

CDBG Year 44 Action Plan

PUBLIC FACILITIES AND IMPROVEMENTS

**Sidewalk Accessibility
Improvements**

**City of Fitchburg
Disability Commission**

\$5,000.

Project funds will be used to bring city sidewalks into compliance with ADA requirements. The project involves adding/improving crosswalks and removal of curbs that are obstructing universal access along Water Street, including Water Street at Spruce Street; 350 Water near Fitchburg Green; Water at Boyle Court; and Water at Fifth Street. Also the Senior Center area – Wallace Ave., Elm Street, Grove Street. Approximately 20 architectural barriers will be removed. Work will be performed by the DPW to ADA standards.

Performance Measurement: SL-1. The goal of this project is to improve accessibility at two key locations in the city by removing architectural barriers. The benefit of this project is an increase in opportunities for every individual to safely access public transportation and housing, schools, recreation, government and businesses by making pedestrian walkways universally accessible. It is estimated that 500 people will be served by this project.

**Goodrich Playground
Project**

Board of Parks Commissioners

\$45,000.

Project funds will be used to remove existing fencing surrounding the upper athletic facilities at Goodrich Playground and the demolition of the long deteriorating tennis courts. This will be followed by leveling and installation of loam within the confines of the old tennis courts and outfield for use as a multipurpose field and the installation of new fencing and backstops on the old baseball field as well as claying of the infield. Work will be performed by the DPW and will be ADA compliant

Performance Measurement: SL-3. The goal of this project is the 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 one public facility will be achieved with this year's funds. It is estimated that 40,000 people will be served by this project.

**Crocker Field Grandstand
Wall Restoration**

**City of Fitchburg School
Department**

\$8,000.

Project funds will be used to remove and replace three (3) sections of wall; each section in 43" high x 30 feet long located at the front row of seats in Sections 10, 11 and 12 of the open grandstands. This wall is currently structurally unsound, according to a Registered Professional Structural Engineer, creating a safety hazard. Funding provided by CDBG will be matched equally by the School Department. Fitchburg DPW will perform design work and develop technical specifications.

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 5,114 Fitchburg students will be served by this project. Also qualifies under Historic rehab 570.202(d)

Streetscape Improvements

Community Development

\$158,905.

Project funds will be used to design, install or replace sidewalks, curb-cuts, fencing, lighting, plantings or other streetscape or accessibility improvements along City Gateways, North of Main or other strategic locations. Funds may support or be used as a match for other funding under the city's Complete Streets program or be used to apply and provide design or match for the next round of MassWorks Public Infrastructure grant program.

Performance Measurement: SL-3. The goal of this project is the removal of deteriorated sidewalks at the project locations. 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 41,000 people will be served by this project

Handicapped Accessibility Improvements **Fitchburg Historical Society** **\$4,474.**

Project funds will be used to address obstacles to ADA accessibility. Handicapped elevator improvements in elevator control room; new exterior lighting at handicapped parking/entrance; newly painted symbols and lines on handicapped parking spaces and new track lighting fixtures for brighter light in public exhibition and program area. Work will be ADA compliant.

Performance Measurement: SL-3. The goal of this project is to improve accessibility at the Fitchburg Historical Society, a building to which the public has access, by removing architectural barriers. The benefit of this project is an increase in opportunities for every individual to safely access this building. It is estimated that 12,000 people will be served by this project

5 PROPOSALS - \$221,379.00

PUBLIC SERVICES

Street Homeless Intervention Program **Our Father's House** **\$28,000.**

Summary: Project funds will be used to pay staff salary for a 20 hour per week Street Outreach Worker solely dedicated to the homeless within the City of Fitchburg. Connections to health and social services, mental health and addiction services will be offered along with food, clothing blankets and human contact. Will work with Fitchburg PD and FD. In addition, \$8,000. would be available to pay for a chronically homeless persons first month's rent only or one-time payment in order to enable individuals to acquire and live in permanent housing and off the streets.

Performance Measurement: SL-1 The goal of this project is to provide outreach services by means of a dedicated worker in Fitchburg to collaborate with City of Fitchburg Police & Fire in engaging homeless individuals living in uninhabitable places, eventually moving them to Our Father's House shelter or permanent housing. It is estimated that 70 individuals in Fitchburg will be served

Building Empowered Youth & Families **MOC as management company of United Neighbors of Fitchburg, Inc.** **\$10,000.**

Project funds will be used to provide, information and referral, food pantry and bi-lingual services to at United Neighbors of Fitchburg facility. Youth programs will be offered including after-school programs for teens and kids and Teen Night programs incorporating homework help; recreation and exercise programs; leadership development and civic engagement. Funds will partially pay for staff salaries for Program Director, Afterschool Coordinator, Afterschool program assistant and Administrative support as well as buildings and equipment. It is estimated that 110 (unduplicated count) will be served.

Performance Measurement: SL-1. 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 110 Fitchburg residents (unduplicated) will be served.

Spartacus Program**Montachusett Regional
YMCA****\$10,000.**

Project funds will be used to support staff salary of the Teen Center Spartacus Program, offering services to at-risk youth between the ages of 13 and 18 who live in Fitchburg. Emphasis will be on Youth Development, Healthy Living and Social Responsibility through physical fitness, team building, life skills training and outdoor activities. It is estimated that 60 youth (unduplicated count) will be served between September and June.

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 60 Fitchburg residents (unduplicated) will be served.

