

**YEAR 40 CDBG ACTION PLAN
CITY OF FITCHBURG
AMENDMENT #1 – January 29, 2015**

PUBLIC FACILITIES AND IMPROVEMENTS

**Crocker Field House Roof Restoration Project
Phase II**

\$20,000

Summary: Project funds will be used for Phase II activities which include replacement of failed copper gutters and installation of downspouts that have been missing for many years. The disrepair is causing water damage to the interior and exterior of the building. The School Department will provide a \$20,000 match and the Crocker Field Restoration Committee will provide \$4,500 for design costs and contract administration. Crocker Field is on the National Register of Historic Places.

Performance Measurement: SL-3. The goal of this project is to improve the recreational and athletic opportunities and amenities available to the populations served by Fitchburg Public Schools. The benefit of this project is the preservation of a National Register structure. It is estimated that 5,142 Fitchburg students will be served by this project.

Green Acres Children's Natural Play Area

\$15,000

Summary: Project funds will be used to construct a natural play area for the children in Green Acres Village operated by Fitchburg Housing Authority. Activities include removing tree and shrub stumps, grading the hillside, spreading loam, planting grass, installing mulch and placing at least two natural play elements in the area, which could include tree cookies, boulders, outdoor musical instruments, slides and log stepping stones. The play elements will be chosen by the Big Field work group and neighborhood residents. Work will be done by Fitchburg DPW.

Performance Measurement: SL-3. The goal of this project is to provide a safe natural play environment for children living at Green Acres Village. The benefit of this project is increased physical activity and social interaction among children. It is estimated that 232 children from Green Acres Village will be served by this project.

Fitchburg Parks Signage Project
Riverfront Park and Sheldon Street Park

\$ 2,450

Summary: Project funds will be used for the fabrication and installation of signage at Riverfront Park and Sheldon Street Park with QR (Quick Read) Code for electronic devices. The QR code will provide access to the City's Parks website, which will provide specific information about the park, including photographs, history and maps. The signs will provide a design template for future signage at other city parks. Interns will create the infrastructure that links the system to the city's web page and volunteers will compile the data with oversight by the Parks Board. The signs will be installed by the Fitchburg DPW.

Performance Measurement: SL-3. The goal of this project is to provide city residents and park visitors with electronic access to information about the city's parks at each park, or by scanning a QR code on the sign or by using a web-link. The benefit of this project is easy access to information about the city's park system and an increase in park use.

Streetscapes

\$115,000

Summary: Project funds will be used to supplement prior years' funding for design and streetscape improvements at main thoroughfares and gateway locations within the city. The priority is to finish sidewalks on Johnson Street between High and Marshall Streets. If funds allow, other street improvements will include Water Street gateway; River Street, Main Street and Boulder Drive. Sidewalk improvements will meet ADA requirements. Work will be done by Fitchburg DPW. (Note this represents combined applications.)

Performance Measurement: SL-3. The goal of this project is to remove deteriorated sidewalks at the project location. The benefit of this project is the installation of new accessible sidewalks, which will improve safety, accessibility and aesthetics of city neighborhoods. It is estimated that 260lf of sidewalk will be replaced in the Elm Street neighborhood.

Parks/Playground Improvements

\$ 75,000

Summary: Project funds will be used to undertake projects identified on the City's Parks Improvement Plan located in the CDBG Strategy Area. Funds will allow for the continuation of work at Crocker Playground, including the installation of fencing, granite benches and an asphalt walking path around the park; and resurfacing and sealcoating of the splashpad at Parkhill Park. Any plumbing and electrical issues identified at that time will be addressed. Work will be done by Fitchburg DPW.

Performance Measurement: SL -3. The goal of this project is improved recreational opportunities for individuals using city parks. The benefit to users is the provision of safe and secure recreational facilities. It is estimated that approximately 20,330 people will be served.

