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CITY OF DANBURY
155 DEER HILL AVENUE
DANBURY, CONNECTICUT 06810

DAVID W. ST. HILAIRE
DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

(203)797-4652
FAX: (203)796-1526

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Honorable Mark D. Boughton via the City Council

FROM: David W. St.Hilaire, Director of Finance *DWS*

DATE: July 29, 2013

RE: **Community Development Block Grant Program – Program Year 39**

Attached is a resolution which will allow the City of Danbury to approve and submit the City's 2013-2018 Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan for Program Year 39. This resolution will allow the City to apply for and accept funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG).

Available funding for the time period August 1, 2013 through July 31, 2014 (Program Year 39) totals \$526,230. No local cash match is required. The Executive Summary of the Consolidated Plan and a listing of the Policy Committee's recommended recipients for Program Year 39 funding is attached.

The City Council is respectfully requested to consider this resolution at its next meeting.

DST/ag
cc: Laurence Wagner, L. Wagner & Associates

ES-05 Executive Summary

Introduction

This Five Year Consolidated Plan replaces the Plan prepared for the period between August 2008 and August 2013. The process of preparing the 2013-2017 Plan has included the following:

- Update of statistical data describing housing and non-housing community development needs.
- Review and revision of priorities and objectives to address needs as appropriate.
- Analysis of resources available to address identified needs.
- Focus on a strategy to use CDBG funds to leverage other resources to address identified needs.
- Establishment of measurement benchmarks.

Summary of the objectives and outcomes identified in the Plan Needs Assessment Overview

In terms of priorities and objectives, Danbury's Strategic Plan continues to focus on segments of the population most in need as well as neighborhood supported infrastructure investments. These include the needs of the homeless, lower income renters, people with special needs and senior citizens. Danbury continues to serve as the primary provider of services to these population segments within the Housatonic Valley Region. In addition to CDBG resources, the City contributes \$474,000 annually to the United Way to address a wide range of community needs, and \$351,000 for elderly services, veterans' services, elderly transportation, and special services in the City's downtown district.

Housing Priorities

- Provide affordable rental housing opportunities for extremely low and very-low income renters by increasing the supply and maintaining the availability of affordable rental housing in the City.
- Cultivate affordable homeownership opportunities through the financing or construction of housing for first time homebuyers, the preservation of existing ownership housing through rehabilitation and improving the availability of supportive social services to homeowners.

Homeless Priorities

- Increase the level and delivery of support services to the homeless and those at-risk of becoming homeless.
- Continue to address the issue of homelessness consistent with the Mayor's Task Force To End Homelessness Plan released in 2006.
- Address the needs of homeless veterans in the community through the expansion of facilities to meet their needs.

Other Special Needs/Non-Homeless Priorities

- Support and promote supportive housing services through programs which may include health services, family counseling, substance abuse counseling, parenting skills, and other appropriate services which would assist them in overcoming or better dealing with their special needs.

Non-Housing Community Development Priorities

- Maintain and improve existing public facilities and encourage the development of upgraded facilities, particularly with regard to, cleanup of contaminated sites, parks/recreation facilities and parking facilities serving low-income populations.
- Encourage the continued maintenance and improvement of the City's infrastructure, particularly with regard to street and sidewalk improvements, as well as flood drain improvements.
- Support the continuance and/or expansion of existing public service programs including those which provide services to the handicapped, youth, and/or substance abusers or which offer transportation services and employment training.
- To expand existing efforts to meet the needs of the City's physically handicapped population by supporting projects designed to make current facilities accessible or to provide new handicapped accessible facilities/equipment.
- To enhance and expand other community development efforts, particularly with regard to lead-based paint remediation/education and code enforcement activities.
- To promote and encourage the continued operation of existing senior programs and services such as those offered by the Department of Elderly Services

- **To promote the development of supportive programs for youth including job/career development extracurricular activity, computer literacy, and volunteerism**
- **To continue support of anti-crime programs in cooperation with the City of Danbury Police Department**
- **To continue existing administrative and planning activities necessary for the implementation of the objectives, actions and programs outlined in this Strategic Plan including fair housing counseling, tenant-landlord counseling and/or public awareness**
- **Increase the effectiveness of the delivery of services and programs to low- and moderate-income persons by increasing the capacity of non-profit providers.**
- **Support energy conservation to address environmental impacts and the increasing cost burden resulting from escalating energy costs.**

The proposed 2013-2014 Annual Action Plan funding allocations are consistent with these priorities.

Evaluation of past performance

The City has evaluated its progress and performance during the past year and found it to be satisfactory.

Its Program Administrator approach using a third party consultant for direct administrative compliance duties has resulted in significant cost savings and increased performance. The City has shown an increase in its rate of expenditure resulting, we believe, from increased emphasis on direct contact with and more frequent monitoring of and technical assistance to subrecipients and a more defined initial review of funding requests to identify those "ready to go."

Summary of citizen participation process and consultation process

The City of Danbury followed a detailed citizen participation plan that addressed each of the following elements in the preparation of its ConPlan. The Citizen Participation Plan was designed to address groups of interested parties and potential participants including: citizens, non-profit organizations, social service providers, governmental entities and other interested parties. The City has evaluated the impact of its existing Plan and, with few exceptions, has elected to sustain the basic principles adopted in its previous plan.

- Public Hearings

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The City has held three (3) public hearings at convenient times for people who might or will benefit from program funds; were accessible to people with disabilities; and were adequately publicized. These public hearings are held to obtain views of citizens, public agencies and other interested parties and respond to proposals and comments at all stages of the consolidated submission process, identifying housing and community development needs, reviewing proposed uses of funds, and reviewing program performance.

CITY OF DANBURY
Community Development Block Grant

Recommended Projects

	PROJECT	AMOUNT
Program Year 39		
	Ability Beyond Disability	\$40,000.00
	ARC Dream Homes	\$30,000.00
	City of Danbury Department of Health & Human Services	\$5,000.00
	City of Danbury Fire Department	\$10,000.00
	Family & Childrens' Aid	\$8,000.00
	General Administration	\$100,000.00
	Hispanic Center of Greater Danbury	\$25,000.00
	Housing Authority of the City of Danbury	\$112,000.00
	Interfaith AIDS Ministry	\$10,000.00
	Spring St Street, Sidewalk and Security Improvements	\$150,000.00
	TBICO	\$10,000.00
	WeCAHR	\$10,000.00
	Contingency	\$16,230.00
	Total	\$526,230.00



RESOLUTION

CITY OF DANBURY, STATE OF CONNECTICUT

_____A.D. 2013

RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DANBURY

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development has allocated funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1987, as amended, which authorized the Community Development Block Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of the City of Danbury to apply for a grant under such Act;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT Mark D. Boughton, Mayor of the City of Danbury, is hereby authorized to approve and submit the City's Consolidated Plan 2013-2018 and Annual Action Plan for Program Year 39 and make application on behalf of the City of Danbury to the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development for grant funds for the Community Development Program Year commencing August 1, 2013 through July 31, 2014 for the Thirty-Ninth Year Funding in accordance with all pertinent laws and regulations and the Statement of Community Development Objectives and Projected Use of Funds proposed by the Mayor's Community Development Program Policy Committee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Mark D. Boughton, Mayor of the City of Danbury, is hereby authorized to execute all contracts and take all necessary actions to effectuate the purposes of this grant application.