



News > Local

Owensboro to receive \$141,345 in stimulus funds

[Print Page](#)

By Keith Lawrence, Messenger-Inquirer

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Owensboro will get \$141,345 in federal stimulus funds to make several sidewalks accessible to people with disabilities and to build two houses for low- to moderate-income families.

The grant was announced Thursday by U.S. Housing and Urban Development Secretary Shaun Donovan. It's part of \$4.1 million in federal grants coming to Kentucky to "help stabilize and revive local neighborhoods, rehabilitate affordable housing and improve key public facilities."

Keith Free, Owensboro's community development director, said \$49,345 will be used to make curb cuts at three intersections near Wendell Foster's Campus for Developmental Disabilities and to make sidewalks more handicapped-accessible between the campus at 815 Triplett St. and the Old Germantown Park on J.R. Miller Boulevard between Seventh and Ninth streets.

Another \$85,000 will be used to build two houses in the northern third of the city for low- and middle-income families, Free said.

The houses will be sold to families who meet the income guidelines, he said.

"We're looking for handicapped individuals to buy one of them," Free said.

HUD said the money from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 "will support state and local community development while stimulating employment."

The sidewalk work will be done by city crews, Free said. But building the houses will provide jobs for 25 to 35 people, he said.

The remaining money in the grant will be used for administrative work on the projects, he said.

Other grants announced Thursday include Ashland, \$184,193; Bowling Green, \$150,940; Covington, \$444,236; Elizabethtown, \$42,599; Henderson, \$68,210; Lexington-Fayette, \$555,600; and Louisville, \$2.52 million.

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[x] Close Window