



CITY OF CONCORD

REPORT TO MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Matthew R. Walsh, Director of Redevelopment, Downtown Services and Special Projects

DATE: August 3, 2020

SUBJECT: Community Development Block Grant Application
Covid 19 Pandemic Public Services Grants

Recommendation:

1. Accept this report; and,
2. Set the attached resolution for public hearing on September 14, 2020 authorizing the City to apply for, accept, and appropriate up to \$500,000 in Covid 19 Pandemic Community Development Block Grant (CDBG-CV) funds to the NH Community Development Finance Authority to support delivery of public services by the Friendly Kitchen, Concord Coalition to End Homelessness, Family Promise, the Friends Program, and the City of Concord.

Background:

The New Hampshire Community Development Finance Authority (NHCDFA) is the state agency responsible for administering the US Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program in New Hampshire.

Each year, the NHCDFA holds two CDBG application rounds, typically in January and July, to support housing and public facility projects that primarily benefit low and moderate income individuals and households. Types of CDBG grants available are as follows:

- **Housing:** This type of CDBG provides funding for the construction and preservation of affordable housing. Counties and non-entitlement communities, such as Concord, are eligible to apply for up to \$500,000 annually.

- Public Facilities: This type of CDBG provides funding for the construction of public facilities, such as water and sewer infrastructure, as well as other types of facilities including daycares, homeless shelters, and soup kitchens. Counties and non-entitlement communities, such as Concord, are eligible to apply for up to \$500,000 annually.

In addition housing and public facilities, the NHCDFA offers these other types of Community Development Block Grants:

- Emergency Grants: These funds are available for projects to address emergencies and unanticipated events that have a serious and immediate threat to public health and safety and primarily benefit low and moderate income people. Counties and non-entitlement communities, such as Concord, are eligible to apply for up to \$500,000 annually. Applications are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis throughout the calendar year.
- Feasibility/Planning Grants: These funds are available to conduct needs assessments, income surveys, preliminary architectural and engineering designs, cost estimates, and market analyses for potential CDBG projects, which primarily benefit low and moderate income individuals. Applications are accepted up to \$25,000 per municipality annually. Only non-entitlement municipalities such as Concord and counties may apply for these funds.
- Economic Development Grants: The City is also eligible to apply for up to \$500,000 in a calendar year to support economic development projects which benefit low / moderate income persons. Such projects may include business loans, real estate development, infrastructure improvements, job training and similar activities. Applications are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis throughout the calendar year.

When applying for Community Development Block Grants, the City must, per CDBG rules, must hold a public hearing prior to submitting its application.

Discussion:

As part of the CARES Act, the State of New Hampshire received an allocation of \$5.4 million of special Community Development Block Grant (CDBG-CV) funds from the Federal Government to address needs of primarily low and moderate income persons stemming from the Covid 19 Pandemic. Of the \$5.4 million provided, \$1.35 million was reserved for economic development initiatives and \$3.7 million was allocated to support public service activities on a competitive basis.

The NHCDFA finalized and announced programmatic rules for CDBG-CV funds on July 20, 2020. Applications are due on September 25, 2020. The City is eligible to apply for up to \$500,000 in CDBG-CV funds.

On July 24, 2020, the City received proposals for CDBG-CV funds from the following organizations.

1. *The Friendly Kitchen:* The Friendly Kitchen is seeking CDBG-CV funds to procure staffing, materials, equipment, and supplies to 1) resume serving meals indoors during the upcoming winter and 2) provide and operate a warming center for homeless individuals. The warming center would be open approximately 2 hours each afternoon. With social distancing protocols, it is estimated that the Friendly Kitchen can host 60 individuals at any one time. The preliminary budget for these activities is \$115,810. This estimate is likely to be refined during the CDBG-CV application process. A copy to the Friendly Kitchen's proposal is attached.
2. *Concord Coalition to End Homelessness / The Friends Program / Family Promise:* These organizations have partnered to seek between 203,065 and \$252,205 in CDBG-CV funds to provide additional shelter capacity for homeless individuals. This is preliminary budget and will likely be refined during the CDBG-CV application process.

Due to social distancing requirements associated with Covid-19, the capacity of existing homeless shelters will be reduced. Therefore, additional locations are being sought to maintain, or potentially expand, service capacity during the winter months.

Various alternatives are being explored, including the following:

- Securing a block of 15+/- hotel rooms to house homeless individuals and families; and/or,
- Securing additional sites suitable to be operated as a winter shelter.

CDBG-CV funds are also being sought to procure additional staffing, materials, supplies, and equipment as might be required to support these alternatives.

In addition, CDBG-CV might also be sought to support air purification and UV-C light treatment options for the Homeless Resource Center and Winter Shelter. The Friends Program is also seeking CDBG-CV funds for additional cleaning supplies and equipment, including an electrostatic disinfecting sprayer for sanitizing surfaces.

A copy of their proposal is attached.

3. *The Friends Program:* In addition to CDBG-CV funds to support their Emergency Shelter, the Friends Program is also seeking approximately \$53,499 in CDBG-CV funds to support their Youth Mentoring and Shopping for Seniors programs. This is a preliminary budget subject to revision during preparation of the CDBG-CV application.

Specifically, the Friends Program is seeking up to \$37,035 in CDBG-CV funds for staffing, materials, and supplies to support and their Youth Mentoring Program.

They are also seeking \$16,464 to support their Shopping for Seniors Program, which is designed to support the shopping needs of high risk, older individuals during the Covid-19 pandemic. The program will be free of charge to qualified households.

A copy of Friend's Program proposal is attached.

4. *City of Concord*: Lastly, the City is also eligible to apply for CDBG-CV funding to support delivery of its public services stemming from the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Recognizing that the City is eligible to apply for up to \$500,000 in CDBG-CV funds, and accounting for the \$421,514+/- in funding requests filed by non-profit partners outlined herein, staff recommends that the City pursue the remaining \$78,486 to support the City’s Human Services Department in its efforts to deliver services to low and moderate income residents impacted by the Covid-19 Pandemic. Services would include assistance with housing, utilities, food, and other similar items.

Summary: To recap, City Administration recommends applying for up to \$500,000 in CDBG-CV funds, as follows. Individual amounts will be confirmed and refined during preparation of the CDBG -CV application.

| Public Service Provider | Use | Amount |
|---|---|------------------|
| The Friendly Kitchen | Supplies, materials and equipment for restoration of in-door dining and operation of winter warming station | \$115,810 |
| Coalition to End Homelessness; Family Promise, and The Friends Program Emergency Shelter | Emergency housing and additional winter shelter capacity | \$252,205 |
| The Friends Program | Youth Mentoring Program | \$37,035 |
| The Friends Program | Shopping for Seniors Program | \$16,464 |
| City of Concord | Human Services Department housing, utility, and food assistance | \$78,486 |
| Total | | \$500,000 |