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Blight Removal Program Application Period Open Through April 30

PITTSBURGH – Allegheny County Economic Development (ACED) today announced that the application period for the Allegheny County Blight Removal Program has opened and will accept applications through 4:30 p.m. on Friday, April 30, 2021 at alleghenycounty.us/ACBRP. The program fund currently has $1,580,070 available for demolition, planning and asbestos surveys.

“This is a great opportunity for our communities to get rid of blight, to remove buildings that have become places where criminal activity occurs and, more importantly, allows residents and municipalities to clean up their neighborhoods so that they look prosperous and inviting to others,” said Council Member Bob Macey, the sponsor of the legislation creating the program. “Using the Blight Removal Program can make a community more attractive. With this resource, municipalities in our county become perfect locations for young families and others looking for a new place to call home or locate their business.”

Eligible applicants include municipalities, public authorities, councils of government (COGs), land banks and private developers. The program uses established blight conditions and will focus on demolition of hazardous structures, site preparation for development projects, and multi-phase planning efforts. Applications will be evaluated on several criteria including inclusion on existing demolition lists, community impact, and potential re-use of the property. While a local match is not required for the program, it is encouraged. Individuals awards are capped at $250,000.

“There is a tremendous need for blight remediation throughout the county and this program will help improve neighborhood conditions by removing unsafe structures in an environmentally-sensitive way,” said Lance Chimka, ACED Director.

The program will include Emergency Demolition criteria for situations such as damaged caused by fire or other disaster that occurred within 14 days of the application. The program will also be the first widespread lead safe demolition program in the state. All residential structures demolished must use a wet-wet-wet technique in which the structure is wet down by the demolition contractor prior to, during, and after demolition. The contract or will also be responsible for positing the property to be demolished and notifying adjacent neighbors of the demolition.

Applications, guidelines and other documentation are available on the program website: https://alleghenycounty.us/ACBRP.

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