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Baker-Polito Administration Announces \$34 Million in Community Development Block Grants to 63 Communities

Federal funding distributed by the Commonwealth will enable municipalities to undertake infrastructure projects, provide services to residents, and address wide range of local needs

METHUEN – Today, Governor Charlie Baker, Secretary of Housing and Economic Development Mike Kennealy and Undersecretary for Housing and Community Development Janelle Chan joined Methuen Mayor James P. Jajuga, members of the local legislative delegation and municipal leaders from across the state to celebrate the 2019 Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) Awards. This year, the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) awarded \$34 million to support a variety of housing, community and economic development projects in 63 cities and towns across the Commonwealth.

“Community Development Block Grants help municipalities address important local needs including social service programs and infrastructure investments,” **said Governor Charlie Baker**. “The CDBG Program is an asset for communities to pursue projects with positive impacts for residents, and we are proud to work with cities and towns to leverage this federal resource.”

“As former municipal officials, Governor Baker and I understand how small-scale projects, like housing rehabilitation or ADA-compliant building enhancements, can have a major impact on a community and on the quality of life for residents,” **said Lt. Governor Karyn Polito**. “CDBG funding is an important part of that equation, and we congratulate today’s awardees as we look forward to continuing to work together to make Massachusetts a great place to live, work and raise a family.”

The 2019 CDBG awards announced today will help rehabilitate more than 230 housing units, support twelve food pantries and provide funding for 19 infrastructure improvement projects. Today’s funding will also support initiatives ranging from the provision of senior, youth, and veterans’ services to park renovations and small business technical assistance.

“Municipal governments play a crucial role in supporting the needs of residents, as they are closest to the opportunities and challenges facing communities, and are uniquely positioned to address them,” **said Secretary of Housing and Economic Development Mike Kennealy**. “As an administration, we value the expertise of municipal leaders to help guide our efforts to increase economic opportunities for residents, enhance local assets, and create resilient neighborhoods, through programs such as the Community Development Block Grant.”

“Today’s awards support programs that benefit communities today, and strengthen them for the future,” **said Undersecretary of Housing and Community Development Janelle Chan**. “Ensuring that families have access to adequate, affordable housing, food security, childcare, and reliable infrastructure is critical to keep us moving forward, together. CDBG helps communities fill funding gaps to improve the daily lives of residents, and complements programs like our Housing Choice Initiative to meet the needs of communities and set them up for long-term success.”

The [Community Development Block Grant \(CDBG\) Program](#) is a competitive grant program authorized by Congress, funded under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, and designed to help small cities and towns meet a broad range of community development needs. Assistance is provided to qualifying cities and towns for projects that assist low and moderate-income residents, or revitalize blighted areas.

CDBG funds are allocated annually to the Commonwealth through the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and administered by the MA Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD). Since 2015, the Baker-Polito Administration has awarded nearly \$144 million in Community Development Block Grants to projects in more than 180 communities.

“We are happy to have this announcement take place in the City of Methuen. These grants are vital to cities like ours. This funding will address housing and infrastructure needs to continue building our economy and improving the quality of life for the residents of Methuen,” **said Mayor James P. Jajuga**.

“Projects like the ones receiving federal funding today demonstrate what happens when we put the power to make a difference in the hands of mayors and other local leaders – the people who know our communities best,” **said Senator Elizabeth Warren**. “Last year, I worked alongside mayors from across Massachusetts and the Massachusetts congressional delegation to block proposed cuts to the Community Development Block Grant, and I’m in that fight again this year, as we finalize appropriations for Fiscal Year 2020.”

“Community Development Block Grants are essential for cities and towns looking to improve their infrastructure and housing stock, create jobs, revitalize neighborhoods, and expand economic opportunity,” **said Senator Ed Markey**. “I am proud to see CDBG funds going towards innovative projects that will help strengthen the fabric of our communities and support families across Massachusetts with means to pursue economic mobility. CDBG isn’t just a line in a budget, it’s a lifeline for the communities it supports.”

