

Renewal Projects Administration**URBAN RENEWAL PROJECTS****PART I. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAM***1. Objectives*

The urban renewal program, authorized by title I of the Housing Act of 1949, as amended, has two parallel but closely related objectives:

1. The elimination of slums, blighting influences, deterioration, and other factors which create an unhealthy and undesirable environment for urban living and impede the adaptation of the community to changing conditions.
2. The redevelopment, rehabilitation, and conservation of areas to provide decent housing in a suitable living environment and to permit adjustments in urban development patterns to changing human and economic needs.

Because of the wide variety of problems faced in different localities and the breadth and flexibility of the title I program, there are many subobjectives to the program, differing from locality to locality, and among the projects in a given locality. Even a single project will normally have a multiplicity of subobjectives. Thus, in addition to the housing objectives, projects may be concerned with improving the earning capacity of local residents through the encouragement of industrial and commercial growth; improving the local tax base to provide support for the increasing demands for welfare and educational services; improving schools and other public facilities through the provision of sites; providing space for the development or expansion of such institutions as universities, hospitals, and museums; and improving the social structure of the community by making it attractive and viable to residents of all income levels. It would be impossible to develop any comprehensive list of all the objectives involved in urban renewal undertakings throughout the Nation.

2. Operation

Urban renewal activities are locally planned and carried out by local public agencies with Federal financial assistance being provided through advances, loans, and grants. Depending on State law, the local public agency may be the municipality itself, a semiautonomous agency, a county agency, or a State agency. Whatever the form of local public agency, the final approval of the project must be made by the local governing body.

Federal financial assistance is provided in the following forms:

1. Grants for community renewal planning to identify the overall community needs and resources for renewal actions of all types. Federal grants for community renewal planning cover two-thirds of the costs with the remaining one-third provided by the locality.
2. Planning advances to finance feasibility surveys, the preparation of neighborhood renewal plans, and the survey and planning work for the carrying out of specific projects. Planning advances are repaid by the project once it enters the execution phase.
3. Temporary loans used by the community as working capital for carrying out urban renewal project activities. The Federal