


Maine
Cumberland County

CUMBERLAND COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

STAFF REPORT

From: Kristin Styles, Community Development Director

Date: May 3, 2019

Subject: Final 2019 CDBG & HOME Funding

Two public hearings will be held on the use of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for 2019: April 8th and May 13th. A final vote by the Commissioners endorsing the 2019 Annual Action Plan is scheduled for the May 13th meeting. The Annual Action Plan will be submitted to HUD in early June.

The purpose of this report is to:

1. Identify CDBG and HOME grant funds for 2019
2. Review the application process for selecting CDBG projects
3. Familiarize you with the projects and programs recommended for funding

Available Grant Funds for 2019

CDBG Allocation: *On April 12, 2019 HUD release Cumberland County's official allocation for the CDBG and HOME programs.* Cumberland County will receive \$31,906 less in CDBG funds than last year; this is about a 2% reduction. The Municipal Oversight Committee, South Portland, and Bridgton put contingencies in place for an increase or decrease in funding levels. The contingency recommendations were followed when finalizing the budgets for all of the CDBG programs.

The total allocation is divided into four components:

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| 1. <u>Total Administrative Costs:</u> | \$235,196 |
| County Administration | \$ 141,000 |
| South Portland Administration | \$ 55,000 |
| Bridgton Administration | \$ 39,196 |
| 2. <u>County Community & Regional Grants:</u> | \$750,827 |
| 3. <u>Town of Bridgton Activities:</u> | \$156,788 |
| 4. <u>City of South Portland Activities:</u> | \$380,520 |

I. Accepting and Selecting Applications

The process for selecting "county" (not South Portland or Bridgton) applications for 2019:

- Applications distributed October 29, 2018
- Application workshop November 15, 2018

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- Pre-applications submitted by December 12, 2018
- Final applications submitted January 31, 2019

Following submission, applications were distributed to the Application Review Team. Team members were: Tom Gruber- Chair (Cumberland); Scott LaFlamme – Vice Chair (Yarmouth); Travis Kennedy, (Cumberland County); Sandy Warren (South Portland & Cumberland County); Stephanie Carver (GPCOG); Matt Sturgis (Cape Elizabeth); Tom Poirier (Gorham); Brian Sites (North Yarmouth); Daniel Stevenson (Westbrook).

Team members reviewed the applications and assigned scores based upon established criteria. Applicants met with the review team on February 28th to briefly present their projects and answer questions.

General Program Applications

Project description – 10 points
Project management – 10 points
Implementation schedule – 5 points
Readiness to proceed – 20 points
Need for the project – 20 points
Need for CDBG funds – 15 points
Budget – 5 points
Distress score – 0-10 points
Multi-jurisdictional bonus – 5 points

Planning Program Applications

Description of problem – 35 points
Strategy to complete planning project – 30 points
Readiness to proceed – 30 points
Multi-jurisdictional bonus – 5 points

Raw scores were totaled and converted to group ordinal rankings. The results of the collective rank order of applications became the basis for the allocation of funds.

II. Projects, Programs & Activities Recommended for Funding

The Municipal Oversight Committee (MOC) recommends 16 grants for funding to the County Commissioners. Of these, three are region-wide activities and thirteen are community-based projects. One of the community-based projects serves multiple communities.

Regional vs. community projects:

Regional projects:	\$ 119,500
Community projects:	\$ 631,327

Funding by project type:

Public Services	\$ 133,500
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Public Facilities & Infrastructure	\$ 486,791
Housing	\$ 93,536
Planning	\$ 37,000
County Administration	\$ 141,000

Project & Funding Recommendations

Public Services

Cumberland- Through These Doors- Abuse in Later Life \$ 24,000

The Abuse in Later Life advocate will provide direct service, safety planning and advocacy to 50+ individuals who are experiencing abuse within their intimate partner relationship or with family members.

The Opportunity Alliance (TOA) – Homelessness Prevention \$ 46,000

Case management and one-time financial assistance supporting clients at-risk of homelessness or experiencing homelessness.

Vet 2 Vet- Volunteer Coordinator \$ 13,500

Vet 2 Vet will hire a volunteer coordinator (part -time) to coordinate training and visits between volunteers and home bound veterans.

Westbrook – Parent Engagement and Education \$ 50,000

The Intercultural Community Center will provide a series of courses and seminars for immigrant families around parenting in the US, financial literacy, career readiness, civil and human rights in the US, Health and Nutrition, computer skills and more.

Housing

AlphaOne – Critical Access Ramps \$ 60,000

AlphaOne installs ramps at the homes of handicapped or elderly Cumberland County residents who otherwise would be severely hindered from, or unable to, leave their homes.

Harpswell – Habitat for Humanity- Home Repair Program \$ 33,536

This program will help to keep Harpswell seniors safely in their homes by offering minor home repair and safety modifications free of charge.

Public Facilities & Infrastructure

Gorham- Upper Little Falls Sidewalk Improvements Phase II \$ 85,058

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These funds will improve existing sidewalks along the Route# 237 corridor from Acorn Street north to the Upper Little Falls round-about. The CDBG funds will also install a new sidewalk on Acorn Street connecting Route# 202 to Route# 237.

