



# **CITY OF FITCHBURG**

## **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM**

### **YEAR 51 PROPOSALS**

## **YEAR 51 ESTIMATED FUNDING**

### **AVAILABILITY OF PROPOSAL FORMS FOR YEAR FIFTY-ONE PROGRAM**

Estimated CDBG funds available for Year 51 (2025-2026) are as follows:

<b>Estimated Year 51 Entitlement*</b>	Amount to be Determined
Year 50 Entitlement	919,836
Program Income available from prior years (Misc.)	950
Reprogrammed Funds	\$TBD(approx. \$91,093)

#### **CDBG Housing Revolving Loan Funds:**

Anticipated Program Income July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025	47,300
Anticipated Fund Balance as of June 30, 2025	295,000
Potential Program Income from July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026	47,000

#### **CDBG Business Revolving Loan Funds:**

Anticipated Program Income July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025	67,000
Anticipated Fund Balance as of June 30, 2025	90,000
Potential Program Income from July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026	63,000

#### **HOME Revolving Loan Funds:**

Anticipated Program Income July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025	83,000
Anticipated Fund Balance as of June 30, 2025	280,000
Potential Program Income from July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026	81,000

\* This figure may fluctuate pending budget approval by Congress

### **CDBG YEAR 51 FUNDING REQUESTED**

<b><u>Total Proposals</u></b>	<b><u>Applicant</u></b>	<b><u>Amount</u></b>
4	PUBLIC FACILITIES AND IMPROVEM	240,000
12	PUBLIC SERVICES	253,000
4	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	200,390
4	REHABILITATION AND PRESERVATIC	362,042
1	DEMOLITION	125,000
1	PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION	210,000
<b>26</b>	<b>TOTAL YEAR 51 FUNDING REQUESTED</b>	<b>1,390,432</b>

<b>ESTIMATED FUNDS AVAILABLE:</b>	<b>1,011,879</b>
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## SUMMARY OF YEAR 51 PROPOSALS

PUBLIC FACILITIES AND IMPROVEMENTS					
	<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>SPONSOR</u>	<u>APPLICATION NUMBER</u>	<u>YEAR 50 AWARD</u>	<u>YEAR 51 REQUEST</u>
A	West Main St. Paving & Sidewalk Reconstruction	Department of Public Works	84266	n/a	150,000
The proposed project will include the design and construction of new ADA-compliant sidewalks along the westbound shoulder of Main Street between approximately 1157 Main Street and Caldwell Park, along with an ADA-compliant crosswalk near the Greek Church, an ADA-compliant crosswalk near the Yarn Lofts, and a mill and overlay of Main Street between the Boulder at the Upper Common and the intersection with West Street/Ashburnham Hill Road. If funding allows, the sidewalk on the eastbound shoulder of Main Street between the intersection with West Street/Ashburnham Hill Road and Caldwell Street will also be reconstructed.					
PUBLIC FACILITIES AND IMPROVEMENTS					
	<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>SPONSOR</u>	<u>APPLICATION NUMBER</u>	<u>YEAR 50 AWARD</u>	<u>YEAR 51 REQUEST</u>
B	City Park Signs Replacement	Parks & Recreation	84233	12,000	15,000
The purpose of this project is to create uniformity and provide the names and locations of the parks in the city. This information should be available to the community in all of the parks, more importantly, the signs will help those visiting the parks know what parks they are visiting and bring uniformity to the city's parks system. Funding will go toward signs, mounting posts, supplies, and materials.					
PUBLIC FACILITIES AND IMPROVEMENTS					
	<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>SPONSOR</u>	<u>APPLICATION NUMBER</u>	<u>YEAR 50 AWARD</u>	<u>YEAR 51 REQUEST</u>
C	Digital Signage at Coolidge Park	Parks & Recreation	84232	n/a	45,000
The digital sign will be installed at the intersection at Coolidge Park (John Fitch Hwy and Pearl St)These digital displays serve as a centralized hub, delivering real-time updates on park events, informative videos, local news, weather forecasts, and promotional offers. This not only ensures that visitors are well-informed, it also creates a personalized and interactive connection with the park environment. Funding will be for the purchase and installation of the digital sign.					
PUBLIC FACILITIES AND IMPROVEMENTS					
	<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>SPONSOR</u>	<u>APPLICATION NUMBER</u>	<u>YEAR 50 AWARD</u>	<u>YEAR 51 REQUEST</u>
D	Crocker Field - Grandstand Restoration	School Department	84257	n/a	30,000
This project will include restoration work in the covered grandstand including replacement of remaining rotted/cracked benches; repair or replacement of 41 concrete brackets that support the benches; removal/replacement of deteriorated concrete in the seating area, and sealing of concrete cracks in the seating area.					
PUBLIC FACILITIES AND IMPROVEMENTS TOTAL PROPOSALS:			4		240,000

