

# PROCEDURES FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment will be taken at the end of this presentation. Due to COVID-19, this public hearing is being held as a virtual meeting.

Please call **1 (872) 240-3212**, enter Access Code **416-154-373** and Password **221339** to participate in the public comment portion of the public hearing or if you have any questions regarding the program or proposed application.



Your place to grow

SMALL CITIES COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK  
GRANT-COVID (SC CDBG-CV) GRANT PROGRAM

Public Hearing Presentation ■ August 10, 2020



# SMALL CITIES COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK-COVID (SC CDBG-CV) SPECIAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

- CARES Act provides supplemental CDBG funding for activities that enable a community to:
  - **Prepare for** COVID-19
  - **Prevent** the spread of COVID-19
  - **Respond to** the fall-out of COVID-19
- **National Objectives**  
Projects funded through this program must be an eligible activity as described above and must meet one of the following national objectives:
  - Provide benefits to low- and moderate- income persons;
  - Aid in the prevention of slums or blight; and
  - Provide funding for projects that have a particular urgency because existing conditions pose a serious and immediate threat to the health or welfare of the community

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# STATE PRIORITIES AND EXAMPLES OF ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

## Rehabilitation of Buildings & Improvements

- Temporary quarantine
- Infectious disease treatment
- Expanded capacity for patient isolation

## Planning, Capacity Building, & Technical Assistance

- CDGB training for grant sub-recipients

## Provision of new, quantifiable increased public services

- Fixed or mobile testing facility
- Equipment, supplies and materials for public services
  - Meals on wheels to quarantined/vulnerable residents

## ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES AND FUNDING

- First Round of Funding: approximately \$7.8 million
- Second Round of Funding: approximately \$11.4 million
- No maximum has been identified for individual grant applications
- In addition to federal requirements for CDBG-CV funds, proposed activities for first round of funding must meet one of the priorities identified by the State of Connecticut

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# MANSFIELD COMMUNITY NEEDS RELATED TO PREPARING FOR, PREVENTING, AND RESPONDING TO COVID-19

## ▪ **Childcare**

- Ability to work is tied directly to availability of childcare, both in terms of actual capacity at childcare facilities as well as cost.
- Even prior to the pandemic, CT ranked 5<sup>th</sup> in the nation in terms of the costliest childcare expenses
- Affordable childcare according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is no more than 7% of income.
- Based on average childcare costs in CT, families at 80% of median income pay a substantial portion of their income for childcare as shown in the table below:

Number/Age of Children & Average Monthly Childcare Cost in Connecticut	Household Size						
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
One Infant (\$1,292)	26%	23%	21%	19%	18%	17%	16%
One Four Year Old (\$1,061)	21%	19%	17%	16%	15%	14%	13%
One Infant and One Four Year Old (\$2,353)	NA	42%	37%	35%	32%	30%	28%

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# MANSFIELD COMMUNITY NEEDS RELATED TO PREPARING FOR, PREVENTING, AND RESPONDING TO COVID-19

## ▪ Food Security/Nutrition

- 9.2% of Tolland County residents are considered food insecure
- 54% of those who are food insecure are ineligible to receive SNAP and other federal nutrition assistance because they make in excess of 185% of federal poverty level.
- The table below compares 185% of the federal poverty level to the maximum income eligible for CDBG assistance (80% Median Income)

Household Size	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
185% Federal Poverty Level	\$23,606	\$31,894	\$40,182	\$48,470	\$56,758	\$65,046	\$73,334	\$81,622
80% Median Income	\$52,850	\$60,400	\$67,950	\$75,500	\$81,500	\$87,600	\$93,650	\$99,700

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# MANSFIELD COMMUNITY NEEDS RELATED TO PREPARING FOR, PREVENTING, AND RESPONDING TO COVID-19

## ■ Food Security/Nutrition

- 23% of children enrolled in Mansfield Public Schools qualify for free or reduced lunch
- From March through the end of June, Mansfield Public Schools provided meal distributions (breakfast and lunch, 5 days per week) for 90-100 families
- Mansfield Public Schools summer food distributions (breakfast/lunch 7-days per week) had a peak sign-up of 94 families, with 75-80% actually picking up food
- The Mansfield Public School meal distributions were provided to any family with a child in the schools and was not limited to families that qualified for free and reduced lunch.
- The Mansfield Public Schools summer meal distribution program is ending this week

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# MANSFIELD COMMUNITY NEEDS RELATED TO PREPARING FOR, PREVENTING, AND RESPONDING TO COVID-19

