

A. Purpose

La Crosse County has a vested interest in neighborhood revitalization in existing neighborhoods that are experiencing issues with deteriorating housing stock. Deteriorating housing stock impedes reinvestment in traditionally dense neighborhoods, increasing the less dense development outside of the County's traditional municipalities. This increases the demand for transportation infrastructure and makes delivery of governmental services less efficient.

The County also recognizes the gap between what it costs to redevelop within existing neighborhoods and what it costs to build a new house on a vacant lot. This gap is preventing most significant private reinvestment in these neighborhoods, so the **Acquisition and Demolition Grant Program** will help to reduce this cost gap and encourage neighborhood revitalization.

To view the program guidelines, follow the link or contact the La Crosse County Community Development Specialist at (608) 785-5792.

[Link to Acquisition and Demolition Grant Program guidelines and other resources.](#)

B. Role for Municipalities

The primary desired outcome of this program is to increase assessed value and thus, tax base of properties located in densely populated residential areas (neighborhoods). When developers/builders are taking on a project that will abolish blight and result in a substantially higher tax base, we encourage you to recommend to the developer/builder to consider applying for the La Crosse County Acquisition and Demolition Grant.

To give developers/builders the best chance for a successful application, we recommend your municipality show support in one or more of the following ways. **Showing support will increase the applicant's likeliness in successfully receiving the requested grant dollars.**

- 1.) Establish specific boundaries of neighborhoods with dense residential populations and low assessed property values.
 - a. It will be up to yourself (the municipality) to provide information and data to support these two criteria.

***This can be done by providing a short letter on behalf of your municipality addressed to the "La Crosse County Neighborhood Revitalization Grant Review Committee".

***Providing this support will give projects within this jurisdiction preference over other projects taking place outside the supported area.

- 2.) Provide support for a specific project citing data indicating that the project is taking place within a densely populated residential neighborhood and that the property and surrounding properties suffer from low assessment values.

***This can be done by providing a short letter on behalf of your municipality addressed to the "La Crosse County Neighborhood Revitalization Grant Review Committee".

- 3.) Encourage your County Board Supervisor(s) to work with the La Crosse County Community Development Specialist to establish preferential neighborhoods based on the above established criteria.