

THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM:  
A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF RESIDENTIAL  
REHABILITATION STRATEGIES IN CUBA,  
MACOMB, BLOOMINGTON, AND  
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

An Abstract of a Project Plan  
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## ABSTRACT

The need to preserve our nation's housing stock by means of structural rehabilitation was most recently addressed in the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974. The Act created the Community Development Block Grant Program which is administered by the Department of Housing and Urban Development. The Department allocates federal funds to qualifying communities for the purpose of initiating or continuing a Community Development Program.

Communities that receive funds for residential rehabilitation are responsible for designing and implementing a strategy that will best address the local housing needs. The purpose of this report is to determine if common strategies and problems exist in communities that are heterogeneous in size and governed by the same federal rehabilitation regulations.

The rehabilitation strategies of four communities that received block grant funds in 1978 were investigated, namely, Cuba, Macomb, Bloomington, and Springfield, Illinois. A questionnaire was utilized in conducting personal interviews with directors and staff members of the respective programs.

Although the four programs exhibited a number of differences, similar strategies for implementing rehabilitation programs were developed. Contractor involvement was a source of numerous problems in each program. Recipients of rehabilitation were generally satisfied with the work completed on their housing units. However, a minority

of individuals sought to have housing improvements completed that were beyond the capabilities of the respective programs. Residential rehabilitation has played a significant role in improving community neighborhoods under the Community Development Block Grant Program.