

Paint the Town / Plant a Tree Reimbursement Program

Statement of Purpose:

The Community Development Authority (CDA) of the City of Stevens Point has had a housing rehabilitation program for nearly two decades. The major thrust of this program has been to provide no-interest, deferred loans to homeowners who meet income guidelines so that they can make the improvements necessary to keep their homes in good repair.

This program requires that any improvements made to an owner-occupied property be of a comprehensive nature, so that the rehabilitated property is brought up to minimal housing standards when the work is completed. For this reason, it often takes several months to first apply; then assess; then commission; then complete; and finally inspect and approve the work.

While this program has been very successful, and will continue, the recent economic downturn has prompted the CDA to look at other rehab approaches that are more inclusive; have an immediate, visual impact on the City's owner-occupied properties; and which provides some stimulus to at least a part of our local economy.

To that end, The CDA has decided to allocate \$75,000 toward either paying for the paint for anyone wishing to paint the exterior of their house; or, as an alternative, paying for a tree(s) if they do not need their house painted.

These options will only be available in 2009, or until the \$75,000 is committed. CAP Services Inc. has been hired to administer the program through their Housing Office.

There will, of course, be certain conditions with which the owner must comply, in order to take advantage of this program.

Conditions for Reimbursement:

- 1) The property must be located **in the City Limits of Stevens Point**.
- 2) The business from where the paint or tree(s) is purchased must also be located **within the City Limits of Stevens Point**. (It is **solely** the responsibility of the owner to assure this requirement is met.)
- 3) The property must be owner-occupied.
- 4) Reimbursement is only for **exterior Paint** or **Tree(s)**, not for the labor or other materials needed for painting or planting.

- 5) In order to improve as many properties as possible, owners must decide which option they want – the paint or the tree(s), not both.
- 6) The reimbursement for paint is limited to the actual cost of the paint or \$500, whichever is less.
- 7) The number of trees for which an owner may be reimbursed is not limited, but the total reimbursement for trees will not exceed \$300.
- 8) In order to receive a reimbursement the owner must provide a **paid receipt showing the date and location of the purchase.**
- 9) No reimbursement will be made until the painting or planting is complete and inspected.
- 10) Reimbursement for paint can include the exterior of either an attached or a detached garage, as long as the house is painted first.

How the Program Will Work:

Reservations will be on a **FIRST-COME – FIRST-SERVED** basis, by the date the application was received.

Everyone seeking reimbursement under this program **must fill out an application.** The applicant must acknowledge that they understand how, when and under what conditions a reimbursement will be made.

Once an application has been received, a reservation will be set aside for the maximum amount for the option chosen. (\$500 for paint / \$300 for tree(s)) The reservation will **only be valid until October 1, 2009.** After which, unused reserved funds will be re-allocated to folks on the waiting list. (Reservations may be extended beyond October 1st if the work is under contract but not completed by that day.)

Once the maximum program budget has been reserved (\$75,000), applicants will be put on a waiting list. As people begin to have the work done and reimbursements are made, unused funds will be made available to folks on the waiting list.

The owner of the property can hire anyone from anywhere to do the work, but the paint or tree(s) he/she buys **must be purchased from a business located within the City limits of Stevens Point.**

Upon completion of the work, the OWNER must contact CAP Services' Housing Office, 1608 W. River Dr., 343-7108, who will verify that the work was done and authorize payment. Reimbursement will only be made to the owner of the property.

A Final Word and Disclaimer:

People seeking reimbursement for paint or tree(s) **before** the program was made public, or who did not know about the program when they bought paint or tree(s), can still file an application for reimbursement.

If ALL OF THE CONDITIONS FOR REIMBURSEMENT are met, you will be reimbursed, **as long as funds are available**. Remember, funds are reserved on a first-come-first-served basis by date the application was received, **not** by when the paint or tree(s) was purchased.

This program will not pay the total cost of painting your house or planting tree(s) around it. If your expectation is more than that, do everyone a favor and don't use the program.

There will also be people who will try to scam the program by buying more paint than is necessary for painting their own home; or buying more trees than they plan on planting at their house, so they can give them to friends or relatives living outside of Stevens Point. People may also seek reimbursement for a property they do not occupy or that is not in the city limits. If you are tempted to try this – **don't!** Your application will be voided, and you will be stuck with the whole bill. If you know someone who is doing this – report it.

If you submit a claim and it is denied, you can appeal to the CDA Board of Commissioners at their next regular meeting, whose decision will be final.

The CDA of the City of Stevens Point reserves the right to cancel or modify the program at any time upon a majority vote of the Board of Commissioners.

The CDA of the City of Stevens Point is an equal opportunity provider.

Now, let's get started. Call CAP today 343-7108