

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Chair Witonis & Commissioners Cloutier, Coward, Gorden & Jamieson  
FROM: Aaron Shapiro, Community Development Director  
DATE: May 8, 2017  
RE: 11th Year Community Development Program

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Two public hearings are held each year concerning the allocation and distribution of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds. The 1<sup>st</sup> hearing was conducted at your April 11<sup>th</sup> meeting with the 2<sup>nd</sup> held on May 8<sup>th</sup>. Our “Annual Action Plan” describes the allocation of funds for projects and activities in Cumberland County.

The plan will be submitted to HUD on May 12<sup>th</sup> or as soon as we know our final CDBG funding allocation.

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The purpose of this memo, in advance of the May 8th Commissioner’s Meeting is two-fold:

- 1. Identify CDBG grant funds for 2017
- 2. Review the application process for selecting CDBG projects

**Available Grant Funds for 2017**

CDBG Allocation: ***The 2017 CDBG allocation from HUD has not yet been determined.*** We’ve been told to plan for “level funding”. The total Cumberland County Community Development HUD/CDBG allocation for 2016 was \$1,388,065.

For the Cumberland County “non set-aside communities”, an additional \$57,295 is available to re-program from activities that utilized less funds then originally granted.

The total allocation is divided into four components:

- 1. Total Administrative Costs: **\$211,000**  

County Administration	\$130,000
South Portland Administration	\$ 50,000
Bridgton Administration	\$ 31,000
- 2. County Community & Regional Grants: \$660,617 (2017 allocation); \$57,295 (re-programmed prior year funds): Total = **\$717,912**
- 3. Town of Bridgton Activities: **\$154,400**
- 4. City of South Portland Activities: **\$362,033**

## **“Cumberland County CDBG”: Projects, Programs & Activity Funding**

*“Cumberland County” are the group of 23 communities that compete for funds. It does not include the set-aside communities of South Portland and Bridgton.*

<b>CDBG funds awarded:</b>	<b>\$700,988</b>
2017 Program Funds	\$660,617
Re-allocated Funds	\$ 57,295
Not Yet Awarded	\$ 16,924

### **Regional vs. community projects:**

Regional projects:	\$ 233,000
Community projects:	\$ 467,988

### **Funding by project type:**

Public Service	\$ 111,010
Public Facilities	\$ 366,028
Housing Rehabilitation	\$ 211,950
Planning	\$ 12,000

**County Administration**                      **\$ 130,000**

## **Project & Funding Recommendations**

### **Public Service**

The Opportunity Alliance (TOA) – Homelessness Prevention                      \$ 50,000  
Case management and one-time financial assistance supporting clients at-risk of homelessness or are experiencing homelessness.

Scarborough – Substance Abuse Treatment                      \$ 33,000  
Funds will provide for medically enhanced substance abuse treatment in a program sponsored by the Scarborough Police Department. Community based program that will serve the region.

Standish (Lead) – Domestic Violence Prevention, Rural Outreach                      \$ 28,010  
Family Crisis Services provides domestic violence prevention outreach efforts in five rural communities: Windham, Standish, Casco, Raymond and Naples. Services include assistance filing protective orders, safety planning, court and individual advocacy, support groups, public awareness events, and referrals to service providers.

### **Housing**

Harpswell – Senior Housing Rehabilitation                      \$61,950  
In conjunction with Habitat-For-Humanity funds will purchase materials needed to perform weatherization and minor home repairs for seniors. Work will be completed by Habitat volunteers.

The Opportunity Alliance (TOA) – Housing Rehabilitation                      \$150,000  
Assistance for low-income households to repair or replace malfunctioning heating systems and other home repair needs.

## **Public Facilities**

Casco – Park & Recreation Facility Development \$54,200  
Development of Casco Memorial Park & Recreation Facility including associated concessions & bath room septic system.

Freeport – Wardtown Park Water System Improvements  
& Community Building Development \$44,000  
Wardtown Park is a manufactured housing park off Rt. #125 in North Freeport. The project contains two elements: Installation of new water system tanks and the relocation, foundation and utility hook-ups to place a retired “portable” classroom on-site to serve as a community center.

Harpswell – Fire Station Renovations \$61,828  
Conversion of the second floor of the Orr’s & Bailey Islands Fire Station into living space for overnight fire and rescue personnel.

