

**APPLICATION FOR  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) ENTITLEMENT PROGRAM  
— 2014 Program Year Funding—**

ACTIVITY NAME: Rebuilding Together Saratoga County Rehab Projects

APPLICANT: Rebuilding Together Saratoga County, Inc.

MAILING ADDRESS: 267 Ballard Rd., Suite 4, Wilton, NY 12831

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: 587-3315 \_\_\_\_\_ FAX: 587-3314 \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: michelle@rtsaratoga.org

CONTACT PERSON: Michelle Larkin TITLE: Executive Director

APPLICANT (select 1):  City Department  Private non-profit organization  Other Public Agency

\_\_\_\_\_  
(List Dept.)

20-0530683  
(List Federal ID #)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Specify)

621495873  
(DUNS #)

NATIONAL OBJECTIVE (select 1):

“Benefit persons of Low/moderate income”

- L/M Income Area Benefit  
 L/M Income Limited Clientele Activities  
 L/M Income Housing Activities  
 L/M Income Job Creation/Retention

“Address slum/blight Conditions”

- “N/A”  Slum/blighted Area  
 Slum/blighted Spot Basis  
 “N/A”  Urban Renewal Completion

“Urgent CD Need”

“N/A”  Urgent Need

**REQUESTED ENTITLEMENT FUNDING:** \$ 10,000

Funding Leveraged from Other Sources: \$ 22,143

Total Activity Cost: \$ 32,143

Proposal Abstract - please provide a **brief** overview of your proposal **including the number of persons that will be served** with this grant in the space below

RTSC proposes to use CDBG funding to assist 5 low-moderate income homeowners with needed home repairs, with a focus on warm, safe and dry issues. The funding will be leveraged by donated labor from the community for the needed repairs and discounted building materials from sponsors such as Allerdice Building Supply or Curtis Lumber.



(Authorized Signature)

Executive Director \_\_\_\_\_

(Title)

Michelle Larkin Michelle Larkin

(Typed or Printed Name)

1-27-2014

(Date)



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(518) 587-3315

2014 CDBG

#### 1. ACITVITY DESCRIPTION:

Rebuilding Together Saratoga County (RTSC) has a mission of bringing volunteers and the community together to improve the homes and lives of homeowners in need, helping struggling homeowners stay warm, safe and dry in homes. RTSC works with other social service agencies and local governments to identify at-risk homeowners needing home repair assistance. RTSC works with homeowners who are older adults, persons living with a disability, low-income families with children or a veteran. Specific to this grant, the homeowners assisted will have a low-moderate income and live in the city of Saratoga Springs. We are aware of the concern of duplication of services; therefore we work closely with other agencies, in particular EOC, to avoid this.

RTSC continues to work with the poorest and most vulnerable members of Saratoga County. The median household income of Saratoga County is \$78,100 and in 2013 the average household income of the homeowners RTSC assisted was \$22,026 with an average of 1.8 members in the household; well below the HUD income guidelines. (Many of the homeowners we assist have an income of \$1,200-1,500 a month). The average age of the homeowner we assisted in 2013 was 62.5 and the average number of years in the home was 21. There is never a cost to the qualified homeowner we assist. The repairs and modifications we make focus on safety issues, such as rotting stairs and hand railings. We deal with heating issues, such as furnaces, insulation, broken windows, poorly fitting doors and weather stripping. The priority of RTSC is to keep homeowners independent in their home as long as possible and to increase the quality of low income housing stock.

The nation is facing enormous problems, many of which have reached crisis levels. The low-income homeowners that Rebuilding Together serves are disproportionately affected and the costs of owning and maintaining a home are growing. Healthcare costs are skyrocketing, leaving low-income citizens with less and less disposable income for home repairs and modifications. Rebuilding Together Saratoga County works with its partners and volunteers to help these homeowners stay in their homes, which builds stronger and more vibrant neighborhoods.

We are requesting \$10,000 in CDBG funds to buy the building materials, portable toilet and dumpsters for five homeowners we propose to assist in the City of Saratoga Springs. Our organization assists homeowners all year long, with an emphasis on larger community projects occurring in the spring and fall. Our weekday activity and efficiency has increased immensely due to a group of retiree volunteers, aged from 60-80 and a

newly hired project manager. The performance goal of the projects is to make home modifications and repairs that make the homes warm, safe and dry.

