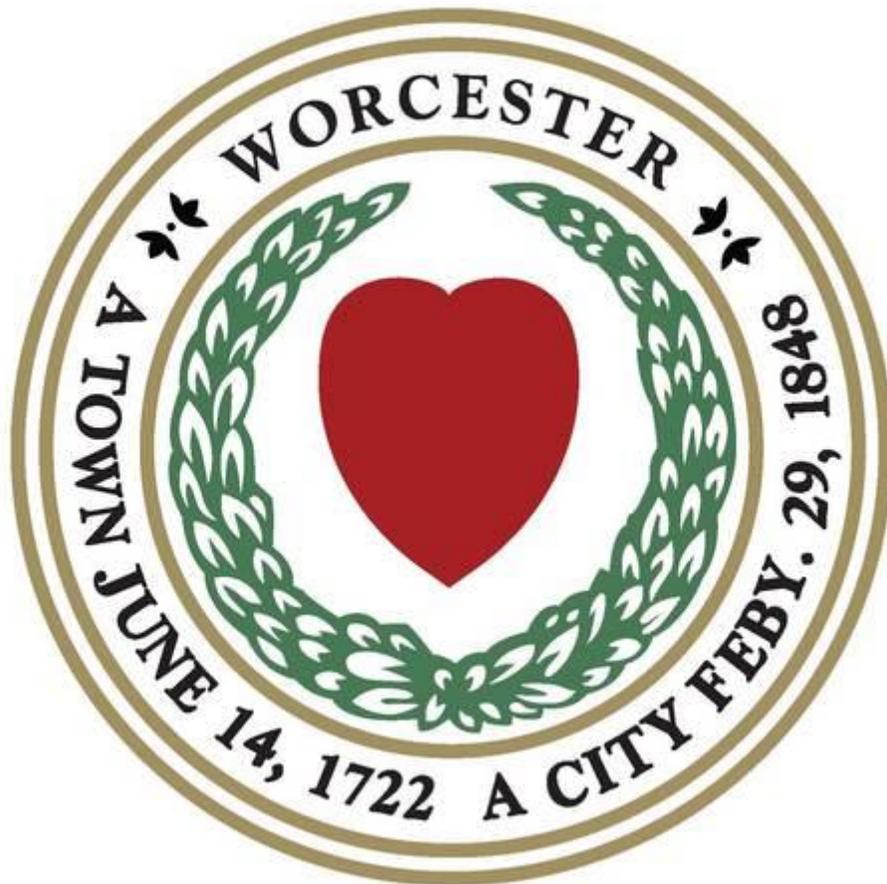


**CITY OF WORCESTER
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT
THIRD YEAR ACTION PLAN / PROGRAM YEAR 43
July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018**

SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT #1

DRAFT



December 20, 2017

The City of Worcester is proposing to substantially amend its Consolidated Submission for Community Planning & Development (2015-2020), Third Year Action Plan, July 1st, 2017 – June 30th, 2018 to fund:

A. Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) - \$1,105,416 Reprogrammed Funds:

1. Worcester Fire Department - Fire Ladder Truck (\$929,116)
2. Worcester Fire Department – 30 Scott Air Pak Breathing Apparatus (\$126,300)
3. Boys & Girls Club of Worcester – Retile Swimming Pool (\$50,000).

B. Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) - \$262,152 HUD Supplemental Funds:

1. Eligible activities to address needs of persons displaced from declared-disaster areas (\$200,000)
2. Support emergency shelter overflow efforts during winter months (\$62,152)

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 #1 TO THE CDBG YEAR 2017-2018 ACTION PLAN:

CDBG REPROGRAMMING AND ESG SUPPLEMENTAL

INTRODUCTION

The City of Worcester Third Year Action Plan 2017-18 was submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) on August 3, 2017 and received approval on September 22, 2017. 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 December 20, 2017 in the Worcester Telegram & Gazette. During the 30-day public comment period from December 21, 2017 through January 19, 2018 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:
<http://www.worcesterma.gov/e-services/document-center/neighborhood-development>

Additionally, the City of Worcester Executive Office of Economic Development (EOED) – Neighborhood Development Division will hold a public hearing on Thursday, January 4, 2018 at 5:30 p.m., in City Hall Room 401, 455 Main Street 4th Floor, Worcester, MA 01608 to give persons an opportunity to provide comments and discuss the proposed amendment.

