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33.6 Million for Community Development Block Grants

68 cities and towns receive federal funds to create jobs, spur housing, business, infrastructure and social service upgrades

MILFORD - Thursday, July 8, 2010 - Continuing his commitment to strengthening communities, creating jobs and spurring long-term economic development, Governor Deval Patrick today announced that 68 cities and towns in Massachusetts will receive \$33.6 million in federal Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) to fund infrastructure improvement projects, boost social services and increase housing and business development opportunities.

"These grants will help communities get to work on a variety of projects that will make a real difference in people's lives and our Commonwealth stronger in the long run," said Governor Patrick. "Whether they are used to spruce up homes or storefronts, better public services, or replace streets and sidewalks, these funds will generate jobs and make neighborhoods better places to live, work and conduct business."

"These grants will be a relief for communities during these tight fiscal times by allowing them to take vital neighborhood improvement projects off the drawing board and make them a reality," said Lieutenant Governor Timothy Murray.

"These investments mean jobs, housing, and stronger neighborhoods when so many people have been struggling to stay afloat. It will help put people back to work and help hundreds of low and moderate income families to keep a roof over their heads," said Senator John Kerry.

"The popularity and importance of the Community Development Block Grant program cannot be overstated. Cities and towns in Massachusetts depend on this federal assistance each year for economic development, infrastructure improvement and improved housing. As a former Mayor, I know firsthand how this program can dramatically change the quality of life for residents of a community. The \$900,000 investment in Milford is significant, and I am pleased to be here with Governor Patrick today for this announcement," said Congressman Richard E. Neal.

Governor Patrick announced today's awards in the Town of Milford which will receive a \$934,291 grant for street and sidewalk upgrades in the Prospect Heights area and to support its housing rehabilitation program.

The CDBG program is the Commonwealth's largest available resource providing municipalities with funding to support neighborhood revitalization projects, meet the housing and public service needs of low- and moderate-income populations and build and repair infrastructure vital to the health and safety of all residents.

The program is administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and funds are distributed by the state Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) to cities and towns in Massachusetts with populations of less than 50,000.

Eligible communities with populations greater than 50,000 receive program funding directly from HUD. Communities may apply for CDBG funding for activities including: housing rehabilitation projects, infrastructure repair or replacement, construction or rehabilitation of public facilities, neighborhood improvement projects, economic development loans and other business assistance programs, social service upgrades, downtown improvement projects, architectural barrier removal and planning. The maximum grant for a single community is \$800,000 or \$1 million for a single community undertaking multiple, geographically targeted activities. Regional applications are accepted.

"The continued partnership between state and local governments has sustained Milford's exemplary commitment to revitalizing and renovating affordable housing units in town. I congratulate local officials for their vision in rejuvenating Prospect Heights, and applaud their efforts in securing the vital Block Grant funds for yet another year in a successful community development initiative for the area," said Senator Richard T. Moore.

"Prospect Heights is an historic neighborhood of planned housing development in the Town of Milford from the turn of the twentieth century. It stands today as a gleaming example of the ability of several different ethnic groups to live and grow together, creating a diverse and rich neighborhood tradition. Government investment in that neighborhood assures that the traditions will live on in a new generation of residents. Anyone visiting the neighborhood today can see the dramatic improvements that the residents enjoy from the almost one million dollars invested in the neighborhood infrastructure so far in Phase I. This Phase II grant of almost another one million dollars will assure completion of the entire infrastructure improvement in the neighborhood. I am grateful to the Governor for his recognition of the importance of the work to the people of Milford," said Representative John V. Fernandes.

"This is great news for the Town of Bellingham and residents of Wrentham Manor. I am grateful for this grant funding which is the largest amount of housing rehabilitation monies the community of Bellingham has received. Wrentham Manor has substantial roofing rehabilitation needs and many families will benefit from this grant funding. These funds will also be put towards local housing rehabilitation for low to moderate income homeowners," said Representative Jennifer Callahan.

"These grants are very popular in the best of times and they are valued even more so today as cities and towns across the Commonwealth look to maximize every available resource to provide quality services and create opportunities for all residents," said DHCD Undersecretary Tina Brooks.

Community Development Block Grant Awards		
Community	Grant Amount	Activities
ADAMS	\$940,687	Storefront improvements (8 units); Housing rehabilitation (15 units); Design and engineering for Park Street infrastructure
AMHERST	\$1,000,000	Olympia Drive infrastructure improvements; Amherst Housing Authority property modernization (4 units); social services (Big Brother/Big Sister Campus to Kids, childcare tuition, childcare subsidies, Survival Center family night, Warming Place sheltering services)
ASHBY	\$802,179	Wheeler Road reclamation and repaving; Housing rehabilitation (10 units)
ATHOL, Petersham, Phillipston, Royalston	\$495,103	Housing rehabilitation (5 units); social services (financial literacy, job-related child care)
BELLINGHAM	\$800,515	Housing rehabilitation (18 units); Wrentham Manor housing authority property roof replacement
CARVER, Halifax	\$685,850	Housing rehabilitation (17 units)
CHELSEA	\$1,000,000	Neighborhood code violation enforcement; Grove Street traffic calming; Highland Terrace Park; social services (Centro Latino citizenship program, ESOL instruction, after-school/summer program)
CHESTER , Huntington, Middlefield, Russell	\$1,104,960	Housing rehabilitation (2 units); Route 20 water main replacement; senior center assessment and design; social services (Hilltown social service project, Huntington food pantry, Southern Hilltown's adult education center, Southern Hilltowns domestic violence services)
CHESTERFIELD Williamsburg, Goshen, Westhampton	\$1,161,382	Housing rehabilitation (7 units); elevator for Nash Hill senior housing; first time homebuyer counseling /assistance (6 purchases); social services (childcare subsidies, elder health; elder in-home living assistance; family counseling; food pantry)
CUMMINGTON Peru , Plainfield, Worthington	\$874,410	Housing rehabilitation (10 units); first time homebuyer counseling /assistance (6 purchases); Worthington handicapped access planning (ADA transition and self-evaluation and transition plan); social services (childcare assistance)

