

Economic & Community Development Department

CDBG Second Public Hearing

2024-2025 – Program Year 50

Wednesday, May 29, 2024 at 5:00PM

City Hall, 111 N. Main Street, Council Chambers, Bristol, CT

CDBG Grant Committee Members present:

Howard Schmelder, Chair

Commissioner Tom Hick

Dr. Dawn Leger, Grants Administrator

Justin Malley, ECD Executive Director

Mayor Jeff Caggiano, City of Bristol

Sharon Arsego, Recording Secretary

Welcome to the second Public Hearing for the CDBG Annual Action Plan for Program Year 50 beginning July 1, 2024. I am Howard Schmelder, the Chair of this Committee. *(Introduction of all CDBG Grant Committee Members and ECD Staff).*

This Public Hearing is being held as part of the required public process in the CDBG consolidated and annual planning for funding allocations from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The CDBG Policy Committee, an offshoot of the Economic and Community Development Board, holds public hearings for the purpose of announcing and discussing the ECD's recommendation of programs and funding to the ECD Board, the Bristol City Council, and finally to HUD.

The Policy Committee's recommendations reflect the difficult decisions that we had to make because of reduced HUD funding for Year 50. The Policy Committee did not award any funds for Public Facilities capital projects. Instead, the majority of funds will be dedicated to our top priority, which is to support access to decent, safe, and affordable housing through the Residential Rehabilitation program.

A Public Comment Period begins today and continues until July 1, 2024. The ECD will forward all comments to HUD. It is important that you **clearly identify** yourself prior to speaking. You may also email your comments to dawnleger@bristolct.gov.

If anyone wishes to make a comment at this time, please state your name, the agency you represent, and the address for the record.

Grant Applicants Present:

Christine Theborge, Executive Director of the St. Vincent DePaul Mission, spoke about the importance of unrestricted operating support for her agency. "As important as the capital funding and targeted project support we receive, we still have to keep the lights on and the doors open, and your support enables us to do that." She also commented on the increasing

demand for shelter services, especially from an elderly clientele who are being priced out of the housing market in Connecticut.

Barbara Damon, Executive Director of the Prudence Crandall Center for Women, noted that record numbers have been coming to them for help since the pandemic, and they have seen a steady increase of 145% in the past 4 years. Noting that they are in the same boat as St. Vincent De Paul, Ms. Damon thanked the Committee for its years of support.

The final speaker was Jett Moxley from YWCA of New Britain, who pointed out that they work collaboratively with both St. Vincent De Paul and Prudence Crandall to serve local women in crisis. Aside from the crisis line and educational outreach, the Sexual Assault Crisis Service at the YWCA runs the only sexual assault counseling group in the state.

There were no further comments or discussions. Committee Chair, Howard Schmelder, closed the Public Hearing at 5:13PM