Strategically acquire vacant, abandoned and underutilized properties in a responsible manner
NCLB obtained approval from the City of Newburgh City Council to acquire an additional 19 properties to execute the Community Revitalization Initiative Round 3 Grant from the NYS Office of the Attorney General.

Manage vacant, abandoned and underutilized properties
NCLB continue to manage property through Mesh Realty. Using their employees and crew, the Land Bank continues to monitor property conditions, trash, snow, and vegetation removal on a regular basis and to address new issues as they arise. Staff schedule periodic inspections of properties to maintain task list. An art program was also launched to make use of vacant property for installation art to build community and discourage dumping and other undesirable treatment of vacant spaces. NCLB continues to advise City of Newburgh on strategies for addressing distressed properties.

Dispose of vacant, abandoned and underutilized property
NCLB disposed of forty properties in FY 2017, which all returned to the tax rolls and started the development process. NCLB also worked to reformulate its processes to enhance transparency, volume and outcomes for its property dispositions.

Hire appropriate staff to sustainably operate the Land Bank
Madeline Fletcher and Diana Mangaser continued to work with the Land Bank. Fletcher served as Executive Director and Mangaser served as Design Director. Burke Blackman and Melzina Cannigan joined the staff as AmeriCorps members through funding provided by LISC. The CDBG funded farm staffing reduced to one member during the period, but a contractor was selected to appropriately manage the project.

Secure adequate funding to operate the Land Bank and undertake necessary development and pre-development work.
NCLB’s primary funding continues to come from the NYS OAG Community Revitalization Initiative. In 2017, NCLB secured one of the highest awards of $2 million in the 3rd Round. NCLB also continues to seek funding from other sources including NYS HCR, banks and foundations. In 2016, Dyson Foundation awarded NCLB funds to undertake strategic planning to help build its sustainability and to focus its activities. City of Newburgh continued to support some NCLB efforts through CDBG. NCLB also continued to support the NYLBA with Fletcher serving as Secretary in the effort to continue to build statewide support, legislative and funding tools to advance Land Banks.