TOTAL PUBLIC FACILITIES AND IMPROVEMENT
PUBLIC SERVICES

\$227,450.00

Building Leadership and Inspiring Self-Sufficiency

\$ 53,000

Summary: Project funds will be used to provide an after-school youth program, information and referral, food pantry, bi-lingual services to Latino residents, GED, ESL and computer classes at the Cleghorn Neighborhood Center (CNC). Funds will be for staff salaries and related administrative costs. The agency operates citywide. Income documentation is required of all participants. CNC is located at 2-18 Fairmount Street. The Youth Center is located at 40 Fairmount Street.

Performance Measurement: SL -3. The goal of this project is to provide one stop social services, afterschool program, and Latino I&R services to Fitchburg residents. The benefit of this project is individual skill building in education, employment, finances, social connections, English proficiency and access to resources. It is estimated that 900 people will be served.

Family Services Unit/Drug Enforcement & Patrol Program

\$ 88,000

Summary: Project funds will be used to pay for a portion of the Civilian Advocate position for support, follow up, outreach, education, court advocacy and agency referrals to victims of domestic violence in Fitchburg. Well-being checks are conducted on a bi-weekly basis. Funds will be used for staff salary for 26 weeks plus annual cell phone bill. CDBG funds will also be used to provide for police overtime expenses related to drug investigations in the CDBG strategy area and patrols in the CDBG strategy area. (Note this represents combined applications.)

Performance Measurement: SL-1. The goal of this project is to provide for the safety of victims of domestic violence. The benefit of this project will result in fewer cases of domestic violence and increased education and training on this issue. It is estimated 200 individuals (unduplicated count) will be served by the CDBG program. (~~\$24,000~~) \$1,015.21

Performance Measurement: SL-3. The goal of this project is to reduce drug distribution and crime in CDBG neighborhoods. The benefit of this project will result in safer neighborhoods. It is estimated that 23,871 people will be served. (~~\$64,000~~) \$86,984.79

Transportation Services to Afterschool Program

\$ 13,000

Summary: Project funds will be used to provide one-way transportation service from Fitchburg Schools to the Boys and Girls Club. Transportation services will be provided by First Student and MART. This service is for Fitchburg youth between the ages of 8 and 18. Participating schools include: Memorial, South Street, Reingold, Crocker, McKay, Longsjo, Fitchburg High, Monty Tech, and North Central Charter School. The Club is located at 365 Lindell Street in Leominster.

Performance Measurement: SL-1. The goal of this project is to provide transportation to Fitchburg students who want to participate in an afterschool program. The benefit to program

participants is the opportunity to develop life skills within a safe environment. It is estimated that 175 Fitchburg youth will be served and approximately 1,450 transportation trips will be provided.

Spartacus Program

\$ 6,000

Summary: Project funds will be used to support staff salary and related costs of the newly created Teen Center Spartacus Program, offering services to at-risk youth between the ages of 13 and 18 who live in the Wallace Ave.-Main Street and greater downtown Fitchburg area. Emphasis will be on Youth Development, Healthy Living and Social Responsibility through physical fitness, team building, life skills training and outdoor activities. The afterschool program will operate between September and June from 2:00p.m. to 6:00p.m. The YMCA is located at 55 Wallace Ave.

Performance Measurement: SL-1. The goal of this project is to provide services that help build confidence, manage anger and develop coping skills through physical fitness, team building, life skills training and outdoor adventure activities. The benefit of this project is to reduce the number of juvenile offenders while instilling a sense of community in all participants. It is estimated that 30 Fitchburg residents will be served.

MIHN Family Housing Program

\$ 5,000

Summary: Project funds will be used to provide transitional housing for homeless families in North Worcester County. Case management services are provided during a resident's stay in the program and follow up services are provided once a family leaves the shelter. It is estimated that 30 families will be served of which an estimated 40% will originate from Fitchburg. Volunteers assist the program by providing meals and overnight staffing. Funds will be used to support the salary of the Director and the Administrative Assistant. The agency moved to Fitchburg in December 2012. MIHN is renting two apartments to house the families and the day center and main office are located at 923 Main Street in Fitchburg.