All necessary permits and approvals will be applied for when necessary.

## 2. ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

Our 2013 annual report is included, which describes our organization current board of directors. The report is able to capture a snapshot of a grassroots organization, founded in 2003 by Michelle Larkin. We have received money from Saratoga Springs via the CDBG funding in past years and have leveraged the money given to us 2-3 times over. Since 2003 we have consistently worked with homeowners across the county-making their homes safer and giving the homeowner the ability to stay in their home for a longer period of time. Last year we worked on 90 projects; 80 homeowners and 10 non-profits, with the assistance of 1004 volunteers donating 5592 hours to help their neighbors in need. The skilled and general volunteers are our partners in the community, enabling RTSC to leverage money given to us two to four times over. A milestone our organization has reached is to receive our second two-year Access to Home Grant from NYS Housing and Community Renewal for \$150,000.

Michelle Larkin, Executive Director will be responsible for the grant activity with project management and project oversight by Jeff McLellan, OT recommendations from Jacqui Harris and financial oversight from Board Treasurer, Paul von Schenk.

**CONSTRUCTION / SITE DEVELOPMENT BUDGET**

(Entitlement Grant + Leveraged Funds = Total Activity Cost)

	ENTITLEMENT GRANT	Leveraged Funds*	Total Activity Cost	*Source of leveraged Funds and In-Kind Services
<b>PRECONSTRUCTION</b>				
Legal				
Engineering				
Architectural/Design				
Fees and Permits				
<i>Subtotal</i>				

<b>DEVELOPMENT</b>				
Relocation				
Site Preparation		1200	1200	
Construction - materials	10,000		10000	
Construction - labor		20943	20943	
Construction Financing				
Other - (explain)				
<i>Subtotal</i>	10000	22143	32143	

<b>TOTAL COST</b>	10000	22143	32143	
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**OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET (OMB) CIRCULAR A-133  
MONITORING OF FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO SUBRECIPIENTS**

ORGANIZATION: REBUILDING TOGETHER SARATOGA COUNTY, INC

MAILING ADDRESS: 267 BALLARD RD., SUITE 4 WILTON, NY 12831

FEDERAL ID #: 20-0530683 PHONE: 518-587-3315 FAX: 518-587-3314

DUNS #: 621495873

1. Please identify your fiscal year (mth/yr to mth/yr): Jan/2014-Dec/2014

Please identify below the funding received during your last fiscal year:

2. Community Development Block Grant Entitlement Funding (CDBG):

CDBG Activity Name: Rebuilding Together Saratoga County Rehab Projects

CDBG Funding Program Year: 2014 CDBG Funding Amount: 10,000

3. Other Federal Financial Awards (cash & non-cash):

GIVE NAME & CATALOG OF FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE (CFDA) #	AMOUNT OF AWARDS
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

4. During your last fiscal year, has your organization expended more than \$500,000 in total federal financial awards (incl. CDBG & all other federal assistance)? YES \*  NO

\* If "yes", include a copy of your latest Single Audit Report with this completed and signed form as part of your application. If you answered "no", please complete, sign and return this form.

5. Are you aware of any financial audit violations, findings or questioned costs relating to any activity funded with federal financial assistance? YES \*  NO

\* If "yes", please describe: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. Other Saratoga County Awards (cash & non-cash):

IDENTIFY PROGRAM NAME & YEAR OF AWARD	IDENTIFY AMOUNT OF CO. AWARDS
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Michelle Larkin  
Authorized Signature 

1-27-14  
Date



Rebuilding  
Together<sup>®</sup>  
*Saratoga County*



## ANNUAL REPORT 2013

In 2013, Rebuilding Together Saratoga County (RTSC) celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> year anniversary since being founded in November 2003 to serve the residents of Saratoga County, New York. RTSC is a member of the national non-profit Rebuilding Together organization that has a network of 200 affiliates across the United States. Our mission is to bring volunteers and communities together to improve the homes and lives of homeowners in need. According to The National Low Income Housing Coalition in 2010, 35 million of our fellow Americans were deemed to be “shelter poor,” rendering homeowners unable to cover the costs of basic necessities after paying for housing. 39% of these individuals, who are living in substandard housing with a lack of resources, are children. Additionally, 1 in 6 Americans, about 46.2 million people, are considered to be living in poverty. This crisis is amplified by rising unemployment, foreclosures and declining median household income rates, as more and more families are being forced to choose between vital necessities and essential home repairs and modifications.