PUBLIC SERVICES				
<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>SPONSOR</u>	<u>APPLICATION NUMBER</u>	<u>YEAR 50 AWARD</u>	<u>YEAR 51 REQUEST</u>
<b>E</b> Street Outreach	Fitchburg Health Department	<b>84256</b>	20,000	20,000
Outreach activities will be conducted to include street outreach engagement with the unsheltered population providing direct referrals and connections to shelter, medical/mental health/substance use treatment, permanent housing, etc. This project will supply necessary health, hygiene and safety items as deemed appropriate by the Outreach Worker. The proposed project also includes the support of Winter Warming Center implementation.				
PUBLIC SERVICES				
<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>SPONSOR</u>	<u>APPLICATION NUMBER</u>	<u>YEAR 50 AWARD</u>	<u>YEAR 51 REQUEST</u>
<b>F</b> Fitchburg Farmers' Market	Growing Places	<b>84247</b>	7,000	7,000
The Fitchburg Farmers Market serves the Fitchburg community with a focus on low- and moderate-income (LMI) persons and Environmental Justice populations that are at increased risk for food insecurity. In addition to accepting SNAP and the MA Healthy Incentive program for all market vendors, the Fitchburg Farmers Market supports older adults and low-income families through the acceptance of Senior and WIC Farmers Market Coupons. The project also assists small businesses as vendors, as well as youth through market activities hosted by the Youth Leaders. The Fitchburg Farmers Market is in the downtown North of Main neighborhood in a City park/public space, so it is accessible to these populations. Funds will go toward the Salary of the Farmers' Market Manager, youth Leaders, a distribution driver, and fringe benefits.				
PUBLIC SERVICES				
<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>SPONSOR</u>	<u>APPLICATION NUMBER</u>	<u>YEAR 50 AWARD</u>	<u>YEAR 51 REQUEST</u>
<b>G</b> Assistant Crime Analyst Program	Fitchburg Police Department	<b>84234</b>	0	40,000
Funding will partially fund the salary of the Assistant Crime Analyst to increase and enhance crime prevention and crime reduction strategies through the use of crime analysis.				
The proposed project activities to be undertaken by the assistant crime analyst will include preparation of administrative analysis including statistical reports, COMPSTAT style reports, law enforcement bulletins, social media crime prevention tips and information. Analyst will assist with preparation of crime statistics and applicable information for community meetings and informational sessions. Assistant analyst may also assist with the creation of crime maps.				
PUBLIC SERVICES				
<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>SPONSOR</u>	<u>APPLICATION NUMBER</u>	<u>YEAR 50 AWARD</u>	<u>YEAR 51 REQUEST</u>
<b>H</b> Fitchburg Community Policing Project	Fitchburg Police Department	<b>84175</b>	60,000	30,000
The Fitchburg Community Policing Project will focus on increasing community policing efforts in the downtown and surrounding CDBG area, mostly foot patrols but officers may also use bicycles, motorcycles and patrol vehicles depending on the nature of the community policing activities. Officers will also spend time on the rail trail pathways. These patrols will give officers an opportunity for increase police presence in these areas.				
PUBLIC SERVICES				
<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>SPONSOR</u>	<u>APPLICATION NUMBER</u>	<u>YEAR 50 AWARD</u>	<u>YEAR 51 REQUEST</u>
<b>I</b> Family Homeless Shelter	North Star Family Services	<b>84144</b>	9,500	10,000
North Star is the only shelter for families with children experiencing homelessness in our region. They provide emergency shelter, food, clothing, and comprehensive case management services to guide families to stability and self-sufficiency in permanent housing. The funds will be used for staff salary.				

