

**CITY OF WORCESTER
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT
SECOND YEAR ACTION PLAN / PROGRAM YEAR 42
SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT #1
July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017**

DRAFT



October 5, 2016

The City of Worcester is proposing to substantially amend its Consolidated Submission for Community Planning & Development (2015-2020), Second Year Action Plan, July 1st, 2016 – June 30th, 2017 to fund:

1. Worcester Fire Department – Fire Truck (\$492,100)
2. Boys & Girls Club of Worcester – Energy Efficiency Improvements (\$65,000)
3. Worcester East Middle School – Health Center Renovation (\$50,000)

Please Note: The allocation amounts provided above are based upon estimates and are subject to change once formal bids are received. Final allocation amounts will be subject to 2 CFR 200.00 et. seq. (entitled “Uniform Administrative Requirements for Federal Awards”) for requirements formerly set forth in O.M.B. Circular A-122 and satisfaction of additional Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program eligibility criteria.

SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT TO THE FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017 ACTION PLAN:

CDBG REPROGRAMMING

INTRODUCTION

The City of Worcester Fiscal Year 2016-17 Annual Action Plan was submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) on May 16, 2016 and received approval on August 15, 2016. Contained herein, is the proposed first amendment, to said Action Plan.

Title 24 Section 91.505 of the Code of Federal Regulations stipulates that participating jurisdictions shall amend their approved plans whenever they make one of the following decisions:

1. To make a change in its allocation priorities or a change in the method of distribution of funds;
2. To carry out an activity, using funds from any program covered by the Consolidated Plan (including Program Income) not previously described in the action plan; or
3. To change the purpose, scope, location, or beneficiaries of an activity.

The Regulation (CFR 91.505) further requires that a jurisdiction identify in its Citizen Participation Plan the criteria they will use for determining what constitutes a substantial amendment. Consistent with these requirements, the Citizen Participation Plan adopted by the City of Worcester as a component of its 2015 – 2020 Consolidated Five Year Plan identifies three criteria that will require a substantial amendment:

The Executive Office of Economic Development (EOED) will amend the City of Worcester Five-Year Consolidated Submission for Community Planning and Development whenever it makes one of the following changes:

1. To make a change in its allocation priorities or a change in the method of distribution of funds;
2. To carry out an activity, using funds from any program covered by the consolidated plan (including program income), not previously described in the action plan; or
3. To change the purpose, scope, location, or beneficiaries of an activity.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

In accordance with 24 CFR 91.105(c)(3) for local governments, the substantial amendment Public Notice for the use of CDBG funds was released for citizen review and comment on October 5, 2016 in the Worcester Telegram & Gazette. During the 30-day public comment period from October 5, 2016 through November 7, 2016 the Draft Substantial Amendment (contained herein) is made available during regular business hours between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, in at least one of the following two locations:

1. Neighborhood Development Division, 455 Main Street, 4th Floor, City Hall, Worcester, MA 01608
2. The City of Worcester website, Neighborhood Development Division documents page

The City of Worcester Executive Office of Economic Development (EOED) – Neighborhood Development Division will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, November 2 at 5:30 p.m., in the Levi Lincoln Conference Room, 455 Main Street 3rd Floor, Worcester, MA 01608.

PROPOSED ACTIVITY AMENDMENTS

The proposed amendments will allow the city to fund three (3) CDBG eligible activities utilizing funds from a prior planned and approved project in the City of Worcester's HUD approved second year (2016-2017) Action Plan. The proposed projects are as follows:

