

Burrillville, Rhode Island, Main Street Redevelopment

The Town of Burrillville is a small rural town located in the Blackstone River Valley in Northwestern Rhode Island. In 2000, the Census counted 16,280 residents. The Burrillville PHA maintains 67 public housing units. Concerned with the decline of its historical mill villages, the Town initiated a planning process in 2000 to rejuvenate these once vital centers of commerce and activity. This planning process led to the creation of the Burrillville Redevelopment Authority on July 26, 2000, and the Stillwater Redevelopment Plan on June 30, 2004. The 22-acre Stillwater Mill complex is located in the Main Street area of Harrisville, within Burrillville Township. Stillwater Mill was once one of the largest employers in Northwestern Rhode Island before it closed in 1963. The complex has declined tremendously over the years. The mill has since been placed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Stillwater Redevelopment Plan proposes the redevelopment of the area as described above.

In 2006, The Town of Burrillville, Rhode Island received a grant of \$500,000 in HOPE VI Main Street funds for its Stillwater Redevelopment Project, which includes \$13,695,222 in non-HOPE VI funding from nine sources, including: \$500,000-HOME; CDBG-\$603,065; BEDI-\$910,000; State of Rhode Island-\$1,450,000; First Mortgage-\$475,000, LIHTC Equity-\$5,115,342, Historic Tax Credit Equity-\$4,406,815, WNDC-\$50,000, and NeighborWorks America-\$185,000. The Main Street Affordable Housing Project, the focus of this application, will adaptively reuse a historic, three-story, reinforced masonry mill structure and convert it into an apartment community for 47 families, serving a mix of affordable and market rate families. The affordable units will serve 29 very low-income families, who earn less than 50% of the Area Median Income, and 8 low-income families, who earn between 51%-60% of the Area Median Income. The remaining 10 units will be available to market rate tenants. The Main Street area surrounding the proposed affordable housing project will include a new town library, a new town common, a new riverwalk, mixed-use buildings, new parking, market rate housing, new access roads and infrastructure, and a new community center.