DENNIS, Harwich	\$799,111	Housing rehabilitation (15 units); social services (childcare subsidies)
EDGARTOWN Chilmark, Aquinnah	\$795,521	Housing rehabilitation (14 units); social services (childcare subsidies)
EVERETT	\$1,000,000	County, Evelyn, Malden, and Reynolds road and sidewalk reconstruction; social services (after school program, elder home-based services, literacy program, food pantry, legal aid)
FAIRHAVEN	\$952,117	Housing rehabilitation (5 units); Middle Street sidewalk, roadway, water, drainage
FALMOUTH	\$505,340	Housing rehabilitation (9 units); social services (housing self-sufficiency program)
GARDNER	\$1,000,000	Housing rehabilitation (5 units), Site improvements for the Chelsea Street Affordable Housing Project; Demolition of properties at the S. Bent Mill complex; energy improvements to the Gardner Athol Area Mental Health Association; Parker Street sidewalks; social services (homeownership and foreclosure counseling, computer and job skills training)
GREENFIELD	\$1,000,000	Storefront improvements (6 units); Housing rehabilitation (8 units); design for Conway/Elm/Allen Streets sidewalk replacement; social services (food pantry, substance abuse counseling, adult literacy, ESOL)
HOLLAND Brimfield, Wales	\$766,000	Housing rehabilitation (20 units); design for Hitchcock Academy community center barrier removal; social services (domestic violence prevention program)
LEICESTER	\$778,000	Housing rehabilitation (20 units); electrical and safety upgrades to Housing Authority properties (40 units); ADA transition and self-evaluation and transition plan
METHUEN	\$668,071	Housing rehabilitation (10 units); neighborhood code violation enforcement; social services (child care, senior transportation, youth services, adult literacy)
MIDDLEBOROUGH Lakeville	\$911,590	Housing rehabilitation (22 units); social services (emergency housing assistance)
MILFORD	\$934,291	Housing rehabilitation (3 units); Prospect Heights street, sidewalk and drainage
NORTH ADAMS	\$1,000,000	Skating rink rehabilitation; Armory building rehabilitation
NORTHFIELD Monroe, Montague, Sunderland	\$936,278	Housing rehabilitation (19 units)
OAK BLUFFS Tisbury	\$765,893	Housing rehabilitation (13 units); social services (childcare subsidy program)
ORANGE	\$842,166	Storefront improvements (9 units); Housing rehabilitation (4 units); social services (financial literacy/asset development program, adult basic education)
ROCKLAND	\$800,000	Housing rehabilitation (18 units); Rockland center revitalization planning
SALISBURY	\$800,000	Spring Street and Lion's Way roadway, sidewalk, water, drainage; design Lincoln Avenue reconstruction; social services (Boys and Girls club, emergency assistance program)

SHELBURNE Buckland	\$845,932	Hope Street (Shelburne) Franklin Street (Buckland) street, sidewalk, water, sewer, drainage; social services (elder self-sufficiency, food pantry)
SOUTHAMPTON, Blandford, Granville, Montgomery	\$737,000	Housing rehabilitation (20 units); housing needs assessment
SOUTHBRIDGE	\$840,071	Downtown Sidewalk Design; Downtown traffic study; Henry Street roadway and sidewalks; Housing rehabilitation (7 units); Homelessness prevention planning study; social service (youth services)
WARE	\$800,000	Park Street road, sidewalks, water, sewer, drainage; social services (family support services, domestic violence prevention)
WARE, Hardwick, Brookfield, Warren	\$588,778	Housing rehabilitation (13 units); social services (adult literacy)
WAREHAM	\$1,000,000	Downtown streetscape improvements; Housing rehabilitation (13 units); electrical upgrades to Housing Authority properties (Agawam Village and Redwood Park); rehabilitation to special needs day school; social services (senior transportation, after school program, youth tutoring, domestic violence prevention)
WARREN	\$900,000	Crescent Street roadway, sidewalk, water, drainage; Senior center expansion; social services (domestic violence)
WEBSTER	\$1,000,000	Storefront improvements (6 units); French River Park; Negus-Main Municipal Parking Lot
WELLFLEET Provincetown	\$837,228	Housing rehabilitation (17 units); social services (childcare assistance)
WEST SPRINGFIELD	\$1,000,000	Housing rehabilitation (15 units); neighborhood code violation enforcement; Merrick Street sidewalks; social services (housing counseling, family counseling, boys and girls club, English as second language, summer youth program)
WINCHENDON	\$1,000,000	Housing rehabilitation (15 units); Prospect Street water main replacement, sewer line rehabilitation, drainage installation and sidewalk and roadway reconstruction
TOTAL AWARDS	\$33,668,473	

Note: For multi-community awards listed, towns in capital letters are acting as lead agencies administering grants for communities listed in lower case/smaller font.

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