

**CITY OF LANCASTER, OHIO  
CONSOLIDATED PLAN 2003 - 2007**

**INTRODUCTION**

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## INTRODUCTION

The City of Lancaster, Ohio, is located in Fairfield County, Ohio, is a recipient of federal entitlement community development block grant funds (CDBG). The city has participated in the CDBG program since 1981, initially as the recipient of a three year comprehensive small cities grant. Since 1984, Lancaster has received an annual CDBG entitlement allocation. Funding is administered through the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Passage of the Housing and Community Development Act in 1974 by the U. S. Congress established the Community Development Block Grant Program. The City of Lancaster's Community Development Department is the lead entity for the development and implementation of the *Consolidated Plan, City of Lancaster, Ohio*. The period of time covered by the Consolidated Plan 2003 - 2007 is September 1, 2003, thru August 31, 2007.

The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development requires all entitlement communities to prepare a Consolidated Housing and Community Development Plan which provides an assessment of the city's five year housing and community development needs, with an emphasis on the needs of very low, low, and moderate income individuals and families. An approved plan is a prerequisite for funding. The *Consolidated Plan* is a comprehensive planning document that further identifies a community's overall needs for affordable and supportive housing and outlines a strategy to address those needs. The *Consolidated Plan* describes the city's housing needs and market conditions, establishes a five year strategy describing priorities for addressing the housing needs, identifies resources anticipated to be available for implementing affordable housing and supportive housing programs, and establishes a one year annual action plan outlining the use of resources which may become available. The plan integrates affordable housing needs with other non housing community development needs within the city. The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development approved the initial City of Lancaster's Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy Consolidated Housing and Community Development Plan in February, 1994.

The city has made a concerted attempt to implement a program to address priority housing and community development needs which have been identified within the community. Community Development Block Grant projects have been implemented to meet major objectives for public facilities and improvements, comprehensive downtown revitalization, public infrastructure for economic development, housing rehabilitation, home ownership, and public service activities.

The city is appreciative for the participation of the many individuals who assisted in the development of the plan through the completion of community surveys, attendance and input at public hearings, and ongoing involvement through the continuum of care advisory board.