**Drug Enforcement
Patrol Program****Fitchburg Police Dept.****\$60,000.**

Project funds will be used to provide for police overtime expenses related to drug investigation activities in the CDBG Strategy Area and foot/motorcycle/bicycle patrols in targeted CDBG areas. Police activities include narcotics investigations, surveillance, undercover buys, search warrant services and arrests. CDBG funds will be used by the Drug Suppression Unit to conduct thorough investigations on mid to high level dealers in the City of Fitchburg, particularly targeting the heroin and opioid market in designated CDBG areas.

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 18,000 people will be served.

**Transportation Services
to Afterschool Program,
Project Learn STEAM****Boys & Girls Club
of Fitchburg and Leominster****\$16,000.**

Project funds will be used to provide one-way transportation from Fitchburg schools to the Boys and Girls Club Afterschool Program located at 365 Lindell Street in Leominster. The Fitchburg schools include: Memorial, South Street, Reingold, Crocker, McKay, Longsjø, Sizer and Fitchburg High School. It is estimated that approximately 1,440 transportation trips will be provided and 300 Fitchburg youth (unduplicated) served.

Performance Measurement: SL-1. The goal of this project is to provide transportation to Fitchburg students who want to participate in the afterschool program. The benefit to participants is the opportunity to develop life skills within a safe environment. It is estimated that 300 Fitchburg youth (unduplicated) will be served and 1,440 one-way trips will be provided.

**MIHN Family Housing/
Family Pathways Project****Montachusett Interfaith
Hospitality Network****\$8,000.**

Project funds will provide emergency housing for homeless families in North Worcester County, including case management and follow up services. It is estimated MIHN will screen at least 250 referrals during the year, and will continue to try to meet the goal of serving 30 Fitchburg residents (unduplicated count) in the shelter and emergency services. The CDBG funds will be used to partially pay for the MIHN Operations Manager salary costs.

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 20 Fitchburg individuals (unduplicated) will benefit from this project.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**Small Business
Technical Assistance**

NewVue Communities

\$21,000.

Project funds will provide outreach and technical assistance to businesses. This program leverages loans for small businesses. It is estimated that 40 businesses will be served (unduplicated count), 65 jobs will be created/retained, 43 businesses will be counseled, 4 loans with a value of \$100,000 total will be facilitated and 26 business plans developed. Funds will be used to pay staff salary.

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 40 people will be individuals, business or household units 37 jobs will be created/retained, 2 loans with a total value of \$40,000 will be made. 10 businesses will be trained and 23 business plans developed. Business development related to North of Main Street project will be conducted.

**CDBG Business Loans
and Grants**

**Fitchburg Comm Development
Department**

\$87,250.

Summary: Program funds will provide grant incentives for building owners with prospective tenants in the Main Street commercial district to encourage accessibility improvements such as elevators or lifts and code improvements including sprinkler systems, grease traps, venting and other missing elements required by code for the proposed use district and to encourage accessibility improvements such as elevators or lifts

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 Main Street commercial district in Fitchburg. The benefit of this project is the promotion of economic development and job creation/job retention. It is estimated that 3-5 businesses (unduplicated count) will be served; 2-6 full time equivalent jobs will be created and 1-2 units will be made handicapped accessible

2 PROPOSALS - \$108,250.

CLEARANCE ACTIVITIES

Demolition

**Fitchburg Community
Development Department**

\$264,668.00

Project funds will be used to remove abandoned structures which pose an imminent threat to public safety and which contribute to slums and blight. The entire City will be served but the principal benefit will accrue to the CDBG Strategy Area in which the proposed activities will take place. It is estimated that 7 buildings containing up to 21 units will be demolished. Consultants will be hired for specific expertise such as environmental assessment or engineering services.

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 seven buildings and up to twenty one units will be demolished. Although entire City will be served, it is estimated that CDBG strategy area of 15,000 Fitchburg individuals (unduplicated) will benefit from this project.

1 PROPOSAL - \$264,668.00

REHABILITATION AND PRESERVATION

Code Enforcement

Fitchburg BOH

\$100,000.

Project funds will be used to pay 100% of two existing full-time BOH Inspector positions and 50% of one full-time Clerk position. 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. It is estimated that 1,000 housing units (duplicated count) will be inspected in the CDBG strategy area.

Performance Measurement: DH-3. 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 1,000 housing units (duplicated) will be inspected.

IdeaLab Build Out

Fitchburg State University

\$20,000.

Project funds will be used to support the build out of the IdeaLab located in the Historic Theater Block of Main Street. In partnership with NewVue Communities and the City of Fitchburg, Fitchburg State University has developed a plan to jump-start the local economy by sparking entrepreneurial activity in the heart of downtown Fitchburg. Part of phase one, the IdeaLab consists of approximately 2,000 square feet of flexible space that will be used to launch small businesses by providing them with flexible, affordable, state-of-the-art commercial space as well as on-site technical assistance provided by NewVue Communities. CDBG funding will support critical needs including finishes, tel/data wiring, shared business equipment and shared workstations. *Performance Measurement: SL-3. The goal of this project is to assist with build out of critical space in downtown Fitchburg to host the IdeaLab, by means of a gut rehabilitation. CDBG funding will support critical needs including finishes, tel/data wiring, shared business equipment and shared workstations. It is estimated that 25-40 businesses and individuals will be served by means of technical assistance as well as incubator space. Rehab under 570.202*

2 PROPOSALS - \$120,000.

PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION

CDBG Administration

Fitchburg Community Development Department

\$179,000.00

Project funds will 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 the cost of various activities such as the Consolidated Plan; Consolidated Annual Performance Report; Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing and other strategic plans and services. These funds enable the City to apply for, receive and administer additional federal and state grants. In the previous year, \$8,640,178.00 dollars in related grants were obtained.

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.

1 PROPOSAL - \$179,000.00