PROPOSED ACTIVITY AMENDMENTS

A. Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) - \$1,105,416 Reprogrammed Funds

The proposed amendments will allow the city to fund three (3) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) eligible activities utilizing \$1,105,416 in City of Worcester reprogrammed CDBG funds. The \$1,105,416 in reprogrammed CDBG will be sourced from Third Year Action Plan Allocations for Phase III Senior Center Improvements (\$390,000), Canterbury Park & Playground Construction (\$225,000), General Public Facility Improvements (\$385,000), prior year allocations to the City of Worcester's Business Assistance Division Microloan, Façade & Awning Incentive Programs (\$55,500), as well as additional surplus and unexpended CDBG program balances from prior program years (\$49,916).

1. Worcester Fire Department – Fire Ladder Truck (\$929,116):

The Fire Ladder Truck to be purchased for the Worcester Fire Department will be an E-ONE Aerial Rear Mount, Cyclone II, Metro 100. The truck, which meets National Fire Protection Association standards, includes a 100 foot aerial ladder and a complement of ground ladders. It will be equipped and delivered in accordance with Worcester Fire Department requirements and will replace a 25 year old truck that will be transitioned into spare status. To be known as Ladder 4, the truck will be housed at the Webster Square Fire Station, 40 Webster Street. Its primary response area will include the areas around Webster Square, including the areas to the south and west of Hope Avenue and Webster Street to the Auburn town line, the area east along Cambridge Street to Southbridge Street, and the area northeast along Main Street including the Clark University vicinity.

2. Worcester Fire Department – 30 Scott Air Pak Breathing Apparatus (\$126,300):

Scott Air Pak Breathing Apparatus (SPCA) are to be purchased by the Worcester Fire Department for vital firefighting operations in order to provide self-contained respiratory protection for firefighters who enter Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health (IDLH) environments. Each SPCA consists of a breathing apparatus and a 45 minute air supply cylinder. The Scott Air Pak includes a harness containing an air cylinder worn on the fire fighter's back and has a high pressure line connected to the breathing apparatus with a CGA (Compressed Gas Association) standard snap connection. The acquisition of 30 SPCAs will replace ones whose standard useful life had expired and are no longer serviceable. Twenty-two (22) Scott Air Paks will be housed at the 266 Franklin Street Fire Station and eight (8) at the 424 Park Avenue Fire Station.

3. Boys & Girls Club of Worcester – Retiling of Swimming Pool (\$50,000):

The Boys & Girls Club of Worcester annually serves 6,000 low- and moderate-income youth ages 5-18. Their swimming facility includes a college-regulation, handicapped accessible, swimming pool located in the Harrington Clubhouse, 65 Tainter Street, in Worcester's Main South neighborhood. The pool is open every day for swimming, and provides formal swimming lessons, is used for certified life-guard training, and accommodates the training and competition needs of the Boys & Girls Club Swim Team. It also operates as a program site for the YouthConnect Summer Youth Recreation Program (a multi-agency collaborative program supported for many years with CDBG public services and other leveraged private funds). As a result of heavy and continuous use, the pool deck is increasingly plagued by tiling that is cracked, loose, popped, and lifted and needs to be replaced. It is

proposed to use reprogrammed CDBG funds to cover costs for retiling the pool to improve the safety and ability to serve youth from low- to moderate-income households.

B. Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) - \$262,152 HUD Supplemental Funds

The City of Worcester was one of a select group of federal entitlement grant communities selected by Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to receive an unanticipated supplemental Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) fund allocation that is in addition to its usual annual allocation for Federal Fiscal Year 2017. In compliance with federal regulations (CFR §576.400), the City of Worcester consulted with the Worcester City and County Continuum of Care (CoC) in determining how to allocate these supplemental ESG funds. As part of this consultation process, the CoC Planning group advocated for the City to fund the following two (2) eligible activities utilizing \$262,152 in supplemental ESG funds:

1. Eligible activities to address needs of persons displaced from declared-disaster areas (\$200,000)

The Worcester City and County Continuum of Care (CoC) Planning group advocated for the prioritization of the funds to support those families and individuals displaced to Worcester from declared-disaster areas. As per the CoC's recommendation, \$200,000 of supplemental ESG funds shall be utilized to support ESG-eligible activities that address the needs of individuals and families arriving from declared-disaster areas. Contracts with existing City of Worcester ESG grant sub-recipients will be amended to provide additional capacity to serve households from declared-disaster areas. Additional sub-recipients may be added as needed to respond most effectively to the community need.