Who We Help: We assist low-income homeowners in Saratoga County who are older adults, individuals living with a disability, families with children or active or retired members of the armed services. Homeowners meet income eligibility criteria and own their home. At times, we have also been able to assist renters with safety modifications with landlord approval through the NYS Access to Home Grant. We believe that homeowners who are older adults or are living with a disability should be allowed to remain in their own homes whenever possible. We believe that homeowners displaced by natural disaster should be able to enter back into safe housing with help from the community. We believe that our nation’s veterans who return with disabilities deserve a helping hand so they may return to their own homes in basic comfort. Rebuilding Together Saratoga County is committed to addressing the housing needs of our neighbors in need, which is directly related to their quality of life. We continue to serve the poorest of our community: low-income families, seniors, individuals living with disabilities, and members of our armed services. Our goal is to keep people in their homes and make repairs needed for the home to be safe, warm and dry. The volunteer skilled and unskilled labor and support in the community from sponsors truly epitomizes neighbors helping neighbors. With this community support, we are able to leverage each dollar donated to us and invest two to four times its value in services given back to the community, allowing us to help even more homeowners in need in our community. An increase in grants has enabled RTSC to take on larger projects, utilizing paid contractors, who many times have donated their services in the past.

Our volunteer Board of Directors continues to be passionate about making a difference in their community.

## 2014 Incoming Board of Directors

Dave Blair	W.M. Schultz and Co.
Jesse Boucher	Kodiak Construction
Karen Carling	Aztech Technologies
Matt Coseo	Attorney, Saratoga County District Attorney Office
Jacque Harris	Occupational Therapist
Ed Larkin	Chazen Companies
Jason Lee	Community, Work and Impedance, Inc.
Paula Lomasney	Retired, Information Technology
Barbara Mitchell	Retired, Marketing
Lisa Mitzen	Paragon Home Loans
Ellen Skeelee	Business Development Manager
Michael Tuck	Balzer-Tuck Architecture PLLC
Deb VanDeMar	SEFCU
Paul Von Schenk	Adirondack Trust Insurance
J.R. George	Trustco Bank
E.J. Harkins	Saratoga Eagle
	STAFF
Michelle Larkin	Executive Director
Marian Bigelow	Administrative Assistant
Jeff McLellan	Project Manager
Lois Kellas	Bookkeeper
Michaela Brown	Social Media, PR, Grant Writing Assistance

**2013 Highlight: 90 Projects Completed, including 80 Homes and 10 Non-Profit Organizations (serving the same clientele as we do)**

<b>Description</b>	<b>Program Stats</b>			
	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>
<b># Homes Served</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>80</b>
<b># Non-profits Served</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Total Projects Completed</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>90</b>
<b>Average Median Income of Area</b>	<b>75500</b>	<b>75500</b>	<b>78100</b>	<b>78,100</b>
<b>Average Household Income We Served</b>	<b>17097</b>	<b>20,600</b>	<b>21679</b>	<b>22,026</b>
<b># Disabled Served</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>94</b>
<b>Average Age of Homeowner</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>62.5</b>
<b># of Volunteers</b>	<b>578</b>	<b>760</b>	<b>792</b>	<b>1004</b>
<b># Volunteers Hours Worked</b>	<b>3402</b>	<b>4507</b>	<b>4789</b>	<b>5592</b>

In 2013, we completed 90 projects, including 80 homes and 10 projects for non-profits serving the same clientele as we do. Our 2013 projects were finished in a timely fashion, with work scopes more controlled on projects. This was due to a better planning process, a volunteer project manager, consistent midweek volunteers and more seasoned House Captains.

Volunteer Work Crews came from: Gilbane Building Co., Roohan Realty, Kodiak Construction, CHA, Malta Sunrise Rotary, Saratoga Springs Rotary, SEFCU, Trustco Bank, Presbyterian New England Congregational Church, Quaker Springs Methodist Church, Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Bonacio Construction, Chazen Companies, New York State Police, Lions Club of Greenfield, The Giving Circle, WM Schultz Construction Co., Saratoga Eagle, Global Foundries, ASCE, RPI students and contractors from Global Foundries Project. In addition to the work crews from companies and organizations, many individuals continue to volunteer year after year and range in age from 14 years old to 80 years young, many who have joined us for 10 years!