Performance Measurement: SL-1. The goal of this project is the provision of shelter services to people who are without permanent housing. The benefit of this project is the provision of a safe environment which offers families the time and assistance needed to secure permanent housing and provide case management in the area of employment, day care, health, budgeting, education and parenting skills. It is estimated that 12 Fitchburg families will benefit from this project.

TOTAL PUBLIC SERVICES

\$165,000.00

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Small Business Technical Assistance Program

\$20,000

Summary: Project funds will be used to provide outreach and technical assistance to businesses. This program helps leverage loans for small businesses. The CDC would like to expand its scope to include businesses that have more than five employees. Jobs will be created and/or retained, businesses will be counseled, business plans will be developed and loans will be leveraged. Funds will be used to pay staff salaries. The CDC is located at 470 Main Street.

Performance Measurement: EO-3. The goal of this project is to assist entrepreneurs in the start-up, relocation and/or expansion of microenterprises and small businesses in Fitchburg. The benefit of this project is the promotion of economic development and job creation/job retention. It is estimated that 33 people will be served, 30 businesses will be served and counseled, 37 jobs will be created/retained, 2 loans with a value of \$40,000 will be made and 23 business plans will be developed.

TOTAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

\$20,000.00

CLEARANCE ACTIVITIES

Demolition

\$ 30,245.12

Summary: Project funds will be used to remove abandoned structures in the CDBG strategy area, which pose an imminent threat to public safety and which contribute to slums and blight.

Performance Measurement: SL -3. The goal of this project is the removal of abandoned and deteriorated structures. The benefit of this project is the improved appearance of neighborhoods and increased public safety. It is estimated that one property (3 units) will be demolished.

TOTAL CLEARANCE ACTIVITIES

\$ 30,245.12

REHABILITATION AND PRESERVATION

Elder Home Repair Program

\$ 55,000

Summary: Project funds will be used to provide home repairs and modifications to low-income elderly households in Fitchburg. Improvements include installation of handrails/grab bars/, screen/window/door/floor repairs, minor roof repairs, and hot water tank replacement. Funds will pay a portion of the salaries for the Program Assistant, Construction Manager, and Home Repair Technician. M.O.C.'s Main Office is located at 133 Prichard Street.

Performance Measurement: DH-1. The goal of this project is to help elders remain in their own home for as long as possible by providing affordable home repairs. The benefit of this project to elders is improved safety, accessibility and better living conditions. It is estimated that 12 Fitchburg homes will benefit from this project.

Code Enforcement

\$180,000

Summary: Project funds will be used to pay for existing BOH Inspector positions and a portion of the part-time Clerk position; and a portion of the full-time Building Inspector/Facilities Coordinator position and part-time Building Clerk. Through the enforcement of the State's Sanitary and Building Codes, Fitchburg's housing stock will be greatly improved. To be eligible, this activity must be part of a comprehensive strategy to arrest deterioration, including housing rehab and demolition. Housing units in the CDBG strategy area will be inspected.

Performance Measurement: DH-1. The goal of this project is to inspect housing units in the CDBG Strategy Area and ensure compliance with State Sanitary and Building Codes. The benefit of this project is the continued availability and accessibility of quality housing stock. It is estimated that 3,000 housing units will be inspected.

**Fitchburg Housing Division
Homeowner Rehabilitation Program**

\$ 25,000

Summary: Project funds will be used to help Fitchburg homeowners, of low-moderate income, repair/rehab their homes. Activities may include roof repair, window replacement, heating system improvement, plumbing & electrical repairs, and lead abatement. The Housing staff will conduct home inspections, develop specifications and provide cost estimates for the work to be completed. Funds would be offered as a deferred or amortized loan based on the owner's ability to repay the loan at the time of repair.

