Community Development Block Grant Public Hearing

City of Revere

February 9, 2022, 5:30PM

Online via Zoom

**Meeting Minutes**

The City’s CDBG Program Manager, Danielle Osterman, opened the public hearing, the goals of which were to advise residents about the progress of Revere’s current federal entitlement programs and to seek citizen input from residents prior to drafting the Program Year 2022 Action Plan. All CDBG hearings are advertised in advance in the Revere Journal and through the City Clerk and City website and are typically held in locations that are handicap accessible and located in low- or moderate-income communities in Revere. However, this hearing was scheduled under the US Department of Housing & Urban Development’s COVID-19 waiver for public meetings.

In program year 2021, HUD’s entitlement to the City of Revere was $840,589. The upcoming cycle, which runs from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023, looks to be level funded, however, we are still waiting confirmation of the final dollar amount. A statutory requirement of the Community Development Block Grant is that at least 70% of the funded projects benefits are to low- and moderate-income residents.

For the Fiscal Year 2022 Action Plan, the City’s priorities for funding continue to reflect priorities outlined in its 5-year consolidated plan, which include the following projects selected for their benefit to low to moderate income Revere residents:

* Increasing economic development opportunities;
* physical development which may include reconstruction of streets and sidewalks, water line improvements, improvements to eligible parks;
* Expansion of affordable housing
* Improve/rehab existing housing
* Public services, which are restricted to 15% of the annual grant allocation. An RFP will be released following this public hearing on Revere.org. Public service proposals will be due no later than 12PM on Wednesday, March 2nd.
* Planning and overall administration is restricted to 20% of the grant and other public projects that benefit low and moderate income households in Revere.

The City is also a member of the North Suburban Consortium, the regional administrator for HOME program funds. This year, the HOME Program is expected to remain level funded for an eight-community consortium. The entitlement is expected to be approximately **$2 million** for projects across the consortium. 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.

Progress on FY 2021 and CV Action Plans: The City also reported on current progress on the FY2021 and CV action plans, for which the City committed to funding:

* COVID-19 small business grant program
* Commercial rehab on Broadway and Shirley Ave through the storefront and signage program
* Emergency needs – $660,000 allocated to public service programs addressing COVID. Funding supported:
	+ Workforce development programing, including ESL and HiSet classes, and job placement support
	+ Stipends for households at risk of falling behind on rent payments
	+ Expanded services for unsheltered residents, survivors of domestic violence, and residents of affordable housing units
* An amendment was submitted for Revere’s 2021 AAP, which included funding for street and sidewalk improvements in ward 2,4 & 5, as well as a tree planting initiative. The City is currently waiting for approval from HUD before these activities are carried out.

The floor was opened for questions.

With no questions, the public hearing was adjourned.