

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PUBLIC HEARING
CITY OF REVERE
February 20, 2019, 6:00 PM
Revere Police Department Headquarters (Community Room)

MEETING MINUTES

The City's CDBG Program Manager, City Planner Techrosette Leng, opened the public hearing, the goals of which were to advise residents about the progress of its current federal entitlement programs and to seek citizen input from residents prior to drafting the Fiscal Year 2019 Action Plan. All CDBG hearings are advertised in advance in the Revere Journal and through the City Clerk and City website, and are held in locations that are handicap accessible and located in low or moderate income communities in Revere.

FY2019 Annual Action Plan (AAP): In program year 2018-2019, the US Department of Housing & Urban Development's (HUD) CDBG Program award to the City of Revere was **\$790,383**, with those funds having been committed to different programs. The upcoming CDBG Program looks to be level-funded; however, because the HUD budget has not yet been passed, the City does not yet have the confirmed figure for the upcoming year.

For the upcoming Fiscal Year 2019 Action Plan, projected funding areas include: economic development; residential housing rehabilitation; physical development which may include reconstruction of streets and sidewalks, water line improvements, improvements to eligible parks; and public service programs, which cannot exceed a maximum of 15% of the total grant.

Planning and management is restricted to 20% of the grant and other public projects that benefit low and moderate income households in Revere. Housing rehabilitation continues to be identified in the City's Consolidated Plan as a key element to both increasing affordability and maintaining affordable housing units in the City of Revere. A statutory requirement of Community Development Block Grant is that at least 70% of the impending grant benefits low and moderate income residents.

The City is also eligible for HOME Program funds. This year, the HOME Program will remain level funded for an eight community consortium to share and the entitlement will be approximately **\$1.3 million**. In the past four years, the HOME Program has suffered a decrease of 60% percent. The City of Malden is the lead agency in the North Suburban Consortium which consists of Malden, Everett, Chelsea, Medford, Melrose, Revere, Winthrop and Arlington.

FY2018 Annual Action Plan Progress Report: The City also reported on current progress on the FY2018 Action Plan, for which the City committed to funding: six public services serving primarily low to moderate income Revere residents, in areas such as youth and senior services; street and sidewalk improvements; a sign and façade improvement program along the Broadway and Shirley Avenue business districts; and public facility improvements at Gibson Park.

Public Service RFP and Deadline: The Program Manager closed with a reminder that CDBG FY2019 proposals are due to the Office of Strategic Planning and Economic Development (OSPED) no later than Thursday, March 21, at 4pm. Applications were available on-site, at the OSPED, and will be posted on the City website.

The floor was opened for questions.

One attendee inquired about whether Public Service proposals are subject to limits for requested funding amounts. City staff responded that proposals are evaluated and awards are determined by: the number of applicants/qualified proposals and alignment with the City's 5-Year Plan and CDBG goals, and that Public Service programs cannot exceed 15% of the City's total CDBG award.

Multiple attendees inquired about aspects specific to their agency proposals. Staff provided initial technical assistance and reiterated National Objective and income eligibility guidelines.

One attendee inquired about specific geographic areas of focus for the CDBG Program in FY2019. Staff referred to the Citywide Low-Moderate Income map identifying eligible project areas and added that the AAP process allows for review of qualified projects, which often include projects previously identified in existing municipal plans.

With no further questions, the public hearing was adjourned.