



CITY OF CONCORD
New Hampshire's Main Street™
Community Development Department

REPORT TO MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

From: Timothy J. Thompson, AICP, Assistant Director of Community Development
Date: October 14, 2025
Subject: **Community Development Block Grant Application – CDBG-CV Funding – Concord Coalition to End Homelessness**

Recommendation:

1. Accept this report.
2. Set a public hearing on November 10, 2025, authorizing the City to apply for, accept, and appropriate up to \$130,000 of Community Development Block Grants from the NH Community Development Finance Authority on behalf of the Concord Coalition to End Homelessness (CCEH) for CDBG-CV funds to assist with funding for their Emergency Winter Shelter and Resource Center.
3. Set a public hearing on November 10, 2025 readopting the City's Anti-Displacement and Relocation Policy in support of CCEH.

Background:

Please refer to the October 14, 2025 staff report for Families in Transition for the general background regarding the CDBG program as administered by CDFA in NH.

The State of New Hampshire received approximately \$14.3 million through the CARES ACT to be deployed under the CDBG program to in response to the Coronavirus Pandemic (COVID-19). These funds, known as CDBG-CV, are to be used specifically for the prevention of, preparation for, and response to COVID-19.

The City successfully obtained CDBG-CV funding in 2020 for the following projects:

- *Concord Coalition to End Homelessness (\$178,905)*: primarily used for staffing at the Homeless Resource Center and Winter Shelter.
- *Family Promise (\$43,200)*: supplies and temporary lodging for individuals experiencing homelessness during the Pandemic.

- *The Friends Program (\$83,599)*: temporary housing for individuals during the Pandemic, as well as supplies and materials for their senior program (primarily grocery shopping for homebound seniors) and youth reading program (to address learning gaps created by stay at home learning during the height of the Pandemic).
- *The Friendly Kitchen (\$115,810)*: equipment to help respond to the Pandemic, as well as take out service. In addition, the Kitchen supplied meals to food insecure families via partnerships with the Boys and Girls Club of Central New Hampshire, Merrimack Valley Day Care, and Senior Residences at Horseshoe Pond Place.
- *City of Concord Human Services Department (\$53,385)*: Due to other programs enacted by the State and Federal government during the pandemic, as well as conflicts between State privacy laws for welfare recipients and CDBG reporting requirements for beneficiaries receiving temporary housing support from these funds, these moneys were not expended.

Approximately \$1,038,000 of the State's CDBG-CV funds remain unobligated as of September 2025. The US Housing and Urban Development Department (HUD) requires all CDBG-CV funds be expended within six years of award. New Hampshire's CDBG-CV funding must be expended by August 2026.

CDFA has recently announced the availability for municipalities and service providers (as subrecipients) to apply for this remaining CDBG-CV funds to address the long-term impact COVID-19 on housing instability and homelessness and leverage CDFA's administrative expertise to efficiently deploy the state's remaining funds. CDFA has announced that the remaining CDBG-CV funds will be available for Homeless Programs, Subsistence Programs, Eviction Prevention, Security Deposits, and Health/Mental Health Services.

Also, of note, this round of funding is available to all NH municipalities, including entitlement communities that typically receive funding directly from HUD, which increases the competitiveness of this grant opportunity.

CCEH has requested funds under the CDBG-CV program to assist with their Emergency Winter Shelter and their Community Resource Center per the attached request.

Discussion:

The City's Community Development Advisory Committee (CDAC) met on September 19, 2025 and authorized staff to move directly to the City Council should an eligible applicant for the CDBG-CV funding request it. This was done such to ensure that the federal public hearing and procedural requirements could be achieved if an application were to be made.

Concord Coalition to End Homelessness CDBG-CV Request

The Concord Coalition to End Homelessness (CCEH) requests \$114,000 for estimated costs to be incurred in operating our Emergency Winter Shelter (EWS) and Resource Center (RC) for the period December 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026 (\$16,000 to be allocated for CDBG grant writing and administrative costs). The funds requested would provide reimbursement for the additional services CCEH is providing to people experiencing homelessness in Concord NH related to the Covid pandemic.

Emergency Winter Shelter:

CCEH operates a 40-bed capacity EWS in Concord which is open 7 nights a week from December through March. The shelter is a “low barrier” shelter that serves adults, including those with active addictions and felony convictions, so that those in need can sleep inside during dangerously cold winter months. As a result of increased client needs resulting from the pandemic, CCEH expanded the staff and operating hours of the EWS which will continue through March 2026.

Resource Center:

Since December 2008, the HRC has been helping individuals who are homeless, or at imminent risk of becoming homeless, meet their immediate needs and connect with resources that are available to them. Our Concord HRC provides access to showers, laundry, coffee and snacks, general help, community partner services, and Case Management with a focus on assisting clients with finding housing. As a result of the pandemic and the lack of affordable housing, CCEH expanded its caseworker staff and operating hours to address the housing assistance needs of its clients.

Summary of additional costs:

The Covid pandemic resulted in significant increases in the number of people experiencing homelessness in Concord, consistent with State and National trends. The increase is attributable to several factors including, among others, a significant decline in the availability of affordable housing. CCEH has addressed the heightened need of its clients to find housing and weather homelessness by expanding the services at our EWS and HRC through adding operating hours, additional staff and other measures.

The additional costs include the following:

- Emergency Winter Shelter
 - Additional overnight staff -\$ 39,000
 - Cost of additional staff time for expansion of operating hours- \$3,000
- Homeless Resource Center
 - Additional case worker to address increased number and needs of clients- \$40,000
 - Additional staff time for expansion of operating hours - \$22,000
 - Additional operating costs to accommodate increased operating hours and staff- \$10,000