RTSC was once again chosen as one of the charities to share funding from the Saratoga Builders event, the Showcase of Homes. RTSC supplies nearly 300 volunteers as greeters at the homes as a prerequisite to receiving the donation. Funding is shared with Habitat for Humanity, Northern Saratoga, Warren and

Washington Counties. The donation of \$42,000 made the Saratoga Builders Association our Premier 2013 Sponsor.

We are successfully managing our second Access to Home Grant (2010-2012), provided by NYS Homes and Community Renewal. RTSC leverages the grant money by utilizing volunteers on projects whenever possible, and we pay contractors for more complex home modifications than those typically done by volunteers due to cost or the number of days needed to complete a project. We have currently utilized \$100,000 of the \$150,000 two-year grant and have already assisted the required 25 homeowners. The grant is to be used to adapt homes for low-moderate income persons with disabilities, so they can safely and comfortably continue to live in, or return to their residence in lieu of residing in an institutional setting. We are currently applying for a \$150,000 Access to Home Grant and a \$50,000 RESTORE Grant, which deals with emergency repairs, such as furnaces and roofs for the elderly.

In 2013, grants were received from: Sears Holdings Heroes at Home, Saratoga Springs Rotary, Soroptimist's, City of Saratoga Springs Community Block Grant, Saratoga Casino and Raceway, Global Foundries-Town of Malta Foundation, Wallerstein Foundation and Shell.

Attachment of 2013 Funders over \$500.

Attachment of end of year finances.

We continue to maintain our offices at Exit 16 in the DA Collins, (Wilton Global) Tech Park. Our office is subsidized by a very generous discount from DA Collins.

Longtime volunteer and 2011 Volunteer of the Year Jeff McLellan volunteered in 2013 as a Project Manager and will formally assume the position as a paid staff member in 2014.

A decision was made in 2011 to keep fundraising events to a minimum, so as not to inundate the capacity of our Board and volunteers, as well as the larger community. The two annual events that are the greatest revenue generators are the Golf and Dinner events.

Golf: The golf chairpersons, Paula Lomasney and Dave Blair, coordinated a larger event with more attendees and an income of \$11,000. The 2014 Golf event is scheduled for Airway Meadows Golf Club on Sunday, June 8th, shot gun start time will be at 8:00 am.

Dinner: Thanks to the tireless efforts of the Fundraising Co-Chairs, Lisa Mitzen and Barbara Mitchell, our 10 Year Celebration held at the Saratoga Springs Polo Club was a huge success. The goal to have 250 attendees was exceeded, with 312 attendees. Income from the dinner also exceeded expectations, bringing in \$78,000. The 2014 event will be held at the Hall of Springs in Saratoga Springs on October 16.

A collaborative fundraising BBQ event with the Senior Center of Saratoga Springs and Franklin Community Center was held for the second year in 2013. Thanks to a sponsorship by Trustco Bank, each non-profit received just under \$2,000. The RTSC board has decided not to participate in this event in 2014.

Board members continue to make end of the year calls to donors and sponsors, thanking them for their support. The response from the donors is always positive and appreciative, especially once they realize you are not asking them for more money!!

A Communication Plan was developed at the beginning of the year. The goal of the plan was to be consistent in the messages communicated throughout the community and to coordinate the dissemination of information via Facebook, e-newsletter messages from Informz, press releases and our web site messages.

We currently have 23 members of our Retired Weekday Crews, working on projects throughout the week.

We continue to work on creating better communication and collaboration between our Occupational Therapists, previewers and the house captains. When the Occupational Therapist reviews the work scope, time and money has been saved by RTSC and they have helped to create a more comprehensive safety plan for the homeowners. This is an invaluable piece of the initial planning of the projects.

Our national office continues to support the affiliates through education, grants, advertising and professional associations. There is an active dialogue addressing the needs and wants of the affiliates. A new CEO, Charley Shimanski was hired to represent National Rebuilding Together. The National office continues to develop new sponsors that bring with them marketing collateral and needed exposure for local affiliates to continue to improve brand awareness.

With excitement and high expectations, RTSC expects 2014 to be a year of growth and possibility. All decisions will continue to be looked at through the lens of how can we continue to be an asset to the communities in Saratoga County by helping the most vulnerable in the community and who can we collaborate with to become more efficient and effective.



REBUILDING TOGETHER SARATOGA COUNTY, INC.

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