

**E. Ridgewood Local Development Corporation – Economic Development (W255)**

February 19, 2010

- Grantee:** Ridgewood Local Development Corporation (“RLDC” or the “Organization”)
- ESD Investment:** A grant of up to \$5,000 to be used for the cost of general operating expenses for economic development programs in the Ridgewood area.
- Project Location:** Queens County
- NYS Empire Zone (or equivalent):** N/A
- Project Completion:** February 2009
- Grantee Contact:** Theodore Renz, Executive Director  
60-82 Myrtle Avenue  
Ridgewood, NY 11385  
Phone: (718) 366-3806 Fax: (718) 381-7080
- Project Team:** Project Management Brendan Healey  
Affirmative Action Laverne Poole  
Environmental Soo Kang

**Project Description:**

Background

The Ridgewood Local Development Corporation, formed in 1978, is a not-for-profit organization that serves the economic and social interests of the greater Ridgewood area in Queens. RLDC conducts lobbying activities for the community, provides information and serves as a liaison between government, residents and the business community. Current programs include: management of the Myrtle Avenue Business Improvement District (“BID”); Myrtle Avenue Streetscape Improvement project; Ridgewood Youth/Farmers Market; and Outreach Program in the south of Myrtle Avenue industrial area. In addition, the Organization is working with the New York City Transit Authority, Metropolitan Transit Authority, consultant teams, and others on the \$60 million rehabilitation of the Myrtle/Wyckoff Station Complex into a complete inter-modal transportation hub.

Due to reductions in state and city funding over the years, RLDC has experienced significant budget cuts. The Organization has been able to secure funding for various community projects, but funding for administrative expenses has proven difficult to obtain. ESD funds will allow RLDC to administer various projects that serve as the catalyst for improvement in Ridgewood.

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Since 2007, the ESD Directors have authorized \$50,000 in assistance (Community Projects Fund grants) to RLDC for a portion of general operating expenses. As a result of these projects, the BID implemented various programs, such as the tree guards and street light programs, and additional parking was created for shoppers, residents and business owners. All of these projects have been completed, and ESD grant funds have been fully disbursed.

The Project

Under this project, RLDC utilized the \$5,000 grant to fund the following: (1) non-capital equipment, administration and supplies for the Ridgewood Youth/Farmers Market; and (2) accounting expenses. The Ridgewood Youth/Farmers Market was an urban farm stand that was open every Saturday from early July 2008 through the end of October 2008. It was operated by youths and provided high-quality fresh fruits and vegetables to the Ridgewood community.

Upon completion of the project, the Grantee will furnish a final report describing the impact and effectiveness of the project.

Financing Uses	Amount	Financing Sources	Amount	Percent
Ridgewood Youth/ Farmers Market	\$2,000	ESD Grant	\$5,000	100%
Accounting	3,000			
Total Project Costs	\$5,000	Total Project Financing	\$5,000	100%

**Statutory Basis – Community Projects Fund:**

The project was authorized in the 2008-2009 New York State budget and reappropriated in the 2009-2010 New York State budget. No residential relocation is required as there are no families or individuals residing on the site.

**Disclosure and Accountability Certifications:**

The Grantee has provided ESDC with the required Disclosure and Accountability Certifications. Grantee’s certifications indicate that Grantee has no conflict of interest or good standing violations and, therefore, staff recommends that the Corporation authorize the grant to the Grantee as described in these materials.