

2. Operation

Federal grants for code enforcement projects may be made to cities, other municipalities, and counties that have statutory authority to enforce building, housing, and related codes. Within designated areas, which must meet eligibility tests, the community will carry out a systematic program for intensive code compliance. That program must provide a definite plan and schedule for bringing all properties into code compliance; an adequate number of trained inspectors; an effective notice, permit, and records system; close coordination among all local governmental units responsible for inspections and other compliance actions; and administrative and legal procedures for the prompt and equitable handling of noncompliance and appeal cases. The municipality must have a satisfactory program and resources for providing all necessary improvements in the code enforcement area; however, some street repairs may be covered as part of the project cost for which Federal grants are available. The project may also include the provision of advisory services on the rehabilitation of structures, financing of repairs and rehabilitation, and on community organization within the affected areas. The municipality must accept the responsibility for the satisfactory relocation of any families which may be displaced through the assisted code enforcement activities.

The Federal grant for code enforcement may not exceed two-thirds (or three-quarters in the case of a municipality having a population of 50,000 or less) of the costs of planning and carrying out the program. Federal grants are also provided for any necessary relocation payments. The direct Federal rehabilitation loan and grant program are available to property owners in code enforcement areas.

Federal grants for demolition are available to municipalities with authority under State and local law to demolish unsound structures which constitute a public nuisance and a serious hazard to public health or welfare. The demolition must be carried out on a planned neighborhood basis and further the overall renewal objectives of the community. The Federal grant may cover two-thirds of the costs of demolition.

3. History

The first code enforcement provisions were enacted in the Housing Act of 1964. However, these proved to be unworkable and were extensively amended in the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1965. The demolition grant program was also authorized in that latter act.

4. Level of operations. (See table 1.)

Program: Code enforcement and demolition projects.

Department or agency, and office or bureau: Department of Housing and Urban Development; Renewal Projects Administration.