

Economic & Community Development Department

CDBG First Public
Hearing

2025-2026 – Program Year 51

Monday, February 10, 2025 at 5:00PM

City Hall, 111 N. Main Street, Room 3-1, Bristol, CT

CDBG Grant Committee Members & ECD Staff present:

Howard Schmelder, Chair

Commissioner Tom Hick

Dr. Dawn Leger, Grants Administrator

Justin Malley, ECD Executive Director

Mayor Jeff Caggiano, City of Bristol

LaQuita Kearney-Gonzales, ECD Board Member

Sharon Arsego, Recording Secretary

Welcome to the first public hearing for the use of Community Development Block Grant funds for Program Year 51, which runs from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026.

(Introduction of the CDBG Grant Committee Members and ECD Staff).

Each year, as part of the required public process in the annual CDBG application to HUD, the City of Bristol, through the Economic and Community Development Department 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 second public hearing on March 10, and a 30-day public comment period. 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 **11** applications totaling **\$274,589** for Public Services and **4** applications for Public Facilities (capital projects) that add up to **\$804,226**. This includes a request from the City's Department of Public Works for **\$89,139** to improve sidewalks on View Street. Unfortunately, these requests total 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 51 at this time.

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

1. General comments from the public.
2. Presentations will be made by applicant organizations in 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, and therefore, we are requesting the applicants give a **brief** presentation of **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?**
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. **SPEAK DIRECTLY INTO THE**

MICROPHONE.

Grant Applicants present

1	Pearl Transit Joel Watts, Operations Manager (Zoom)
2	Shepard Meadows Therapeutic Riding Shelly Pope, Executive Director Emily Escher, Program Director
4	BristolWORKS! Kim Ward Holley, Director
5	St. Vincent DePaul Mission Christine Thebarger, Executive Director
6	Bristol Public Works Bill Stango, Civil Engineer – City of Bristol
7	Grace Community Pantry Donna Baron, Executive Director
8	Prudence Crandall Center Barbara Damon, President & CEO (Zoom)
9	Imagination–Bristol Boys & Girls Club Michelle Fanguillo, Director
10	Bristol Boys & Girls Club John Rulkowski, Director of Resource Development
11	YWCA New Britain–SACS Alyssa D’Amato, Program Director
12	New Horizon Living Centers Terren Emery, Clinical Director
13	Bristol Housing Authority Luis Velasquez, Director of Capital Funds
14	Veterans Strong Amy Wernicki, Finance & Fundraising Director

Committee Chair, Howard Schmelder, closed the Public Hearing at 6:07PM