

Towns of Leicester (lead), Brookfield, Dudley, Millbury, North Brookfield and West Brookfield
FY2019 CDBG-CV: Application Public Hearing, 6/4/20

Purpose of the public hearing

- Public presentation and discussion of the proposed joint FY2019 CDBG-CV grant application

Program Background

- Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), funded by US Dept. of Housing & Urban Development
 - Projects must serve primarily low- to moderate-income beneficiaries or eliminate ‘blight’
- Administered for communities below ~50,000 population by the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) in an annual competitive cycle
 - \$9.65 million in supplemental CARES Act (CDBG-CV) funds now available from DHCD on a competitive basis for eligible activities in response to or recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic
 - Towns may apply jointly (preferred) or singly; max. award \$400,000 per community
 - Unknown grant performance period; funds to be used in “expedited manner”

Eligible Activities under CDBG-CV

- Microenterprise business assistance
 - Grants for certain operational costs (max. \$10,000 per business) to offset pandemic losses; businesses must have a physical location within one or more of the participating towns
 - “Microenterprise” = 5 employees or fewer; owner-operator must meet HUD low-to-moderate income criteria or business must clearly serve a primarily low-to-moderate income area
 - Various costs and business types are excluded, and other requirements apply. See grant NOFA at <https://www.commbuys.com/bso/external/bidDetail.sdo?bidId=BD-20-1076-OCDD-OCDD01-51656&parentUrl=activeBids> section B.1 for details.
- Public Social Services
 - Must benefit low-to-moderate income residents in response to/recovery from pandemic
 - Eligible activities can include food security assistance, homelessness assistance, targeted job training, domestic violence prevention, support for senior citizens, etc.
 - See grant NOFA (linked above), section B.2, for more details

What projects are being considered for the joint six-town application led by Leicester?

- **Microenterprise Program:** Assistance for eligible businesses located within the six-town area. To be implemented by CMRPC if funded. **Budget: \$300,000 to 400,000 (appx.)**
- **Social Service Programs:** Programs under consideration/development to date include support for food pantries in Brookfield and North Brookfield (primarily non-food necessities), support for a socially-distanced memory café service in Millbury, and possibly equipment for socially-distanced senior outreach services in all six towns. To be implemented by local food pantries, Millbury Senior Center, and Elder Services of Worcester, respectively, if funded. **Budget: \$25,000 to \$50,000 (appx.)**
- **Grant admin/delivery:** To be administered by CMRPC if funded. **Budget: \$55,000 to \$75,000 (appx.)**
Total Budget: \$ \$380,000 to \$525,000 (appx.)

Application Timing

- Application due date: June 12, 2020
- Award announcement date: July/August 2020

Next Steps

- Optional Leicester EDC motion: *To support submission of a joint FY19 CDBG-CV application as discussed today (with allowance for budget or program adjustments as needed), and to recommend to the Leicester Select Board that it sign all required materials for the application.*
- Data gathering and grant writing; submission of application

Residents or others with questions should contact Andrew Loew of the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission at (508) 459-3339 or Kristen Forsberg, Ass’t to Town Administrator, at (508) 892-7077.