

Asbury Park Groups Get Grants for Housing Improvements

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ASBURY PARK -- Interfaith Neighbors, the agency helping to lead redevelopment of the city's west side; two other nonprofit groups; and the city have received a \$2.5 million Neighborhood Stabilization Program grant.

Officials said the program is intended to help neighborhoods hit by the subprime mortgage crisis and the general economic downturn.

"We're very pleased to get the award," said Paul McEvily, associate director of Interfaith Neighbors, on Wednesday.

The grant will be used by Interfaith Neighbors, the city, the Affordable Housing Alliance and Coastal Habitat for Humanity for housing and improvements along Springwood Avenue and elsewhere in the city's southwest quadrant.

A key project is construction of a three-story building at Springwood and Atkins avenues. It is to include 9,400 square feet of retail space on the first floor; a senior center with a computer lab, kitchen facilities and an outdoor patio on the second floor; and eight affordable housing rental units on the third.

The grant was among 35 totaling \$49.4 million, going to 22 municipalities and two counties, that Gov. Jon S. Corzine and state Community Affairs Commissioner Joseph Doria announced Wednesday.

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