Performance Measurement: DH-2. The goal of this project is to assist eligible homeowners to maintain their homes as decent and safe housing. The benefit of this project is the deterrence of homeowners to abandon their homes due to costly repairs and to stabilize neighborhoods. It is estimated that one property will be rehabilitated.

TOTAL REHABILITATION AND PRESERVATION

\$260,000.00

PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION

CDBG Administration

\$220,000

Summary: Project funds will be used to provide for the necessary administration of CDBG programs and sub-recipient contracts in accordance with federal guidelines, including staffing, technical services and planning activities. This also includes grant writing and administration of grant projects, which help leverage several million dollars in additional state and federal grants.

Performance Measurement: N/A. The goal of this project is to administer the CDBG Program in accordance with regulatory and statutory requirements. The benefit of this project is a more viable urban community with an improved quality of life for all residents, particularly those of low-to-moderate income.

TOTAL PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION **\$220,000.00**

TOTAL RECOMMENDED YEAR 40 CDBG PROGRAM **\$922,695.12**

TOTAL ANTICIPATED FUNDING AVAILABLE **\$922,695.12**

Anticipated Year 40 Entitlement \$907,484.00

Anticipated Program Income (Year 38 and prior years) \$ 15,211.12
(BOH and Building Code Enforcement Fees Collected)

Amendment #1 January 29, 2015

1. Transfer unspent funds from the Family Services Unit Program to the Drug Enforcement and Patrol Program in the amount of \$22,984.79. The Police Dept. recently received a Violence Against Women Act grant award for the Family Services Unit Program resulting in unspent CDBG funds during the current program year.

PROGRAM INCOME AND FUND BALANCE

CDBG Housing Revolving Loan Funds:

Anticipated Program Income July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014 \$ 139,131.78
Anticipated Fund Balance as of June 30, 2014 \$ 15,000.00
Potential Program Income from July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015 \$ 142,200.00

CDBG Business Revolving Loan Funds:

Anticipated Program Income July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014 \$ 15,412.77
Anticipated Fund Balance as of June 30, 2014 \$ 44,542.16
Potential Program Income July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015 \$ 18,107.76

Other Program Income (BOH and Building Code Enforcement Fees Collected):

Anticipated Program Income July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014 \$ 47,885.84
Potential Program Income July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015 \$
33,000.00

**Fitchburg-Leominster Consortium
Proposed Year 40 HOME Action Plan**

Anticipated Year 40 HOME Formula Grant

Anticipated HOME Consortium funding for Year 40 Program \$365,951.00

Estimated HOME Program Match (25% of CHDO Set Aside and Homeowner Assistance)	\$ 82,338.98
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Use of Funds

HOME Program Administration (10%)	\$ 36,595.10
CHDO Set Aside (15%) (DH-2)	\$ 54,892.65
Homeowner Assistance (75%) (DH-2)	\$274,463.25

HOME Program Income and Fund Balance

Anticipated Program Income July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014	\$ 47,200.00
Anticipated Fund Balance as of June 30, 2014	\$ 25,000.00
Potential Program Income July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015	\$ 48,400.00

The complete Consolidated Plan, compiled for a five year period beginning Year 37 through Year 41 and the proposed Year 40 Action Plan for CDBG and HOME may be reviewed at the Community Development Office, 610 Main Street, Fitchburg, MA. Monday - Friday, 8:30a.m. to 4:30p.m.

Public comments on the proposed Year 40 Action Plan will be accepted for thirty days from the date of this notice, or up through April 29, 2014, whichever is later. Send written comments to the Community Development Office, Fitchburg City Hall, 166 Boulder Drive, Fitchburg, MA. 01420. A public hearing on the proposed Action Plan will be held on Tuesday, April 29, 2014 at 5:00p.m. in the Fitchburg Public Library Heritage Room, 610 Main Street, Fitchburg, MA.