

2013 - 2014 Seattle City Council Statement of Legislative Intent

Ready for Notebook

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146	2	A	1

Budget Action Title: Home Repair Program Funding

Councilmembers: Budget Committee

Staff Analyst: Traci Ratzliff

Date		Total	SB	BH	TR	RC	TB	NL	JG	SC	MO
	Yes										
	No										
	Abstain										
	Absent										

Statement of Legislative Intent:

The Council requests the Office of Housing (OH) and the City Budget Office (CBO) to provide a report to the Housing, Human Services, Health and Culture Committee regarding the ongoing funding needed to continue to the City's Home Repair Program.

OH and CBO shall specifically analyze the Home Repair Program loan portfolio to determine remaining loans to be repaid and the likely annual repayment schedule over the next two to four years. Based on this analysis, OH and CBO shall determine if CDBG funded home repair loan repayments or a portion of these loan repayments need to be returned to the Home Repair Program to continue program operation, beginning in 2014 or later.

This information shall be provided to the Council by June 3, 2013 in time to inform the Mayor and Council's 2014 budget decisions.

Background:

The Home Repair Program provides low-interest loans to fund needed repairs to low income, mostly elderly single family homeowners. The program has been funded in recent years with prior Housing Levy funds, and CDBG funds. In January of 2007, loan repayments from CDBG funded home repair loans were redirected to other CDBG eligible activities due to a large fund balance that had accrued in the Home Repair Program. That fund balance is now nearly exhausted and the estimated loan repayments from other fund sources (approximately \$170,000 a year) will maintain existing program production (approximately 35 loans a year) potentially only through late 2014. The total annual Home Repair Program budget (loan funding + administration) is \$875,000. It is important to understand if further support is needed to maintain this program. In addition, the City's CDBG commitment to the Rainier Valley Community Development fund is completed in 2013 freeing up over \$2 million in CDBG funding in 2014 and beyond. A portion of this funding could be used to provide ongoing support of the Home Repair program without resulting in cuts to other CDBG funded activities.

Responsible Council Committee(s): Housing, Human Services, Health, & Culture

Date Due to Council: June 3, 2013