

## 01-27-2021 Town Council Meeting Responses to Council Questions

### **ITEM #9: Public Forum and Consider Amending the 2020-2021 Community Development Block Grant Program Plan**

**Council Question:**

What would be the timeline for receiving the CDBG funds?

**Staff Response:**

*CDBG funds would be available for use immediately. If the Council approves the recommended plan, staff would begin executing performance agreements with the approved partner agencies.*

**Council Question:**

By how much does Town staff anticipate the number of placements in the Summer Youth Employment Program to be reduced by?

**Staff Response:**

*The Town has not able to implement the Summer Youth Employment Program over the last year due to COVID-19 and related social distancing requirements. Our goal is to re-start the program this summer with a reduced number of placements. With the \$20,000 allocation to Summer Youth Employment Program, we could hire approximately 15 youth which is about half of the typical number of placements.*

**Council Question:**

I really appreciate the Neighborhood Support Circles concept and am interested in we have any formal or informal feedback from families on how well they are working in practice? Also, whether we have an evaluation planned to understand the impact they may have/had on student participation and learning? I hope that is something we can do because it is a great model and could be something other communities can learn from and also something we may want to continue in some form post-COVID. Could this be included in the grant to the Refugee Community Partnership?

**Staff Response:**

*Town and Refugee Community Partnership (RCP) staff designed an evaluation plan for the program in December 2020, following the accelerated implementation of the program in the first academic semester of the school year. RCP is now implementing a two-part evaluation tool for the second academic semester to assess the program impacts, including pre and post tests and one-on-one interviews with families to assess academic performance, feeling of support and connectedness, and overall well-being. Funding for program evaluation is included in the proposed budget before Council tonight for consideration.*