“CDBG grants are necessary for cities like Methuen and Gardner to continue to expand and grow as communities where everyone has the opportunity to pursue a safe and secure life,” **said Congresswoman Lori Trahan**. “This especially means providing for those who need help the most. I am

pleased to see these communities benefit from this federal funding. As long as I am in Congress, I will continue to fight for these vital programs.”

“These funds will greatly help in supporting efforts around neighborhood revitalization and enhancing quality of life for our youth, seniors and working families across the Cities of Amesbury and Methuen and Town of Salisbury,” **said Senator Diana DiZoglio.**

“I thank Governor Baker and Secretary Kennealy for this important Grant and for recognizing the great work of Methuen-Arlington neighborhood activists and residents,” **said Representative Linda Dean Campbell.** “Their efforts to build a strong neighborhood community focused on public safety, vibrancy, opportunities for youth, and neighborhood spirit continue to achieve great results.”

“The CDBG program is a grant program that provides communities with monies to address community development needs,” **said Representative Christina Minicucci.** “The City of Methuen submitted a competitive application and was fortunate enough to be named a recipient this year. With this money, Methuen will be able to make necessary improvements to public housing, infrastructure enhancements, and social services in the Methuen-Arlington Neighborhood and thus expand economic opportunity for the whole city.”

“I’ve been fortunate to represent Methuen alongside Representative Campbell in the legislature for 6 years now, and in that time I have seen tremendous growth in our community,” **said Representative Frank A. Moran.** “These CDBG awards will go a long way in ensuring we are on track for our housing and livability goals in Methuen, and I’m thrilled that the Methuen-Arlington neighborhood and beyond will see such a positive impact from this award.”

DHCD oversees funding and resources to help people in Massachusetts live affordably and safely. Through its community and private-sector partners, DHCD provides affordable housing options, financial assistance, and other support to Massachusetts communities.

2019 CDBG Grant Awardees:

Adams will receive \$800,000 for housing rehabilitation assistance to eight units and renovations to Russell Field.

Agawam will receive \$550,000 for a housing authority modernization project and planning for North Agawam infrastructure improvements.

Amesbury will receive \$800,000 for housing rehabilitation assistance to ten units, ADA improvements to City Hall, social services to provide homelessness assistance, and to support a food pantry.

Amherst will receive \$825,000 for East Hadley Road infrastructure improvements, housing predevelopment assistance. Funding will also provide support for a food pantry, youth mentoring, adult literacy, immigrant services, and family stabilization services.

Athol will receive \$466,441 for infrastructure improvements to Church Street and design for Walnut Street neighborhood improvements.

Bellingham will receive \$800,000 for housing rehabilitation assistance to ten units and ADA barrier removal on North Main Street.

Buckland will receive \$303,335 for infrastructure improvements to Williams Street and to support a food pantry.

Chelsea will receive \$825,000 for Sixth and Walnut Streets sidewalk improvements, housing rehabilitation assistance for two units, code enforcement, planning, first-time homebuyer assistance and social service assistance including youth services, ESOL, and citizenship training.

Chesterfield, Cummington, Goshen, Peru, Plainfield, and Worthington will receive \$1,234,954 to provide housing rehabilitation assistance to 22 units, planning for a senior center, childcare assistance, elder services and support for a food pantry.

Dennis will receive \$800,000 to provide housing rehabilitation assistance to 15 units and childcare assistance.

Dudley will receive \$274,225 in planning funds for development of an ADA Plan and for Jericho-Brandon infrastructure improvements.

Easthampton will receive \$551,958 for infrastructure improvements in the Admiral Street neighborhood.

Edgartown, Aquinnah, and West Tisbury will receive \$1,300,000 to provide housing rehabilitation assistance to 25 units and childcare assistance.

Fairhaven will receive \$577,181 for infrastructure improvements to Hedge Street

Everett will receive \$825,000 to provide elderly housing assistance, microenterprise assistance to five businesses, and social service assistance including homelessness prevention, ESOL, youth services, elder services, and a food pantry.

Gardner will receive \$825,000 for public facilities improvements including targeted demolition, housing renovation for veterans' housing, design for downtown infrastructure improvements, small business technical assistance, and social service assistance including youth services, veterans' services, small business assistance, and a food pantry.

