

Congressman Rothman Announces Federal Dollars for Bergen County to Support Economic Development

Federal funds will revitalize neighborhoods and create jobs

(Washington, DC) - Congressman Steve Rothman (D – NJ), a member of the U.S. House Appropriations Committee, announced millions of dollars in federal funding for Bergen County to revitalize communities, spur economic development, and create jobs in New Jersey’s 9th Congressional District. The grants announced today are provided by the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, the Emergency Shelter Grants Program, and the HOME Investments Partnership Program as part of the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

“I am pleased to have secured more than \$11 million in federal funding for Bergen County,” said Rothman. “In such an economically tough time, this money will assist in alleviating some of the pressure placed upon important community projects, such as the Bergen County Small Business Loan Program, the Home Ownership Center and the Open Space Recreation Trust Fund. The federal financial support will ensure that we can help these programs and facilities, as well as contribute to long-term community and economic development, while preventing an increase in local property taxes.”

Bergen County will receive \$10.7 million in funding for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, which enables state and local governments across the United States to target their own community development priorities. The rehabilitation of affordable housing and the construction and improvement of public facilities have traditionally been the largest uses of CDBG funds, although the program is also an important catalyst for job growth and business opportunities.

In addition, Bergen County will receive over \$464,000 in Emergency Shelter Grants (ESG) Program funding, which provides homeless persons with basic shelter and essential support services. Additionally, ESG offers short-term homeless prevention assistance to citizens at imminent risk of losing their own housing as well as transitional housing that helps people reach independent living.

Bergen County will finally also receive \$3.5 million in HOME Investments Partnership Program funds that help with the construction and rehabilitation of affordable housing as well as provides direct rental assistance to low-income people. Each year HOME allocates approximately \$2 billion nationwide to these efforts.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 19, 2009

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