

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
PUBLIC HEARING
February 14, 2022
City of Bristol
2022-2023 Community Development Block Grant Program
5:00 P.M. BRISTOL CITY HALL
COUNCIL CHAMBERS

ATTENDEES: Howard Schmelder, Tom Hick – ECD Commissioners

STAFF: Mayor Jeffrey Caggiano
Dawn Leger, Grants Administrator
Justin Malley, Executive Director-ECD
Christine Cooper, Administrative Assistant

The Hearing was called to order by ECD Policy Committee Chairperson Howard Schmelder at 5:00 p.m.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Opening Remarks were read by Commissioner Schmelder:

Welcome to the first Public Hearing for the use of Community Development Block Grant funds for Program Year 48, which runs from July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2020.

ECD board members and staff were introduced.

Each year, as part of the required public process in the annual CDBG application to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the City of Bristol, through the Department of Economic and Community Development, holds a public hearing for the purpose of receiving recommendations on community needs in Bristol. No votes are taken at the Public Hearing. There is also an ECD Policy Committee meeting, a 30-day public comment period, and a second Public Hearing on March 14. Other opportunities for comment are at the ECD Board and City Council meetings.

In response to our request for proposals, this year the ECD received requests for 15 grants: There are 10 applications totaling \$220,150 for Public Services and 5 applications for Public Facilities (capital projects) that add up to \$230,445. This includes a request from the City's Department of Public Works for \$90,000 to improve sidewalks in the Opportunity Zone. Unfortunately, these requests add up to more than double what is available if the City receives approximately the same allocation as we did last year. HUD has not announced the CDBG allocations for Year 48 at this time.

Tonight's agenda is as follows. We will hear:

1. General comments from the public,
2. Presentations by applicant organizations according to the order in which they were received. By your presence here tonight, you are expressing appreciation for past support and future consideration. The Board has read the proposals submitted, therefore, we are requesting the applicants give a brief presentation only if there is information you wish to present in addition to what was contained in your application.
3. Is there anyone here from the public who would like to address this committee? There was no public comments.
4. We will now hear from the applicants. Please state your name for the record, the agency you represent, and the address of the organization,

Presentations by applicant organizations

- #2. City of Bristol, Public Works Department – Jason Morrocco, Project Manager

Mr. Morrocco spoke about the sidewalks on Gridley & Jacob St. which are deteriorated. They need to be made more walkable and ADA compliant.

- #3. Bristol Boys & Girls Club – Outreach – D’Andre Esposito, Director of Community Partnerships

Mr. Esposito had nothing to add, provided yearly impact report.

- #10. Bristol Boys & Girls Club – HVAC – Jon Rulkowski, Marketing and Grants Coordinator

They have put in the request for the full scope of the project. Any assistance would be appreciated.

- #15. Imagine Nation – Doreen Stickney

They have applied for a security enhancement project. Sarah Castle provided statistics and additional information.

- #4. Family Resource Centers – Sandra Godin (online)

They have 3 locations. She summarized their statistics and answered questions.

- #5. St. Vincent DePaul Mission – Christine Thebarger (online)

They are applying for operation of the emergency shelter program. They also have rooms for people who have tested positive for COVID. She answered questions. They are seeing more people lately as people are being evicted. They have an outreach person for Bristol.

- #6. United Way Summer Youth Employment – Donna Osuch, 440 North Main St.

Their application is for summer work experience which combines paid work with a curriculum. They are hoping to serve 25 this summer. 100% Bristol residents are served in this program.

- #1. Shepard Meadows Equestrian Center – Shelly Pope, Executive Director, 733 Hill St.

Ms. Pope provided their recent newsletter and summarized their services. Mark Davison, 65 Brookside Place, a Marine Corp. Vet, spoke about his experience using their services through the Vet program.

- #7. Salvation Army – Capt. Shareena Echavarria, 19 Stearns St. (online)

They have applied for comprehensive emergency assistance. She summarized the services and provided statistics. They serve 100% Bristol residents.

- #8. HRA – Case Management – Marlo Greponne (online)

This application is to continue case management operating at 55 South Street and remotely. She provided statistics. 100% Bristol residents.

- #9. New England Carousel Museum & Museum of Fire History – Morgan Urgo, Executive Director (online)
The application is for handicapped railings. They are also applying for several other grants to make the museum free to Bristol residents. She provided statistics and answered questions on the project. There will be a metal insert with PVC coating.
- #11. Bristol Historical Society – Maya Bringe, 98 Summer St.
Since applying for this grant they have experienced additional theft at the society. They also do some outreach for children.
- #12. Veterans Strong Community Center – Donna Dognin (online)
Application is for a grant writer to assist in their long-range goals. She clarified an entry on her application. 42% of the clients come from Bristol. On a day to day basis, 69% come from Bristol. They generally see 200-275 vets per year. Clients come only when seeking needed services.
- #13. Prudence Crandall – Shelter Services – Barbara Damon, 594 Burritt St., New Britain (online)
13% of the residents are from Bristol. This past year 21% were from Bristol. They have had to expand this year to provide more space and are using hotel rooms resulting in about \$15,000 per month additional cost. The increase in demand has continued.
- #14. YWCA New Britain – SACS – Amanda Carrington, Assistant Director. (online)
She summarized services and training programs. 100% of funding requested is for Bristol residents and 150 students.

No other comments were forthcoming from the Public.
The Public Hearing was closed at 5:48p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Cooper, Recording Secretary