Gorham – Little Falls Rec Area ADA Bathrooms \$ 42,500

These funds will assist in adding bathroom facilities & connecting into public sewer and water lines for a proposed storage & maintenance building at the Gorham Lillie Falls Recreation Area.

Harrison- Food Bank Improvements \$ 157,505

The funds will be used to increase space within the food bank by constructing a 20x40 addition to accommodate 1 ADA bathroom, a kitchenette for washing vegetables and cutting institutional size packaging into family portions and a walk-in refrigeration unit for the food bank.

Long Island – Learning Center Expansion \$ 86,728

In the final phase of a multi-year renovation of the Town’s community center, the CDBG funds will assist in finishing unfinished basement space in order to enhance the emergency shelter, provide additional space for the library for storage and processing space needs, to provide a welcoming entrance to the Wellness Center and the Historical Archive room, and to facilitate the storage for school and community uses.

Long Island – Mariners Warf Improvements Phase III \$ 20,000

Phase III will include the restoration and completion of the wave break on the Easterly side of Mariners Wharf so as to protect the Phase II investment and to better calm the sea around the loading of patients onto the rescue boat.

Naples- Kitchen/Food Pantry Renovation \$ 25,000

The kitchen is the operational location for Community Crosswalk food pantry and meal site. CDBG funds will assist in the renovation of the space in order to allow for meals to be cooked on site and the food to be safely stored and distributed.

Westbrook- Cornelia Warren Four Season Rink \$ 70,000

The CDBG funds will assist in the replacement of the current asphalt surface with concrete sub-flooring; installation of a sport court PowerGame surface to make the playing surface less abrasive; and the replacement the current plywood perimeter boards with boards that are more durable and safer.

Planning

North Yarmouth- Village Center Street Study \$ 2,000

The town will conduct a traffic study on the area that has recently been designated as the Village Center TIF district. The goal of the study will be to find a way to create a more walkable Village Center in North Yarmouth.

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Standish Multi-Use Community Center Planning \$ 20,000

The purpose of the study is to find the best location for and needed services at the Standish multi-use community center.

Yarmouth- Community Center Needs Assessment \$ 15,000

CDBG funds will be used to conduct a needs assessment and host a coordination effort among public service providers in Yarmouth. The goal of this study will be to figure out what resources are needed for the town's future Community Center.

Bridgton & South Portland Programs

The program and activities conducted in the two set-aside communities of Bridgton and South Portland are integral components of the Cumberland County Community Development program. While not participants in the County application competition, their projects, activities, funds, planning, administration and regulatory compliance are integrated with the County's program.

Town of Bridgton:

Estimated 2019 Set-Aside Allocation \$195,984

Program Administration \$ 39,196

Public Facilities \$131,288

Skating Rink \$ 61,891

BCC Playground \$ 23,764

Community Center Improvements \$ 22,393

Town Hall (Rec Center) Bathroom Renovation \$ 23,240

Public Services \$ 25,500

St. Joseph & Bridgton Food Pantries \$ 7,500

Community Center Navigator Program \$ 9,000

School Backpack Food Program \$ 7,500

Bridgton Community Supper \$ 1,500

City of South Portland:

Estimated 2019 Set-Aside Allocation \$435,520

The City of South Portland continues to operate their CDBG program much as they did prior to relinquishing HUD Entitlement status in 2007. Coordination between South Portland and the County, particularly on administrative matters occurs on a regular and on-going basis. Sandra

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Warren serves as the Community Development Coordinator in both Cumberland County and South Portland. South Portland finalized its selection of CDBG funded programs, projects and activities at their City Council meeting on February 26, 2019.

Public Facilities/Infrastructure **\$300,192**

SPHA Thornton Heights	\$100,000
SPHA Sunset Place	\$ 50,000
Broadband	\$ 50,000
Parks & Rec Redbank Play structure	\$ 15,000
Parks & Rec Redbank Field Improvements	\$ 85,192

Public Services **\$65,328**

Emergency Heating Assistance	\$ 5,987
Recreation Scholarships	\$ 11,987
Senior Bus Program	\$ 3,484
Domestic Violence Outreach Support Services	\$ 8,987
Redbank Hub	\$ 22,396
Meals on Wheels	\$ 12,487

Admin and Planning **\$ 70,000**

Program Administration	\$ 55,000
Planning for Town Skate Park	\$ 15,000

HOME Program Consortium

All the communities of Cumberland County including Portland, Brunswick and the 25 members of our Community Development program have formed the City of Portland/Cumberland County HOME Consortium. Portland serves as the lead entity for the Consortium. All administrative and program delivery services are conducted by the City.

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Unlike CDBG, HOME funds can only be used for four types housing activities: housing rehabilitation, home ownership assistance, tenant based rental assistance and new construction of rental or ownership housing. This year we are recommending the entire HOME allocation go toward the construction for affordable housing in Cumberland County.

2019 HOME funds = \$423,225

Affordable Housing Development	\$357,390
CHDO	\$ 65,835