

City of Lewiston

DRAFT Annual Action Plan and Funding Priorities for CDBG

July 1, 2019-June 30, 2020

Executive Summary

This Annual Action Plan describes the annual goals and objectives and the recommended funding for FFY 2019 starting on July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020. These goals and objectives were identified as community priorities in the in the City's 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan.

The City has been an entitlement grantee from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development since 1974 when the CDBG program began. Each year the City receives an allocation of funds to support the goals and objectives identified in the five year Consolidated Plan. At this time, the City does not know the CDBG allocation for FFY 2019, but were instructed to use last year's allocation and assume flat funding of \$893,534.

In addition to the CDBG allocation, the City receives program income from loans made to property owners to support jobs and economic growth and to improve housing. Funds are distributed as loans for improving housing and expanding economic growth and development to qualified owners. The balance as of June 30, 2019 is expected to be \$327,000. In addition to this the City expects to receive \$120,000 in program income which will be receipted into the RLF from payments made on loans. Total resources available to accomplish the goals and objectives for this plan year are \$1,340,534.

The Public Process – Citizens Advisory Committee

The City encourages citizen participation from Lewiston residents in developing the 5-Year Consolidated Plan, annual action plans and performance reports. The City especially encourages participation by residents of Census Tracts 201, 202, 203 and 204, the CDBG target area that is defined as a low and moderate income area, as well as participation from all citizens that may be homeless, persons with disabilities, immigrants and refugees, public housing authorities, and organizations representing these groups.

To ensure that all constituents are provided with an opportunity to be included in this important planning and implementation process, the City appoints and convenes a Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) to assist in developing the specific goals and objectives of the Consolidated Plan, the Assessment of Fair Housing, and the annual Action Plan. Committee members are appointed by the Mayor to two year terms coinciding with the calendar year. This seven-person Committee includes one Lewiston City Councilor, one representative from the homeless community, a person representing the immigrant/refugee community, at least two citizens from the City's low/moderate income population in Census Tracts 201-204, with the remainder from the community at large.

In December, applications and requests for funding are received from organizations wanting to apply for CDBG funding in an open application process. Organizations must submit its request by December 31st. During the public process, the CAC members read, review, interview and score all applications for funding received from qualified applicants. This year the public process began on February 12, 2019. They met every week for 5 weeks and made their funding recommendations to the Council for the meeting on March 28, 2019. The public comment period on the funding recommendations.

Goals and Objectives with Funding Recommendations

This is the fifth and final year on the City’s 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan. The total funding available this year in the CDBG budget is \$1,340,534. This budget is comprised of the City’s expected CDBG allocation of \$893,534, if flat funded this year and \$447,000 in the Revolving Loan Fund. The table below lists the goals and strategies, the program/project that is recommended to receive the funding, the amount recommended by the CAC and the source of funding from the CDBG budget.

Goal 1: Support people in their efforts to transition out of poverty			
Strategies:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on helping young people growing up in poverty to get the personal and educational skills needed to live a healthy and productive adult life. • Support low-income adults to be better parents and workers through education and skill development, including work readiness and job training programs. • Support services that meet people’s basic needs. • Provide education to tenants and landlord to increase fair housing knowledge and choice 			
Organization	Program/Project Name	CAC Recommended	Source of Funds
The Center for Wisdoms Women	Sophia’s House	\$11,679	Entitlement
Healthy Homeworks	Build a Bed Program	\$12,459	Entitlement
Trinity Jubilee Center	Day Shelter and Resource Center	\$15,660	Entitlement
Promise Early Education Center	Early Education Extended Care Program	\$8,010	Entitlement
Lewiston Adult Education	Work Readiness	\$13,134	Entitlement
A-L Fair Housing Coalition (City program)	Fair Housing Choice – Owner & renter workshops	\$1,802	Entitlement
SUB Total for Goal 1		\$62,744	

