

January 8, 2024

Dear Applicant:

You are receiving this email because you have been identified as someone who has participated in the CDBG program or who may be interested in participating. The Town of Stratford has determined that it should anticipate receiving approximately \$630,000 as its entitlement for the upcoming Community Development Year 50 Program. This figure, which is for planning purposes only, presupposes two factors: first, it anticipates that CDBG formula grants will be level-funded by Congress in Fiscal Year 2024; second, it anticipates an increase in the number of entitlement communities across the nation. This amount will necessarily change upon final funding allocation from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Citizen participation has always been an integral part of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. In an effort to maximize participation, and prior to the submission of the application for these funds, the Town must provide the residents of Stratford an adequate opportunity to comment on the needs of the community, and to present their ideas for projects and activities that might best meet those needs.

In order to receive CDBG funding, the Town must develop an Annual Action Plan. As part of this process, the Town seeks your input as to community needs, as well as the types of projects and activities it should include within its Annual Action Plan for Program Year 50 (2024) that will meet the Town's housing and priority non-housing community development needs. **Please be advised that the Community Development Subcommittee of the Economic and Community Development Commission will be holding a public hearing in Rm 213 on February 28, 2024 at 6pm.**

Please keep in mind that the program must primarily benefit low- and moderate-income (LMI) persons, since the Town must ensure that 100 percent of the grant will be used for activities meeting this criterion.

Attached, please find additional information about the community development program, eligible and ineligible activities, and a timetable for the 2024 planning process. For your convenience, this information is also available online at www.townofstratford.com/cdbg, where you may also sign up to receive future announcements and communications electronically, start the application process, and obtain additional material regarding the Town's program.

If you or your organization is interested in submitting an application for the 2024 Program Year, please visit www.townofstratford.com/cdbg. In the event that you do not have access to a computer, or you are unable to access the internet, please contact the Community Development Administrator.

The deadline for submission of proposals is Friday, February 9, 2024, by 4:00 PM. It is anticipated that a proposed Annual Action Plan will be finalized on or before March 31, 2024, so that it can be published for a 30-day comment period.

If you should have any questions on any of this material, or need any additional assistance, please feel free to call the Community Development Administrator at (203) 381-2049 or send an email to tpetrocelli@townofstratford.com.

The Town of Stratford looks forward to your participation in the 2024 Community Development Block Grant Program.

Best Regards,

Tara Petrocelli
CDBG Administrator