

January 10, 2020

Dear Applicant:

The Town of Stratford has determined that it should anticipate receiving approximately \$578,759 as its entitlement for the upcoming Community Development Year 46 Program. This figure, which is for planning purposes only, presupposes two factors: first, it anticipates that CDBG formula grants will be level-funded by Congress at \$3.3 billion in Fiscal Year 2020; second, it anticipates an increase in the number of entitlement communities across the nation. This amount will necessarily change upon final funding allocation from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Citizen participation has always been an integral part of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. In an effort to maximize participation, and prior to the submission of the application for these funds, the Town must provide the residents of Stratford an adequate opportunity to comment on the needs of the community, and to present their ideas for projects and activities that might best meet those needs.

In accordance with HUD's consolidated submission requirements, the Town this year must prepare its five-year Consolidated Housing and Community Development Strategy and Plan for Fiscal Years 2020-2024 (the "Con Plan"). This new planning document will provide a framework for the use and expenditure of CDBG funds during this period in accordance with the objectives of the program, including: providing decent housing, a suitable living environment, and expanded economic opportunities principally for persons of low- and moderate-income. As part of the process for planning and preparing the Con Plan, the Town would like to solicit your input about the needs of the community; and, as such, will be conducting outreach in the community and holding meetings in an attempt to identify priorities, goals, and objectives for the next five years. Additionally, a *Residents Survey* has been developed to solicit community input on the greatest housing and community development needs in Stratford. The survey is available online at [www.townofstratford.com/cdbg](http://www.townofstratford.com/cdbg), and at Town Hall and various other locations.

In furtherance of the Con Plan's goals and objectives, and in order to receive CDBG funding, the Town must develop an Action Plan of specific projects for each year of the Con Plan. As part of this process, the Town seeks your input as to the types of projects and activities it should include within its Annual Action Plan for Program Year 46 (2020-21) that will meet the Town's housing and priority non-housing community development needs identified in the Con Plan.

Please keep in mind that any proposed project/activity must primarily benefit low- and moderate-income persons, since the Town must fund not less than 70 percent of the grant for activities meeting this criterion.



Enclosed, please find additional information about the community development program, eligible and ineligible activities, and a timetable for the 2020 planning process. For your convenience, this information is also available online at [www.townofstratford.com/cdbg](http://www.townofstratford.com/cdbg), where you may also sign up to receive future announcements and communications electronically, start the application process, and obtain additional material regarding the Town's program.

**If you or your organization is interested in submitting an application for the 2020 Program Year, please visit [www.townofstratford.com/cdbg](http://www.townofstratford.com/cdbg). In the event that you do not have access to a computer, or you are unable to access the internet, please contact the Community Development Administrator.**

**The deadline for submission of proposals is Friday, March 6, 2020, by 4:30 PM.** The Community Development Subcommittee of the Economic and Community Development Commission will hold a public hearing on community needs and proposed projects tentatively scheduled for Thursday, February 13, 2020, at 5:30 p.m. in the Town Council Chambers. It is anticipated that a proposed Annual Action Plan will be finalized by March 2020, so that it can be published for a 30-day comment period.

If you should have any questions on any of this material, or need any additional assistance, please feel free to call the Community Development Administrator at (203) 385-4001 or send an email to [cbandecchi@townofstratford.com](mailto:cbandecchi@townofstratford.com).

The Town of Stratford looks forward to your participation in the 2020 Community Development Block Grant Program.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "C. Bandecchi", is positioned below the "Best Regards," text.

Christopher D. Bandecchi  
Community Development Administrator

Enclosures (1)