

CDBG Public Hearing (City of Revere)

2019 Annual Action Plan

April 24, 2019, 6:00 PM

Revere Police Department Headquarters (Community Room)

Prepared comments:

This is a public hearing to advise residents about the progress of its current federal entitlement programs and to seek citizen input from residents in drafting the Fiscal Year 2019 Action Plan. All hearings will begin at 6:00 p.m. and notice was advertised in the Revere Journal. The notice was also posted on the City of Revere website and in the City Clerk's Office. The notice was also sent to public services.

Additionally, in accordance with the City of Revere's Citizen Participation Plan, a public hearing is scheduled in a facility that is handicapped accessible and in predominantly low to moderate income neighborhoods.

Overview

In the current program year 2018, the US Department of Housing & Urban Development's Community Development Block Grant Entitlement to the City of Revere was **\$790,383**, with those funds having been committed to different programs.

The upcoming 2019 Community Development Block Grant may be level-funded; however, because the HUD budget has not yet been passed, we do not yet have the confirmed figure for the upcoming year. In its evaluation of project funding for the upcoming year, the City has included contingency language within the draft plan in the event that Revere's award differs from the previous year's allocation of \$790,383.

The draft 2019 Action Plan was posted for public review on April 8, 2019; the City has invited written comments from the public on the plan during the standard 30 day Citizen Comment period, which will close on Wednesday, May 8, 2019 at 12pm.

The draft action plan is consistent with the following CDBG funding guidelines and Revere's identified funding priorities:

- **Planning and management** is restricted to 20% of the grant and other public projects that benefit low and moderate income households in Revere.
- **Public service activities** are restricted to 15% of the grant and must benefit low and moderate income households in Revere.
- **Housing rehabilitation** continues to be identified in the City's Consolidated Plan as a key element to both increasing affordability & maintaining affordable housing units in Revere.
- A statutory requirement of Community Development Block Grant is that at least 70% of the impending grant benefits low and moderate income residents.

The City is also eligible for HOME Program funds. This year, the HOME Program is expected to be level funded for an eight community consortium to share and the entitlement will be approximately **\$1.3 million**. In the past four years, the HOME Program has suffered a decrease of 60% percent. The City of Malden is the lead agency in the North Suburban Consortium which consists of Malden, Everett, Chelsea, Medford, Melrose, Revere, Winthrop and Arlington.

In Revere's Draft Proposed 2019 Action Plan, projected areas for funding include:

- **economic development** - facade and signage improvements -- eligible properties in the Broadway, Shirley Avenue, and Revere Street districts [an expansion of service area from prior year activities for this category];
- **infrastructure projects** - reconstruction of streets and sidewalks, water line improvements -- along residential streets in the Mountain Ave area;
- **public facilities** - accessibility improvements & restoration of a city-owned, public-serving facility -- the Revere Historical Society building at 108 Beach St [an increase from prior year activities for this category];
- **housing rehabilitation** - supporting improved living conditions for residential properties with health and other code compliance issues [an increase from prior year activities for this category];
- **public service programs** - funding well-designed, successful programs serving low income Revere residents, at a collective maximum of 15% of the total grant;
- **planning and administration** - including staffing, project delivery, and the City's planning activities related to completion of the 2021-2025 Consolidated Plan.

The City also anticipates that prior year funds, which the City had allocated to the infrastructure category and were refunded to HUD and returned to the City's line of credit, will be available to supplement the upcoming year's infrastructure projects and activities.

CONTINGENCY [Notice: CPD-19-01] -- If the City of Revere's entitlement differs substantially from the prior year's funding, the following adjustments may apply in the event of an increase or decrease relative to the City's estimated allocation from HUD, and in this order:

- adjustments will be applied first to the infrastructure and public facilities categories, thereby positively or negatively affecting the volume of work expected to be completed in the Mountain Avenue area and/or in rehabilitation of the Revere Historical Society building;
- given that expected funding for public service activities is for prior year programs to be funded in full, a decrease relative to the City's allocation would lead to a proportional percentage reduction in each public service award; and

- given the significant demand for housing rehabilitation activities, a substantial increase relative to the City's allocation would support an increased allocation in this category, as the City of Revere's staffing and administrative capacity allow.

Progress on FY 2018 Action Plan:

In the current CDBG program year, the City has committed to funding the following activities serving a predominantly low and moderate income residential population:

- **six public services** with program delivery underway -- *including adult education programs, elder support programs, a youth after school enrichment program, a farmers market match program, and an arts scholarship program for local youth;*
- **street and sidewalk improvements currently under construction** -- *Cambridge, Furness, and Genesee Streets;*
- **a sign and façade improvement program** -- *along Broadway and Shirley Avenue, which has 4-6 projects in progress or nearing completion; and*
- **FY 2018 Public Facilities Amendment:**

At this time, the City also proposes an amendment to the FY2018 Action Plan.

The City had identified park and public facility improvements for Phase 2 of Gibson Park Reconstruction in its approved FY2018 Action Plan. The City proposes amending this prior year plan by reallocating these funds for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of Curtis Park, which is located near the Garfield School in one of the City's lowest income census tracts.

Conclusion & Comments

This concludes the speaking portion of this hearing. At this time, I will open the floor for comments.

Public comments:

Dehon Street resident and Ward 2 City Councillor Ira Novoselsky commended the proposed 2019 Action Plan and the 2018 public facilities amendment for Curtis Park. He added a question about the status of long-discussed rehabilitation of the stairs and handicap accessibility of the American Legion building located at 249 Broadway.

- City staff Julie DeMauro noted that this public facility, among others, are under review within the Transition and Accessibility Plan being conducted by Disabilities Commission Chair Ralph DeCicco. City Planner Techrosette Leng noted the project would likely constitute an eligible project for CDBG Public Facilities funding.

With no further comments or questions, the hearing adjourned at 6:40pm.