winning green project located at 1010 W. 10th Street. Programming and management is conducted by a Professional Gardener, Dennis Reichel. These dollars will support his stipend, programs, seeds, supplies, utilities and maintenance. Scores of residents and kids frequent the garden on a weekly basis, to pick vegetables, pull weeds, participate in projects and to visit. Some of the planned events in FY19 include: harvesting and planting events; our popular Evenings in the Garden; Art, Wine & Cheese events; Volunteer/Holiday Evening; Read-Ins with the Police Department; Earth Day of Service event; Health Fairs; and cooking demonstrations. In partnership with RBCDC and the Parks and Recreation Department, we help support the Lindsey Davis Meditation Garden and the Lindsey Davis Garden Club program. We also provided support to the revitalized Revival Children's Prosperity Garden Program.

This year, we will start the construction of the Singer Island Community Garden on East Blue Heron Boulevard. We will utilize an Ambassador Neighborhood staff person as the Master Gardener and provide programming, supplies and operation support through RBCDC.

House X House: This initiative, often in conjunction with Code Compliance, offers free house painting for elders and the disabled, neighborhood clean ups, assistance with landscaping and sprinkler repairs, and flower planting. This program attracts, done on a modest budget, depends on many volunteers and partners.

Smart Home Program: This community safety program offers SmartWater™ throughout the CRA area to residents and businesses, motion lights, replacement of house numbers and new this year, the RING™ service.



Housing Initiatives: These various housing programs will create homeownership opportunities for first time homebuyers who have received intensive education and counseling. Our rent to own program will be available for those who desire homeownership, but require a little longer to be ready. The Single-Family Housing Beautification Program will assist owner occupied residencies with rehabilitation and beautification grants for exterior improvements. Lot acquisitions will allow the Agency to purchase properties for residential and small commercial redevelopment. The Workforce Rental program will provide attractive, affordable rental homes for workforce families in the CRA.

HFHL: Healthy Food, Healthy Living, Inc., is a nonprofit food bank providing assistance to our most vulnerable citizens. This pass-through grant provides support for operational expenses like rent, utilities, insurance, taxes, maintenance, and trash. Additionally, capacity building support is available to the organization. In the current year, we have provided assistance to improve the curb appeal and done some environmental assessments.

RIVIERA BEACH CRA 2018-2019 BUDGET & WORKPLAN

Parks, Trails & Signs: This program provides funding for development and enhancement of green space throughout the redevelopment area, including parklets, wayfinding signage, and trail development.

CDC Support Services: This program will support neighborhood, housing and economic development services.

NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES

SOURCES			
CRA TIF			\$1,848,000
BBT 2013			\$ 200,000
CRA PROPOSED LOAN*			\$1,000,000*
Total Sources			\$3,048,000
USES			
Program Services			
	Community Garden		\$ 100,000
	House X House		\$ 50,000
	Smart Home Program		\$ 25,000
	Housing Initiatives:	\$2,450,000	
	First Time Homebuyer/Workforce		\$ 500,000
	Workforce Rent to Own		\$ 250,000
	Housing Beautification		\$ 400,000
	Renaissance		\$1,300,000*
	HFHL		\$ 20,000
	Parks, Trails & Signs		\$ 103,000
CDC Support Services			\$ 300,000
Total Uses			\$3,048,000

*CRA Proposed Loan