## ▪ Food Security/Nutrition

- The Mansfield Senior Center distributed 1,192 meals through the Meals on Wheels program from April to June and 511 meals from the Café to senior residents
- USDA The Emergency Food Assistance Program(TEFAP) has distributed the following:
  - July: 2,028 pounds of food/1,690 meals to 48 families
  - June: 1,346 pounds of food/1,615 meals to 48 families
  - May: 759 pounds of food/911 meals to 56 families
  - April: 2,766 pounds of food/3,319 meals to 54 families
  - March: 743 pounds of food/891 meals to 50 families
  - February: 501 pounds of food/693 meals to 52 families
  - January: 1002 pounds of food/639 meals to 49 families
- While there is a mixture of households that receive TEFAP assistance, the majority of recipients are from Mansfield
- Hartford/Tolland County Mobile Foodshare served 522 across three days in July as compared to 225 across 2 days in April.

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# MANSFIELD COMMUNITY NEEDS RELATED TO PREPARING FOR, PREVENTING, AND RESPONDING TO COVID-19

## ▪ Housing

- Median gross rent for Tolland County is \$1,183 (2018 ACS Selected Housing Characteristics)
- 45.4% of Tolland County residents are housing cost burdened-they spend more than 30% of their income on housing costs.
- Since March, the Department of Human Services has referred 8 residents to other agencies for rent/mortgage assistance; zero residents were referred for assistance in January and February, prior to the pandemic.

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# PROPOSED SC CDBG-CV GRANT APPLICATION

## New Public Services

Staff proposes the addition of new public service activities to help Mansfield's low and moderate-income residents respond to the fall-out from the COVID-19 virus. Residents will be required to document that they meet the following income limits **and** that they have been financially impacted by the COVID-19 virus.

### Maximum Income By Household Size

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
\$52,850	\$60,400	\$67,950	\$75,500	\$81,500	\$87,600	\$93,650	\$99,700

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# SMALL CITIES FUNDING REQUEST

**\$500,000**

# TOWN CONTRIBUTION

## (In-Kind)

- **Staff Time**
- **General Office Supplies**
- **Utility Costs**





# PROPOSED SC CDBG-CV GRANT APPLICATION: COVID-19 ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR RESIDENTS

- **Childcare Assistance**

- Up to three months of assistance with childcare expenses
- Town would cover the gap between the actual childcare cost and 7% of household income, which is the standard at which childcare is considered affordable by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
- Final program rules may include maximum dollar amount of assistance per household
- Payment will be made directly to childcare provider

- **Rental Assistance**

- Up to three months of assistance with rent expenses
- Program rules including cap on assistance per household and Town share of rent to be provided by the CT Department of Housing
- Payment will be made directly to landlord

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# PROPOSED SC CDBG-CV GRANT APPLICATION: COVID-19 ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR RESIDENTS

- **Food Security/Nutrition Assistance: Maple Road Drive-Up Cafe**
  - The Maple Road Café at the Senior Center has been closed since the start of the pandemic. When open, the café provides low-cost meals to seniors, including coffee and assorted snacks daily from 9 am to 2 pm and lunch on Wednesdays and Thursdays.
  - To assist residents impacted by the COVID-19 virus, the Department of Human Services is proposing to **expand food and meal programs to all low and moderate-income residents** that have been impacted by the COVID-19 virus.
  - To prevent spread of the COVID-19 virus, program participants will be provided with prepared meals and basic grocery items through contactless pickup at the Senior Center.
  - To promote access to local food, staff will explore the potential for including procurement from local farms in the event the Farm Viability Grant for the Mansfield Farms-to-Families initiative is not received.

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# PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

## ▪ Staffing

- Town staff is currently administering the Small Cities CDBG Housing Rehabilitation Program and is awaiting word on whether a CDBG grant will be awarded for the application submitted in May 2020 for Fire Protection Equipment.
- If needed to ensure timely program delivery, the Town may either expand use of our current CDBG consultant (Town of Killingly) or retain temporary staff that have experience in administering CDBG programs. Funding for consultant or temporary staff services to assist in program delivery would be included in the grant budget.

## ▪ Timeframe

- Grant applications are due to CTDOH on August 21, 2020
- No timeframe has been provided for notice of approval; however, any expenses incurred once the Environmental Reviews for the activities have been completed may be reimbursed upon grant award.

## ▪ Displacement

- No residential displacement is anticipated as a result of this application for public service activities

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## PUBLIC COMMENT/Q&A

- If you are interested in providing comment or have questions on Mansfield's needs in preparing for, preventing or responding to the fall-out from the COVID-19 virus, please call **1 (872) 240-3212**, enter Access Code **416-154-373** and Password **221339**.