

Land Bank Fact Sheet: Rochester Land Bank Corporation

The NY Attorney General Community Revitalization Initiative (CRI)

In June 2013, Attorney General Schneiderman announced an initiative aimed at helping communities recover from the devastating effects of the foreclosure crisis. The Attorney General's Community Revitalization Initiative (CRI) will provide \$20 million in funding to legally designated land banks that are working at the local level across the State of New York to rebuild and revitalize their communities.

Grant awards are based on a competitive application process, with allocations occurring in two rounds: round one occurred in October of 2013; and round two is slated to take place in October of 2014.

Rochester Land Bank Corporation (RLBC): \$2.78 Million

The Land Bank was established on February 21, 2013. The Land Bank came together in response to the tremendous need to assist the local government with acquisition and rehabilitation of distressed and vacant homes; a major challenge facing the City of Rochester which was compounded by the national foreclosure crisis. The City's population has declined 34% over the past 50 years. In addition, a 2011 study done in Rochester found that the value of a home within 100 feet of a vacant property is reduced by \$9,945.

The OAG investment will enable RLBC to:

- Increase their capacity by hiring full time staff to ensure the Land Bank is fully operational;
- Acquire, rehabilitate and resell 50 highly distressed, vacant properties in the city of Rochester, which will then be resold as affordable homes to first-time buyers. RLBC will execute this program in partnership with an existing and highly successful model program called Home Rochester run by the City of Rochester and the Housing Development Fund Corporation.

RLBC brings added value to the existing Home Rochester program because it can acquire properties at no or very low cost. Those savings will be passed on to the end buyer, making the homes more affordable to low and moderate income families.

All of the homes renovated through this program will incorporate energy efficiency initiatives that comply with National "Green Building" standards.

The OAG investment will be matched with \$3.7 million in private financing and \$2.265 million in city/state subsidies. The OAG support for full time staff will also enable RLBC to work with the City and other community partners to identify future sources of funding, so that the Land Bank will be sustainable beyond the term of the grant period.