2. Support emergency shelter overflow efforts during the winter months (\$62,152)

The remaining supplemental ESG funds will be dedicated to support emergency overflow shelter efforts during the winter months, which are expected to serve 250 households throughout the coldest months of the winter. City staff has begun to work with local officials and community partners related to these efforts to plan for the timely expenditure of these one-time funds.

Attachment 1: Action Plan Amendment #1 CDBG Year 2017-2018

A1	Project Name	WORCESTER FIRE DEPARTMENT – FIRE LADDER TRUCK
	Target Area	Low-Moderate Income Census Tracts
	Five Year Consolidated Plan Goal Supported	Improvements and Preservation of Public Facilities
	Needs Addressed	Improving public facilities serving public safety
	Funding Allocation	CDBG: \$929,116
	Description	Public Facilities Improvements other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit
	Target Implementation Date	6/30/2018
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from proposed activities	The primary service area of this fire truck corresponds to U.S. Census Tracts 7310.01, 7310.02, 7312.02, 7312.03, 7312.04, 7313.00, 7330.00, 7331.01, and, 7331.02. The total population of these tracts was 30,215 according to the most recent U.S. Census American Community Survey estimates released in 2015, of which 27,753 persons lived in 9,921 households (5,625 in family households). The remaining 2,462 persons lived in group quarters residences. The latest HUD estimates reported that 64.6% of the population of this area was determined to be of low- and moderate-income.
	Location Description	To be housed at the Webster Square Fire Station 40 Webster Street, the primary response area of this fire truck encompasses the areas around Webster Square, including the areas to the south and west of Hope Avenue and Webster Street to the Auburn town line, the area east along Cambridge Street to Southbridge Street, and the area northeast along Main Street including Clark University. The area corresponds to the above listed census tracts.
	Planned Activities	The Worcester Fire Department will purchase an E-ONE Aerial Rear Mount, Cyclone II, Metro 100 Fire Ladder Truck. The truck which meets National Fire Protection Association standards includes a 100 foot aerial ladder and a complement of ground ladders. It will be equipped and delivered in accordance with Worcester Fire Department requirements and will replace a 25 year old truck that will be transitioned into spare status. To be known as Ladder 4, the truck will be housed at the Webster Square Fire Station, 40 Webster Street.
A2	Project Name	WORCESTER FIRE DEPARTMENT – 30 SCOTT AIR PAK BREATHING APPARTUS (SPCA)
	Target Area	Low-Moderate Income Census Tracts
	Five Year Consolidated Plan Goal Supported	Improvements and Preservation of Public Facilities
	Needs Addressed	Improving public facilities serving public safety
	Funding Allocation	CDBG: \$126,300
	Description	Public Facilities Improvements other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit
	Target Implementation Date	6/30/2018
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from proposed	The primary service areas of the two fire stations which will house the SPCAs corresponds to U.S. Census Tracts 7310.02, 7311.01, 7311.02, 7312.02, 7312.03, 7312.04, 7313.00, 7314.00, 7315.00,

	activities	7317.00, 7318.00, 7319.00, 7320.02, 7322.02, 7322.03, 7324.00, 7325.00, 7326.00, and, 7327.00. The total population of these tracts was 80,618 according to the most recent U.S. Census American Community Survey estimates released in 2015, of which 76,644 persons lived in 30,861 households (16,185 in family households). The remaining 3,974 persons lived in group quarters residences. The latest HUD estimates reported that 66.5% of the population of this area was determined to be of low- and moderate-income.
	Location Description	22 SPCA will be housed at the 266 Franklin Street Fire Station and 8 SPCA will be housed at the 424 Park Avenue Fire Station. The primary service areas of these two stations corresponds with the above listed census tracts.
	Planned Activities	The Worcester Fire Department will purchase 30 Scott Air Pak Breathing Apparatus (SPCA). Each SPCA consists of a breathing apparatus and a 45 minute air supply cylinder. Similar to underwater scuba equipment, it includes a harness containing an air cylinder worn on the fire fighter's back and has a high pressure line connected to the breathing apparatus with a CGA (Compressed Gas Association) standard snap connection. The SPCAs are vital to conducting interior firefighting operations by providing respiratory protection for firefighters who enter Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health (IDLH) environments. The acquisition 30 SCBAs will replace ones whose standard useful life had expired and are no longer serviceable. Twenty-two (22) Paks will housed at the 266 Franklin Street Fire Station and eight (8) at the 424 Park Avenue Fire Station.
A3	Project Name	BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF WORCESTER – RETILING OF SWIMMING POOL
	Target Area	Low-Moderate Income Census Tracts
	Five Year Consolidated Plan Goal Supported	Improvements and Preservation of Public Facilities
	Needs Addressed	Improving public facilities for public services
	Funding Allocation	CDBG: \$50,000
	Description	Public Facilities Improvements other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit
	Target Implementation Date	6/30/2019
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from proposed activities	The Boys & Girls Club of Worcester annually serves 6,000 low- and moderate-income youth ages 5-18. Their swimming facility includes a college-regulation, handicapped accessible swimming pool located in the Harrington Clubhouse, 65 Tainter Street, in Worcester's Main South neighborhood (U.S. Census Tract 7313.00). The total population of this tract was 3,684 according to the most recent U.S. Census American Community Survey estimates released in 2015, of which 3,578 persons lived in 1,412 households (680 in family households). The remaining 106 persons lived in group quarters residences. The latest HUD estimates reported that 83.7% of the population of this tract was determined to be of low- and moderate-income.
	Location Description	The Boys & Girls Club of Worcester swimming pool is located in the Harrington Clubhouse, 65 Tainter Street, in the heart of