Greenfield will receive \$825,000 for housing rehabilitation to three units, public facilities improvements, design work for future West Street infrastructure improvements, a commercial rehabilitation program and support for a food pantry and elder services.

Holland, Brimfield and Wales will receive \$565,300 for housing rehabilitation assistance to 13 units, a planning study for a senior center, support for a food pantry, and social service assistance for domestic violence prevention.

Huntington will receive \$683,752 for infrastructure improvements to Kennedy Drive.

Methuen will receive \$800,000 for housing rehabilitation assistance to four units and infrastructure improvements in the Methuen-Arlington neighborhood. Funds will also support social service assistance for youth services, childcare, elder transportation, and adult literacy programming.

Montague will receive \$612,065 for renovations to Spinner Park and for social services including family counseling, recovery counseling, a meals program, and youth services.

Monterey, Sandisfield and Egremont will receive \$1,300,000 for housing rehabilitation for 28 units.

North Adams will receive \$825,000 for Brayton Playground improvements, design work for Ashland Street, planning for street improvements, and social services.

North Brookfield will receive \$600,000 to provide housing rehabilitation assistance to 12 units and planning for improvements to West Side infrastructure.

Oak Bluffs and Tisbury will receive \$1,000,000 to provide housing rehabilitation assistance to 18 units and for childcare assistance.

Orange will receive \$550,000 to provide housing rehabilitation assistance to eight units and social service assistance for elder services, mediation services, family counseling, adult education, and a food pantry.

Palmer will receive \$825,000 to provide housing rehabilitation to five units, Fairview Street sidewalk improvements, and domestic violence prevention.

Russell, Huntington and Middlefield will receive \$1,296,830 for Pine Hill Road drainage improvements, a building re-use planning project, and for social services to support a food pantry, elder services, adult education, and domestic violence prevention.

Salisbury will receive \$800,000 for infrastructure improvements to Presidents Streets neighborhood and social services assistance to Boys and Girls Club, childcare, and homelessness.

Sheffield, New Marlborough and Otis will receive \$1,256,368 to provide housing rehabilitation assistance to 20 units and design for ADA improvements to town hall.

Shelburne will receive \$482,933 for upper Deerfield Avenue infrastructure improvements and to support a food pantry.

South Hadley will receive \$550,000 to provide housing rehabilitation assistance to 15 units and for housing authority modernization.

Southbridge will receive \$825,000 for Main Street roadway improvements, commercial rehabilitation assistance for two businesses and code enforcement.

Southwick will receive \$550,000 to provide housing rehabilitation assistance to 14 units and design for Bungalow Street infrastructure improvements.

Spencer will receive \$800,000 for infrastructure improvements to Cherry, Wall and Lloyd Streets.

Templeton will receive \$800,000 for infrastructure improvements to Orchard Lane and planning work to develop an ADA plan for the town.

Truro, Harwich, Eastham and Provincetown will receive \$1,300,000 to provide housing rehabilitation assistance to 25 units and to provide childcare assistance.

Ware and Hardwick will receive \$903,434 to provide housing rehabilitation assistance to 14 units, code enforcement, design work for New Braintree Road infrastructure improvements and social services assistance for domestic violence prevention, health services, literacy services, and senior outreach.

Warren will receive \$800,000 for infrastructure improvements to Moore Avenue and Lombard Street.

Wareham will receive \$825,000 for housing authority modernization at Redwood Park, and support for a food pantry, homelessness prevention, Boys and Girls Club, and literacy and transportation services.

Webster will receive \$825,000 for Eddy street infrastructure improvements, Riverwalk Phase 5 improvements, and planning work to develop a slum and blight inventory.

Wendell and Shutesbury will receive \$985,000 to provide housing rehabilitation assistance to 18 units.

West Springfield will receive \$825,000 for to provide housing rehabilitation assistance to three units, public facilities improvements (Alice Corson Park, Boys and Girls Club), planning work, code enforcement, FTHB program and support for family self-sufficiency, homebuyer education, ESOL, employment training, and Head Start.

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