1. **Worcester Fire Department (\$492,100)** – The City of Worcester's Fire Department is proposing to purchase a new fire truck to replace Engine 12 at the Franklin Street fire station. Engine 12 has a 1997 KME engine with over 127,000 miles, and responded to more than 2,300 calls in 2015. The engine has become physically worn, unreliable, and costly to maintain, and at 19 years old has been in service 4 years longer than the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) age limit for front line equipment. The proposed purchase would lower the average age of the Worcester Fire Department fleet from 11.38 years to 11.04 years, maintain compliance with NFPA standards, and ensure the continued safe and efficient provision of fire protection and life safety services to the citizens of Worcester. The new engine will be a 2016 E-1 Cyclone II high end custom pumper with a 500 horse power Cummins ISX12 six (6) cylinder engine and Allison EVS4000P transmission. It will be equipped with a midship-mounted Hale Qmax single-stage centrifugal pump with 1,250 – 2,250 gallons per minute capacity, and a fire pump with 1,500 gallons per minute rating. The truck will be equipped with a 530 gallon water tank, a 30 gallon foam tank, and other essential equipment and tools including a siren, hose, and ladders.
2. **Boys and Girls Club Energy Efficiency Upgrades (\$65,000)** – The Boys and Girls Club of Worcester is proposing to make physical improvements to its existing facility located at 65 Tainter Street. The high-energy consuming, high-heat generating, and high-maintenance cost lighting fixtures and lamps at the Tainter Street facility increase the cost and inefficiency of lighting and cooling the building, creating a financial burden that compromises delivery of services by reducing the quantity, availability, variety, and effectiveness of public services that could be offered. The proposed project would restore safe and secure conditions for Boys and Girls Club patrons, volunteers, and employees, and ensure cheaper and more efficient lighting and cooling of the facility. To complete the project, the following activities are entailed:
 - Remove and dispose of existing lighting fixtures, lamps, bulbs, wiring, and associated equipment.
 - Install approximately 600 new high-efficiency LED lighting fixtures, bulbs, and associated equipment.
3. **Worcester East Middle School (\$50,000)** – The Worcester Public Schools system proposes to make physical improvements to its facility located at 420 Grafton Street. Existing medical and behavioral health resources at the Worcester East Middle School are insufficient to meet the counseling and healthcare needs of the student body, of which a high percentage have no primary care provider, and produce the highest rates of daily student visits to the school nurse in the district. The proposed project would establish a School Based Health Center at Worcester East Middle School which complies with current Massachusetts Department of Health regulations, and allows the school to host a full-time Nurse Practitioner, Medical Coordinator, and Behavioral Health Coordinator. Completion of this project would improve student access to, and expand the school's capacity to, provide key health, dental, and behavioral health services.

To complete the project, the following activities are entailed:

- Renovate and convert existing space to include up to three medical rooms and one restroom
- Improve ventilation via upgrades to the exhaust and air intake system
- Conduct required interior renovations to ensure health code compliance including, but not limited to, replacement of interior walls and doors, modifications to ensure ADA accessibility, repaint all walls, and replace existing lighting with energy-efficient bulbs and fixtures.

Contracts for all above activities will be executed once formal scopes of work have been reviewed and determined to be cost reasonable per 2 CFR 200.00 et. seq. (entitled “Uniform Administrative Requirements for Federal Awards”) for requirements formerly set forth in O.M.B. Circular A-122 and satisfaction of additional Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program eligibility criteria and appropriate Environmental Reviews have been completed per 24 CFR Part 58.

Attachment 1: Proposed CDBG Program Funding Reallocation

2016 – 2017 CDBG Program Funding Reallocation

Year 42 Action Plan Original Project	Proposed Re-Programming Amounts and Projects
<p align="center">\$1,994,683.40</p> <p>Neighborhood Development Fund: general infrastructure improvements to low-moderate income communities including the Union Hill neighborhood target area</p>	<p align="center">Worcester Fire Department – Fire Truck \$492,100.00</p>
<p align="center">\$1,994,683.40</p> <p>Neighborhood Development Fund: general infrastructure improvements to low-moderate income communities including the Union Hill neighborhood target area</p>	<p align="center">Boys & Girls Club of Worcester – Energy Efficiency Improvements \$65,000.00</p>
<p align="center">\$1,994,683.40</p> <p>Neighborhood Development Fund: general infrastructure improvements to low-moderate income communities including the Union Hill neighborhood target area</p>	<p align="center">Worcester East Middle School- Health Center Renovation \$50,000.00</p>