Small Cities CDBG Workshop January 28, 2020
Application Workshop
Parking Lots

Parking Lot #1

1. If a community has not yet retained a consultant, is there a resource for finding small cities-trainee consultants?
   a. We will place a list of Certified Grant Administrators (CGA) Consultants online. Small Cities CDBG section.

2. Is a firehouse or any part of a firehouse something that would be considered for funding?
   a. Simple answer is yes, but a discussion would need to be had with DOH. It depends on the circumstances.

3. If we apply for $1,000,000.00 for streets and sidewalks. Will you approve partial or is it all or nothing?
   a. DOH will review the application and award appropriately based on need. It can be a full or a partial approval.

4. Are drawings required for housing rehab at 90%?
   a. Yes, depending on your project, such as Public Housing Modernization, 90% drawings may be required. However, if your project is deemed predevelopment, drawings may not be required.

5. For a public services diversion project, do towns have to procure the administrator every year?
   a. No. Follow procurement procedure noted in the Grants Management Manual of up to 4 years.

6. If sub-recipient makes a payment, does DOH reimburse the town or sub-recipient?
   a. DOH contracts with the municipalities, therefore, we reimburse the town per our contract.

7. Please provide clarification of how to manages reimburse funds from DOH to municipal grantees.
   a. As the state is focused on reimbursing expenditures, the municipality needs to plan accordingly. DOH will reimburse properly documented work completed.

Parking Lot #2

1. Based on the annual plan (Consolidated Plan) what are the priorities in 2020, for example, does it make sense to apply for anything but housing?
   a. Small Cities CDBG list priorities include:
      - Up to $1,500,000 for Public Housing Modernization (including predevelopment and construction)
      - Up to $800,000 for a Housing Rehabilitation Program
      - Up to $1,000,000 for Infrastructure (e.g., streets and sidewalks)
      - Up to $350,000 for Public Services (Youth Homelessness and Shelter Diversion programs in participation with CAN)
      - Up to $1,000,000 for Public Facilities (e.g., construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation or installation of public facilities and improvements and fire protection equipment)
   b. Talk to DOH about your other needs. Projects are based on a case-by-case basis.

2. Why did Miguel mention an environmental review process for new construction, when the Small Cities program is not allowing funds for new construction this year?
   a. For the purposes of this application, applicants must submit exempt, CENST, or broad level tier 1 review. A project may have a portion that is new construction.

3. Would a sewer line extension be considered for this funding?
   a. Potentially, if it meets National Objectives. While the activity appears to be eligible, it must meet National Objectives. Link to National Objectives

4. Public Housing Authority (PHA) Davis Bacon Exemption – If work is done by PHA staff or town staff, which is the exempt and which is required?
   a. Conservatively speaking, there is no exception. If a project has more than 8 units or over $2,001 it would fall under Davis Bacon.
   b. If the staff is used for administrative purposes only, than they may be exempt from Davis Bacon. If the staff is used for construction, they are not exempt from Davis Bacon.

5. For homeless –diversion/applications can it be a multi-jurisdictional?
   a. Yes and it is a requirement to be multi-jurisdictional. Coordinated Access Network (CAN) should be incorporated.

6. Is there a scoring criteria sheet used by grant reviewers?
   a. Yes. It will be available online for your convenience.

7. Does a town lose points if they are not CDBG certified in administration upon submission of the application?
   a. For the 2020 year, as we transition into this new requirement, no deduction will be taken if the training is done in May 2020.

8. Does the handbook include a hard copy of the application?
   a. The handbook and the application are available online. It is a printable document.

9. Does someone in the town need to be certified, or just the grant administration?
   a. A Certified Grant Administrator is a threshold item. To apply for a Small Cities Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), the city or town (municipality) must comply with the following:
      i. Identify at least one Certified Grant Administrator (CGA) on staff that will work directly with the grant. The municipality staff member can include, but is not limited to, the Mayor, Town Manager, First Selectman, Director of Finance, Grant Coordinator, Human Services Director etc.
   b. If the municipality chooses to procure a Consultant, they must be a Certified Grant Administrator who is currently in Good Standing.

10. Are there any incentives to upgrade electric heat with new electric heat?
    a. We are trying to look for energy efficiencies. There should be a cost savings. Please refer to the PowerPoint presentation from Eversource and Green Bank in the Small Cities CDBG section. www.ct.gov/doh

11. The application will not be available until March? What is available now?
    a. We will be releasing the web based application in March. DOH will post fillable pdf application by February 14th.

12. Can program income be used as the funds to apply for In Our Backyards funds? www.IOBY.org
    a. Yes.

13. Has there been any change in how the dollar amounts are determined?
    a. No.

14. Capital for Change – Is it only for private, real estate owners and not for public?
    a. No. Loans are available to income eligible residents of Connecticut requiring emergency replacement of boilers and emergency roof replacements. The income eligibility requirement is 110% AMI. ECL Income Limits

15. Are the phase ones still required? There was no mention in this presentation?
    a. Depending on the project and level of determination, Phase 1 ESA are still required.

****