PUBLIC SERVICES					
	<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>SPONSOR</u>	<u>APPLICATION NUMBER</u>	<u>YEAR 50 AWARD</u>	<u>YEAR 51 REQUEST</u>
J	Fitchburg Homelessness Prevention Project	Community Legal Aid	84244	5,000	20,000
The project will provide thorough and comprehensive legal outreach and advocacy to Fitchburg's low-income and elderly renters, with the goal of helping them obtain and maintain safe, affordable housing. Funds from the Fitchburg CDBG program will allow CLA to continue to assist tenants with eviction cases before their court dates and to represent subsidy program participants threatened with termination from the programs, work that they are unable to prioritize in the absence of dedicated funding.					
PUBLIC SERVICES					
	<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>SPONSOR</u>	<u>APPLICATION NUMBER</u>	<u>YEAR 50 AWARD</u>	<u>YEAR 51 REQUEST</u>
K	Resident Service Coordinator and Activities	First Parish Housing/The Sundial	84238	n/a	7,000
Funding will provide critically needed assistance to lower-income senior citizens by supporting the salary of the Resident Services Coordinator (RSC) position. Many of our seniors are unaware of (or need help applying for) existing programs and services designed to address the many needs associated with aging and affordability, including health care and financial assistance. In addition to referrals for outside program access, this position will directly assist seniors in their efforts to remain self-sufficient by providing ongoing assistance in managing their lives in areas ranging from financial literacy to health care - all designed to allow them to continue living independently as long as possible.					
PUBLIC SERVICES					
	<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>SPONSOR</u>	<u>APPLICATION NUMBER</u>	<u>YEAR 50 AWARD</u>	<u>YEAR 51 REQUEST</u>
L	Project Learn STEAM Transportation	Boys and Girls Club	84263	14,000	72,000
The proposed project would currently transport 106 (this will increase throughout the year) Fitchburg youth ages 8-18 from the South Street, Reingold, McKay, Crocker, Memorial, FHS, and Longsjo schools from September 2025 through June 2026. This will provide them with an opportunity to participate in our BCGFL after-school program, Project Full STEAM Ahead. The club offers local youth a safe, positive place to learn and grow during crucial after-school hours from 2-6pm, engaging members in activities that enable them to develop self-esteem and to reach their full potential through the five BGC of America Core Program areas that include: Education and Career, Sports and Recreation, Fitness, Character and Leadership Development, Health and Life Skills, and Cultural Arts.					
PUBLIC SERVICES					
	<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>SPONSOR</u>	<u>APPLICATION NUMBER</u>	<u>YEAR 50 AWARD</u>	<u>YEAR 51 REQUEST</u>
M	Mayor's Energy Fund	Mayor's Office	84262	5,000	5,000
The Mayor's Energy Fund will utilize CDBG funding per HUD income guidelines to allow low-income residents to apply for relief to go toward utility costs during the winter months. The Fitchburg Mayor's Office serves the residents of the city, this program is merely a beneficial extension of the work and services already provided through the Mayor's Office in collaboration with the Community Development office.					
PUBLIC SERVICES					
	<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>SPONSOR</u>	<u>APPLICATION NUMBER</u>	<u>YEAR 50 AWARD</u>	<u>YEAR 51 REQUEST</u>
N	One-to-One Mentoring for Fitchburg Youth	Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Mass & MetroWest	84156	0	10,000
The focus of this activity is on Children (Littles) at McKay Elementary School who are recommended for Big Brothers Big Sisters one-to-one mentoring by school staff. They are interviewed by a Match Support and Success team member. The parent/guardian is also interviewed. This team member then interviews volunteers (Bigs) from Fitchburg State University and matches the Littles and Bigs based on similar interests, personalities, and family history.					
Once matched, Bigs and Littles meet weekly. The match support and success team member attends the program each week and also conducts monthly support calls with the Little, the parent/guardian, and the Big to ensure the most successful match possible. Funding will support salary and related expenses.					

