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Public Hearing

5:20 pm, Monday, August 9, 2021

Board of Legislators Chamber, County Courthouse

48 Court Street, Canton, NY 13617

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION IN THE PLANNING AND DESIGN OF A NYS CDBG APPLICATION

INTRODUCTION

The NYS Housing Trust Fund Corporation (HTFC) has announced the availability of approximately \$60 million of Federal funds for NYS Community Development Block Grant funding for CDBG-CV (COVID 19 Response).

The NYS Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program is a federal community revitalization and development program that is administered by HTFC's Office of Community Renewal (OCR). The CDBG-CV COVID 19 program will provide resources to non-entitlement communities and all entitlement jurisdictions to prepare for and respond to COVID-19.

An applicant may request funding for one or more activities, including:

- Supporting small business
- Improving Air quality in Public Facilities
- Environmental Improvements in Housing for Safe Shelter
- Conversion of Under-Utilized Buildings for Affordable Housing
- Public Services

Applicants to the NYS CDBG program must ensure that 70% of all activities principally benefit low- and moderate-income (LMI) persons.

AMOUNT OF CDBG FUNDS AVAILABLE

In March, 2021 the NYS Housing Trust Fund Corporation Office of Community Renewal announced the availability of approximately \$60 million of Federal funds for NYS CDBG-CV COVID 19 funding for activities listed above. Beneficiaries of these funds must be primarily LMI persons.

Application materials for NYS CDBG-CV COVID 19 funds can be found on the NYS CDBG Homes and Community Renewal Web site (see <https://hcr.ny.gov/community-development-block-grant>).

ESTIMATED AMOUNT OF CDBG FUNDS PROPOSED FOR ACTIVITIES THAT BENEFIT LMI NATIONAL OBJECTIVE

CDBG activities must meet a **National Objective**, to provide benefit to persons with low and moderate incomes (defined as household income at or below 80% of County Median Household Income, adjusted for household size; **see attached** for current LMI limits).

Applicants that propose to provide **Area Benefit** must provide data to demonstrate that at least 51% of persons who will benefit from CDBG assistance are LMI.

Applicants that propose to provide **Direct Benefit** must exclusively serve LMI persons.

Applicants that proposed to provide **Limited Clientele Benefit** must provide assistance to persons presumed by HUD to be principally LMI persons. Abused children, elderly persons, battered spouses, homeless persons, disabled persons, and others are presumed by HUD to be principally LMI.

FUNDING LIMITS FOR 2020 NYS CDBG-CV COVID 19 FUNDING

As reported earlier, the total amount of funding available to NYS communities for this application round is \$60 million. Approximately \$30 million will reserved for non-entitlement communities; St. Lawrence County and its City, towns and villages are all non-entitlement communities. Towns, villages and cities may apply for a maximum of \$500,000. Counties may apply for a maximum of \$1,000,000. Larger awards may be approved based on demonstrated need and capacity to complete proposed activities within a 12-month term.

ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY PROPOSAL

St. Lawrence County proposes to use \$580,000 in NYS CDBG funding to assist 10 renters and single-family homeowners with repairs or upgrades critical to improving the overall health and safety of the housing. The County intends to use these funds to address HVAC and ventilation improvements related to indoor air quality, reconfigure and update living spaces and physical systems, and other repairs that address emergencies and allow families to safely shelter at home. In some instances, the County anticipates that CDBG-CV COVID 19 funds may be used as leverage to complete rehabilitation on units previously approved for participation in the County's on-going HUD-funded Lead-Based Pain Hazard Reduction Program.

The County intends to distribute these CDBG-CV COVID 19 funds to clients on a countywide basis, as the need for housing rehabilitation assistance exists throughout the County. This approach allows the County to be flexible enough to provide assistance where the need for rehabilitation assistance is high, and to have access to an adequate pool of eligible homes for participants to consider.

The proposed Countywide Housing Rehabilitation Program Round #4 (CHRP 4) will exclusively serve LMI persons. The County anticipates an overall Direct Benefit to LMI persons of more than 90%.

The County has operated 30 previous CDBG-funded housing rehabilitation programs, over 600 housing units have benefitted from these programs.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Households may be eligible to participate in the County's DHAP if they:

- Earn less than 80% of the County's Median Household Income Limit (**see attached**);
- Own their home, or rent from a landlord who will participate in the program.

Persons interested in participating in the Program are encouraged to contact the St. Lawrence County Planning Office at 315-379-2292 to be placed on the Program's waiting list.

PROJECT TIME LINE

- Application Deadline: 4:00 PM on August 27, 2021.
- Grant award is anticipated to be made before the end of 2021.
- Program start-up typically commences within 90 days of the grant award.
- **Maximum of 1 year to complete the project from the date of grant award.**

PROPOSED CDBG ACTIVITIES LIKELY TO RESULT IN DISPLACEMENT / ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY DISPLACEMENT & RELOCATION PLAN

St. Lawrence County maintains an Anti-Displacement and Relocation Plan for its housing activities. In the event a Community Development Block Grant funded project demolishes or converts low- and moderate-income housing, the County will implement its Anti-Displacement and Relocation Plan. This Plan outlines the procedures to provide relocation and displacement assistance to households, as well as preventative steps to minimize displacement from occurring.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

As an applicant for CDBG funds, St. Lawrence County is committed to provide technical assistance to groups representative of persons of LMI that request assistance in developing proposals in accordance with procedures developed by the State. However, such assistance does not include providing funds to such groups.

FAIR HOUSING STATEMENT

The County of St. Lawrence is an equal opportunity housing provider. The County and its subrecipient do not discriminate against applicants for housing assistance based on their race, color, religion, national origin, age, gender, familial status or disability.

WRITTEN COMMENTS on this proposed application may be submitted by mail to Jason Pfothauer, Director of Planning, St. Lawrence County, 48 Court Street, Canton, NY 13617 or by email to jpfothauer@stlawco.org until August 13, 2021.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT

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