

Summary of 2020-2021 CDBG Funding Requests and Recommendations

The summary below reflects the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Application Review Committee's recommendation for 2020-2021 CDBG funding, in the total amount of \$424,994, which includes a 2020-2021 CDBG grant award of \$417,655 plus \$7,339 program income for the repayment of a loan.

Affordable Housing

1. Town of Chapel Hill Requests

Neighborhood Revitalization Activities: \$ 197,815

We request that the Council budget funds for neighborhood revitalization activities throughout Town. Activities would serve households earning less than 80% of the HUD published area median income. Funds could be used for the following activities: second mortgage assistance; property acquisition and/or renovation; code enforcement; demolition; public housing improvements; public improvements such as installation of sidewalks; curb and gutter improvements; or parks and recreation facilities.

The Town Manager would approve projects, which must demonstrate compliance with Town policies and federal regulations.

2. **Community Home Trust – Homebuyer Assistance Program: \$ 30,000**

The Community Home Trust requests funding for its Homebuyer Assistance Program. These funds would be used to make Home Trust homes more affordable to households earning 80% of the area median income or less.

3. **Rebuilding Together of the Triangle – Rehabilitation Services: \$ 24,000**

Rebuilding Together of the Triangle requests funding for Rehabilitation Services. Rehabilitation Services support the work of the Orange County Home Preservation Coalition, providing applicant intake, home assessments, work scopes, bid preparation, and project management to address the needs of low-income homeowners for repairs, accessibility modifications, and beautification. This program serves households earning 80% of the area median income or less.

4. **Home Repair Set-Aside: \$ 27,000**

Habitat for Humanity requests funding for its Home Preservation program. The Home Preservation program addresses the needs of low-income homeowners for repairs, accessibility modifications, and beautification. This initiative would focus on homes in the Northside, Pine Knolls, and Rogers Road neighborhoods. This program serves households earning 80% of the area median income or less.

The Committee's recommendation includes a set-aside allocation of \$27,000 for home repair projects identified through the Orange County Home Preservation Coalition, instead of directly to Habitat. The recommendation is no indicator of Habitat's quality of work, but allows more flexibility to address homeowner needs. Habitat and other members of the Preservation Coalition would be able to apply for these funds when projects are identified.

At the time of application for 2020-2021 funds, there is an unexpended balance of CDBG funds previously awarded to Habitat. The Committee recognized the need for home preservation and is committed to providing home repair funding. The Committee recommends that Habitat expend the funds on hand before requesting additional funding.

Public Services

The use of funds for public services that benefit households earning less than 80% of the area median income is eligible under federal Community Development regulations. Examples of public service activities include programs focusing on employment, crime prevention, child care, healthcare, drug abuse, education, fair housing counseling, energy conservation, homebuyer down payment assistance or recreational needs. The amount of CDBG funds used for public services is capped at 15% of the Town's Community Development grant.

1. Town of Chapel Hill Summer Youth Employment Program: \$ 57,648

The Summer Youth Employment Program, managed jointly by Town of Chapel Hill Housing and Community and the Police Department, provides job skills training, employment experience, and economic opportunities to Chapel Hill youth aged 14-18 whose families earn less than 80% of the area median income, with many being from households earning less than 30% of the area median income. Participants work in Town departments, County government, and nonprofit organizations. The Council has allocated CDBG funds to support this program since 1994.

The Committee's recommendation includes \$10,000 for management of the Summer Youth Employment Program, and \$47,648 for youth salaries. This is a \$17,648 increase over the request. The committee recommends this increase for the Town to hire additional youth employees and consider increasing the hourly pay rates.

3. **The Exchange Club's Family Center of Alamance County: \$ 5,000**

The Exchange Club's Family Center requests funding to support the Children's Parents program to provide parenting classes to families at-risk for and/or involved in child abuse or neglect. Professionally trained instructors use tested curricula to teach the parents and trained childcare workers provide trauma-informed care and instruction to the children of the parents in the classes during class times.

The Committee is recommending \$5,000 for the program. This represents a \$2,022 increase over the request to better support the program.

Program Administration: \$83,531

The Committee requests the Council allocate funds to support oversight of the CDBG and related affordable housing programs.

Applications Not Considered for 2020-21 Funding

Inter-Faith Council For Social Service (IFC)

IFC submitted an application requesting \$109,960 in CDBG public service funds to support Case Managers for IFC's residential programs to assist households experiencing homelessness in obtaining shelter and securing permanent affordable housing. Staff is recommending using CDBG-CV funds towards this purpose rather than 2020-2021 funds.

IFC submitted their application after the established 2020-2021 application deadline. Consistent with other Town funding programs and our CDBG Program guidelines, late applications are not considered for funding by the Application Review Committee.

CDBG Application Review Committee Members

Kate Henz (Human Services Advisory Board)

Anne Hoole (Housing Advisory Board)

Luis Melodelgado (Town of Chapel Hill Library)

Anita Badrock (Town of Chapel Hill Human Resource Development)