**PUBLIC SERVICES**

	<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>SPONSOR</u>	<u>APPLICATION NUMBER</u>	<u>YEAR 50 AWARD</u>	<u>YEAR 51 REQUEST</u>
<b>O</b>	Spartacus	YMCA of Cental MA - Montachusett Community Branch	<b>84246</b>	12,000	25,000
<p>Spartacus is a program designed to help at-risk teens who are vulnerable to issues such as substance abuse, failing school, and limited impulse control to make healthy decisions. Participants build their character, self-confidence, and abilities through a diverse curriculum, including exercise, academic tutoring, community service opportunities, workshops on self-esteem building, leadership development, and substance abuse prevention. Local partners, including public school departments, MASSCall311, banking institutions, LUK Inc., and member volunteers, enrich and strengthen program offerings with additional content. A myriad of adult role models, both from the YMCA and the Fitchburg community, allow teens to constantly learn and grow outside the classroom while in a safe environment at the branch. With the knowledge they gain, the club equips teens with the necessary skills and knowledge to create solutions to the challenges they are presented with in everyday life as they work towards a bright, productive future for themselves. Funding will provide salary for a full-time program staff member.</p>					

**PUBLIC SERVICES**

	<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>SPONSOR</u>	<u>APPLICATION NUMBER</u>	<u>YEAR 50 AWARD</u>	<u>YEAR 51 REQUEST</u>
<b>P</b>	Helping Ourselves	Spanish American Center	<b>84259</b>	5,000	7,000
<p>The goal of this project is for the Spanish American Center to become a physical presence in the City of Fitchburg where residents make up almost half of the Spanish American Center database, to provide a convenient location for Fitchburg residents to enroll in weekly English classes. Developing a basic level of English proficiency removes one key barrier to thriving in an English-speaking community opening opportunities for employment, educational advancement, ability to navigate medical appointments, and interaction with children's school personnel. Funding will go toward the instructor, supplies, payroll taxes, overhead, and field trips.</p>					

<b>PUBLIC SERVICES TOTAL PROPOSALS:</b>	<b>12</b>		<b>253,000</b>
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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT					
	<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>SPONSOR</u>	<u>APPLICATION NUMBER</u>	<u>YEAR 50 AWARD</u>	<u>YEAR 51 REQUEST</u>
Q	Small Business Technical Assistance	New Vue Communities	84265	30,000	30,000
NewVue Communities seeks funding for personnel to continue to provide technical assistance to small business owners and those positioned to start a small business. Providing business owner counseling, targeted outreach to minority business owners, and packaging loan (and grant) applications will be the activities that drive their effort to impact the economy in Fitchburg. In addition, the small business team will partner with the North Central Chamber of Commerce to offer in-person training and webinars addressing the beginning stages of developing a small business.					
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT					
	<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>SPONSOR</u>	<u>APPLICATION NUMBER</u>	<u>YEAR 50 AWARD</u>	<u>YEAR 51 REQUEST</u>
R	Sign & Facade Program	Community Development and Planning	84145	50,000	60,000
This project proposes to reduce blighted conditions in target areas and increase economic activity by providing assistance to business owners to replace defunct signs with professionally designed, quality signage. Owners provide a 30% match of cost. This is potential. Owners may also match by investing 30% of cost into other physical improvement of the space.					
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT					
	<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>SPONSOR</u>	<u>APPLICATION NUMBER</u>	<u>YEAR 50 AWARD</u>	<u>YEAR 51 REQUEST</u>
S	Fitchburg Downtown Coordinator	Community Development and Planning	84165	35,000	35,000
The Downtown Coordinator will provide direct technical assistance to downtown microenterprise businesses in the form of marketing, as well as in planning, coordinating, and promoting Main Street activities and special events that attract residents and visitors to downtown. The Downtown Coordinator will assist in the implementation of a shared, cohesive brand strategy for Main Street events and collaborate with partners on social media, print and web advertising and other forms of outreach. The coordinator will help recruit new volunteers, including FSU students and neighborhood residents; and identify events and marketing opportunities that further support Fitchburg as an "Arts & Culture" destination and Fitchburg as a "College Town".					
During the previous year, FSU stopped funding the program due to uncertainty with the University President leaving and a tighter FSU budget. The City attempted to hire a part time consultant to perform this work, but was unsuccessful. After discussions with the new FSU leadership, President Donna Hodge has re-committed to partnering with the City to fund this role as a full time staff, employed by the university. This funding will represent the City's contibution to this partnership.					
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT					
	<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>SPONSOR</u>	<u>APPLICATION NUMBER</u>	<u>YEAR 50 AWARD</u>	<u>YEAR 51 REQUEST</u>
T	Fitchburg Public Market Launching Diverse Food Entrepreneurs	Worcester Regional Strategic Opportunities Foundation, Inc. (DBA Fitchburg Public Market)	84261	n/a	75,390
Funding would be used for the Fitchburg Public Market’s Launching Diverse Food Entrepreneurs Program as well as to support the day-to-day operations of the Fitchburg Public Market, by covering the salaried position for the Fitchburg Public Market’s manager who also provides technical assistance to Launching Diverse Food Entrepreneurs for the Program.					
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TOTAL PROPOSALS:			4		200,390