Goal 2: Prevent Homelessness			
Strategies:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support case management services to help homeless people get the appropriate help to reconnect to the job and housing markets • Support the “housing first” approach that focuses on getting people back in regular housing as a first step towards helping them re-integrated into the community. 			
Organization	Program/Project Name	CAC Recommended	Source of Funds
Social Services Department	Case Management	\$51,654	Entitlement
Tedford Housing	Lewiston Supportive Services	\$4,590	Entitlement
SUB Total for Goal 2		\$56,244	
Goal 3: Improve the safety and efficiency of the housing stock.			
Strategies:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide grants and low-interest loans for the rehabilitation of owner and rental housing that is occupied by low and moderate income households, including energy efficiency, weatherization and emergency repair for buildings. • Fund a dedicated code enforcement position to support improvements to the housing stock. • Continue to demolish derelict and abandoned buildings that cannot be salvaged. 			
Organization	Program/Project Name	CAC Recommended	Source of Funds
City of Lewiston	Code Enforcement Officer	\$73,690	Entitlement
City of Lewiston – Match Requirement	Choice Neighborhood Implementation - Prior Year approved: \$18,750	\$100,000	Entitlement
City of Lewiston –Match Requirement	L-A Lead Program - Weatherization Program	\$55,000	Entitlement
Community Concepts, Inc	Construction Management for Rehabilitation Projects	\$7,500	Entitlement
City of Lewiston	Rehabilitation Administration for Housing Rehabilitation	\$40,389	Entitlement
City of Lewiston	Provide loans to low-income homeowners in Single Family or Owner Occupied Housing 1-4 unit properties – City-wide	\$122,000	RLF
SUB Total for Goal 3		\$398,579	
Goal 4: Reduce Lead Hazards in Housing			

Strategies:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create lead safe housing • Continue to support the Green and Healthy Homes Initiative to create green and healthy homes that are: “dry, clean, ventilated, free from pests and contaminants, well-maintained and safe 			
Organization	Program/Project Name	CAC Recommended	Source of Funds
City of Lewiston – L-A LEAD Program	Provide lead match funding to private owners	\$75,000	RLF
SUB Total for Goal 4		\$75,000	
Goal 6: Increase Neighborhood Pride through Investment in Infrastructure			
Strategies:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support projects that achieve identified goals from the City’s Comprehensive Plan, the Riverfront Master Plan, and the Downtown Neighborhood Action Plan. • Fill in the funding gaps to make projects “complete” including sidewalks, streetscaping, fiber, and sewer/water. • Empower neighborhood residents and create a sense of investment by encouraging a “Friends of” organization to support the investment in the long-term if CDBG funds are used to build or improve a park. 			
Organization	Program/Project Name	CAC Recommended	Source of Funds
City of Lewiston - Match	Choice Neighborhood Housing Implementation	\$259,260	Entitlement
City of Lewiston - Match	Brownfields Cleanup Grant	\$60,000	Entitlement
SUB Total for Goal 6		\$319,260	
Goal 7: Promote Jobs and Economic Growth			
Strategies:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fund economic development programs for businesses to improve building facades; restore historic buildings; rehabilitate mixed-use buildings to create housing in the upper stories; encourage business growth and development through the micro-enterprise and small business assistance programs 			
Organization	Program/Project Name	CAC Recommended	Source of Funds
City of Lewiston	Provide economic development programs to businesses	\$250,000	RLF
SUB Total for Goal 7		\$250,000	

In addition to the programs that the City will be funding this year, CDBG entitlement funding will be used to hire a Consultant in the amount of **\$6,000**, to prepare an Analysis of the Impediments to Fair Housing Choice. The cities of Lewiston and Auburn will share this cost. This plan is a requirement of HUD as part of the new consolidated planning process. The City is also budgeting **\$172,707**, of entitlement funding for the Administration of the CDBG program. HUD recommended recipients develop CDBG funding plans based on the FFY 18 allocation. They also recommended that a strategy be put in place if the funding approved by Congress is higher or lower than the FFY 18 allocation. This budget is based on an annual allocation of \$ 893,534 plus RLF monies. If there is an increase in the amount of funding, the CAC recommends that the public services agencies that have been recommended for funding will get the additional funding up to the 15% CAP and the remaining funding would go to the Choice Neighborhood Housing Program. If the allocation is reduced, the public services agencies that have been funded will get funding reduced proportionally. If there is a substantial reduction in funding, the CAC will reconvene.

The City is beginning its public process on March 23, 2019 until April 22, 2019. There will be a council workshop on March 28, 2019, for the public hearing and council review. Anyone wishing to comment on the funding priorities and DRAFT Action Plan may do so by contacting Lincoln Jeffers, Director Economic and Community Development Department, via email ljeffers@lewistonmaine.gov or calling 207-513-3204 or may attend a public meeting. The final budget hearing will be on May 7, 2019 at a regular City Council meeting.