Long Island – Wharf Expansion \$ 70,000  
Expansion of Mariner’s Wharf to better accommodate fuel barges, utility company vessels, Town rescue (ambulance) boat and water taxis. Project includes wave suppression system to improve safe transfer to the rescue boat.

Long Island – Medical Clinic Improvements \$30,000  
Development of a “telehealth” clinic and handicap accessible bathing facility in the lower level of the Long Island Learning Center.

Standish – Steep Falls Library Handicap Access \$106,000  
Construction of a handicap access ramp in the front of the historic Steep Falls Library.

## **Planning**

Windham – Building Re-use Study \$12,000  
Analysis of potential re-use of the South Windham Fire Station and the former Andrews School.

## **Bridgton & South Portland Programs**

The program and activities conducted in the two set-aside communities of Bridgton and South Portland are integral components of the Cumberland County Community Development program. While not participants in the County application competition, their projects, activities, funds, planning, administration and regulatory compliance are integrated with the County’s program.

**Town of Bridgton:**

<b>2017 Set-Aside Allocation</b>	<b>\$185,415</b>
<u>Program Administration</u>	<b>\$ 31,815</b>
<u>Public Facilities</u>	<b>\$129,000</b>
Lower Main Street Re-construction	\$ 45,000
Community Center Roof	\$ 65,000
Intersection Reconstruction – Construction Plans	\$ 19,000
<u>Public Services</u>	<b>\$ 24,600</b>
Family Crisis Service	\$ 4,000
Food Pantry	\$ 7,500
Community Kettle Dinners Program	\$ 2,000
Community Center Navigator Program	\$ 6,100
School Backpack Food Program	\$ 5,000

**City of South Portland:**

<b>2017 Set-Aside Allocation</b>	<b>\$412,033</b>
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The City of South Portland continues to operate their CDBG program much as they did prior to relinquishing HUD Entitlement status in 2007. Coordination between South Portland and the County, particularly on administrative matters occurs on a regular and on-going basis. Maeve Pistrang serves as the Community Development Coordinator in both Cumberland County and South Portland. South Portland finalized its selection of CDBG funded programs, projects and activities at their City Council meeting on April 3, 2017.

<u>Housing</u>	\$ 15,000
Emergency Housing Rehabilitation program	
<u>Public Facilities/Infrastructure</u>	\$270,228
West End Infrastructure	
<u>Public Services</u>	\$ 61,805
Funds will be provided to 7 programs: Family Crisis Services; Bus Passes; Emergency Heating Assistance; Recreation Scholarships; Redbank Resource Hub Personnel; Meals-on-Wheels; South Portland Food Cupboard.	
<u>Program Administration</u>	\$ 50,000

The funds pay salaries, benefits and basic office supplies, phone and technology required for the activities of South Portland's Community Development Office.

Planning

West End Outdoor Recreation Needs Assessment \$15,000

**HOME Program Consortium**

All the communities of Cumberland County including Portland, Brunswick and the 25 members of our Community Development program have formed the City of Portland/Cumberland County HOME Consortium. Portland serves as the lead entity for the Consortium. All administrative and program delivery services are conducted by the City

The non-Portland members of the Consortium anticipate an allocation of funds of \$322,233 + \$9,464 (repaid loan funds). ***The same uncertainty surrounding CDBG effects HOME funds.*** Unlike CDBG, HOME funds can only be used for four housing activities, housing rehabilitation, home ownership assistance, tenant based rental assistance and new construction of rental or ownership housing.

In prior years a significant portion of the HOME allocation has been devoted to housing rehabilitation – (70% (\$225,000) in 2016). There remains a large balance in the rehabilitation account.

The MOC reviewed a request from the Westbrook Development Corporation (Westbrook Housing Authority) to fill a funding gap at two projects. 1) The rehabilitation of 83 units of senior and handicap units at Riverview Terrace and, 2) The construction of 38 units of senior housing at Larrabee Commons. These projects are in a “make or break” situation with a critical need to fill the funding gap – or potentially lose millions of development funds.

**Proposed Budget:**

Reprogrammed prior-year housing rehab funds	\$241,062
New 2017 funds	<u>218,938</u>
<b>Rehab &amp; New Construction – Westbrook</b>	<b>\$460,000</b>
<b>Housing Rehabilitation</b>	<b>\$103,295</b>