REHABILITATION AND PRESERVATION					
	<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>SPONSOR</u>	<u>APPLICATION NUMBER</u>	<u>YEAR 50 AWARD</u>	<u>YEAR 51 REQUEST</u>
U	Critical Home Repair	Habitat for Humanity	84173	30,000	30,000
The Critical Home Repair program provides needed interior and exterior repairs addressing code violations, safety concerns, accessibility problems, and weatherization issues for low-income homeowners in Fitchburg so that they may maintain a safe, decent, and affordable place to live. Funds will go toward the cost on construction materials, subcontractor costs, and wages.					
REHABILITATION AND PRESERVATION					
	<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>SPONSOR</u>	<u>APPLICATION NUMBER</u>	<u>YEAR 50 AWARD</u>	<u>YEAR 51 REQUEST</u>
V	Code Enforcement	Fitchburg Board of Health	84264	101,000	121,000
The proposed project will consist of implementation of an overall inspection and enforcement strategy to eliminate housing deterioration, substandard housing, vacancy, abandonment, and conditions of blight in lower income, older housing stock CDBG strategy neighborhoods. The overarching goal also consists of efforts to provide safe and sanitary housing for owner and rental units, whereby improving neighborhoods and increasing property values. Heath Department intends to fund a portion of a full time clerk salary (50%) and one full time code inspector.					
REHABILITATION AND PRESERVATION					
	<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>SPONSOR</u>	<u>APPLICATION NUMBER</u>	<u>YEAR 50 AWARD</u>	<u>YEAR 51 REQUEST</u>
W	Improving Community and Economic Development Through Improved Code Enforcement	Fitchburg Building Department	84245	n/a	118,500
Funding will provide a Local Building Inspector whose primary responsibility will be to address complaints related to building code, zoning and other land use-related city ordinances and regulations, within the CDBG Target Area. The goals of this project are: 1) neighborhood revitalization, 2) reactivation of vacant and abandoned properties, and 3) economic development through blight prevention and removal.					
REHABILITATION AND PRESERVATION					
	<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>SPONSOR</u>	<u>APPLICATION NUMBER</u>	<u>YEAR 50 AWARD</u>	<u>YEAR 51 REQUEST</u>
X	Retaining Wall Replacement	Opportunities for Hope	84248	n/a	92,542
The proposed project involves the stabilization and repair of a failing retaining wall at the largest homeless shelter in Fitchburg, Massachusetts. This critical infrastructure improvement will enhance the safety, accessibility, and functionality of the shelter, ensuring continued service to vulnerable individuals and families experiencing homelessness. The project includes the demolition of the existing wall, construction of a new retaining wall, installation of safety fencing, and landscaping enhancements.					
REHABILITATION AND PRESERVATION TOTAL PROPOSALS:			4		362,042

# DEMOLITION

	<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>SPONSOR</u>	<u>APPLICATION NUMBER</u>	<u>YEAR 50 AWARD</u>	<u>YEAR 51 REQUEST</u>
<b>Y</b>	Demolition	Community Development Department	<b>84158</b>	0	125,000
Demolition of select problem properties in CDBG target areas.					
<b>DEMOLITION TOTAL PROPOSALS:</b>			<b>1</b>		<b>125,000</b>

# ADMINISTRATION

	<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>SPONSOR</u>	<u>APPLICATION NUMBER</u>	<u>YEAR 50 AWARD</u>	<u>YEAR 51 REQUEST</u>
<b>Z</b>	CDBG Administration and Planning	Community Development Department	<b>84169</b>	183,967	210,000
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. (Funding not to exceed 20% of entitlement.)					
<b>PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION TOTAL PROPOSALS:</b>			<b>1</b>		<b>210,000</b>