		Worcester's Main South neighborhood (U.S. Census Tract 7313.00).
	Planned Activities	It is proposed to use reprogrammed CDBG funds to cover costs for retiling the swimming pool at the Boys & Girls Club of Worcester. As a result of heavy and continuous use since it opened in 2006, the pool is increasingly plagued by tiling that is cracked, loose, popped, and lifted and needs to be replaced. The Boys & Girls Club of Worcester annually serves 6,000 low- and moderate-income youth ages 5-18. Their swimming facility includes a college-regulation, handicapped accessible swimming pool located in the Harrington Clubhouse, 65 Tainter Street. The pool is open every day for swimming, provides formal swimming lessons, is used for certified life-guard training, and accommodates the training and competition needs of the Boys & Girls Club Swim Team. It also operates as a program site for the CDBG supported YouthConnect Summer Youth Recreation Program.
B1	Project Name	ADDRESS NEEDS OF PERSONS DISPLACED FROM DECLARED-DISASTER AREAS
	Target Area	Low and Moderate Income Census Tracts in City of Worcester
	Five Year Consolidated Plan Goal Supported	Expand Resources for Homeless Prevention Resolve Barriers to Housing Homeless Persons
	Needs Addressed	Case Management Services Coordinated Entry System Housing Search and Advocacy Rapid Re-housing Rental Assistance Housing Stabilization Funds
	Funding	ESG: \$200,000 in HUD Supplemental Funds
	Description	Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Program supports City-wide strategies to address the housing needs of homeless and at-risk households in the City of Worcester.
	Target Implementation Date	6/30/19
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from proposed activities	In compliance with federal regulations (CFR §576.400), the City of Worcester consulted with the Worcester City and County Continuum of Care (CoC) in determining how to allocate the supplemental ESG funds. As part of this consultation process, the CoC Planning group advocated for the prioritization of the funds to support those families and individuals displaced to Worcester from declared-disaster areas.
	Location Description	Contracts with existing sub-recipients will be amended to provide additional capacity to serve households from declared-disaster areas. Additional sub-recipients may be added as needed to respond most effectively to the community need.
	Planned Activities	Emergency Shelter Rapid-Rehousing Homelessness Prevention
B2	Project Name	SUPPORT EMERGENCY SHELTER OVERFLOW EFFORTS DURING THE WINTER
	Target Area	Low and Moderate Income Census Tracts
	Five Year Consolidated Plan Goal Supported	Expand Resources for Homeless Prevention Resolve Barriers to Housing Homeless Persons
	Needs Addressed	Case Management Services Coordinated Entry System

		Housing Search and Advocacy Rapid Re-housing Rental Assistance Housing Stabilization Funds
	Funding Allocation	ESG: \$62,152 in HUD Supplemental Funds
	Description	Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Program supports City-wide strategies to address the housing needs of homeless and at-risk households in the City of Worcester.
	Target Implementation Date	6/30/19
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from proposed activities	In compliance with federal regulations (CFR §576.400), the City of Worcester consulted with the Worcester City and County Continuum of Care (CoC) in determining how to allocate the supplemental ESG funds. The remaining supplemental ESG funds have been dedicated to support emergency shelter overflow efforts during the winter months, which are expected to serve 250 households throughout the coldest months of the winter.
	Location Description	Contracts with existing sub-recipients will be amended to support emergency shelter overflow efforts during the winter months. Additional sub-recipients may be added as needed to respond most effectively to the community need.
	Planned Activities	Emergency Shelter