

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
**PUBLIC HEARING**  
February 12, 2020  
**City of Bristol**  
**2020-2021 Community Development Block Grant Program**  
5:00 P.M. BRISTOL CITY HALL  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS

**ATTENDEES:** Howard Schmelder, Tom Hick

**STAFF:** Dawn Leger, Grants Administrator  
Justin Malley, Executive Director-BDA  
Christine Cooper, Administrative Assistant

The Hearing was called to order by ECD Policy Committee Chairperson Howard Schmelder at 5:05 p.m.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Opening Remarks were read by Commissioner Schmelder:

Welcome to the first Public Hearing for the use of Community Development Block Grant funds for Program Year 46, which runs from July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.

ECD board members and staff were introduced.

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 (formerly known as the BDA), holds a public hearing for the purpose of receiving recommendations on needs in Bristol. No votes are taken at the Public Hearing. There is also an ECD Policy Committee meeting, a 30-day public comment period, and a second Public Hearing in March. Other opportunities for comment are at the ECD Board and City Council meetings. There will be a Public Hearing to listen to comments regarding the 5-year consolidated plan for CDBG next week, on Wednesday, Feb. 19, here in Council Chambers at 5:00 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend and comment on what the City's needs and goals should be for the 2021-2025 period.

In response to our request for proposals, the ECD received requests for 20 grants: There are 12 applications totaling \$282,582 for Public Services and 8 applications for Public Facilities (capital projects) that add up to \$279,601. This includes a request for \$70,000 to improve sidewalks in the Opportunity Zone. Unfortunately, these requests add up to more than double what is available if the City receives the approximately same allocation as we did in 2019. ECD staff requests at least \$250,000 for the Housing Rehabilitation Program, and \$130,000 for planning and administration costs, for a grand total of \$942,183.

This number will need to be reduced to around \$97,500 in Public Service grants and \$172,500 in Public Facilities grants if our anticipated allocation is \$650,000. HUD has not announced the CDBG allocations for Year 46 at this time.

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

1. General comments from the public,
2. Presentations by applicant organizations according to 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, therefore, we are requesting the applicants give a brief presentation only if there is additional information to present. Please give your name, the agency you represent and the address.

3. Any further comments regarding needs in the community and/or programs and projects requesting funding. If possible, save these comments for February 19.

#### Presentations by applicant organizations

1. Shepard Meadows Therapeutic Riding Center – Scholarships: Shelly Pope, Executive Director. Ms. Pope spoke about the program and advised that 100% of these scholarships are for Bristol residents.
2. Prudence Crandall Center – Emergency Shelter: Barbara Damon, Executive Director. Ms. Damon thanked for past support which is vital. They have a 22 bed shelter and currently are housing 30 individuals, some in hotels.
3. City of Bristol – Infrastructure improvements (sidewalks): Ray Rogozinski, Director of Public Works. The request submitted was consistent with prior years. He described their plans for this Spring. They are targeting areas for pedestrian access in response to the Persons with Disabilities Commission.
4. McCabe-Waters Little League – replace dugouts: Dan Casey, Volunteer Grant Writer. Mr. Casey showed before and after pictures of the previous project (drainage). This year they want to replace the dugouts as they are about 40 years old. They have about 170 players and spectators.
5. Komanetsky Estates (Bristol Housing Authority) – housing updates: Carl Johnson, Director of Capital Improvements, and Laura Lamar. They are planning to repair leaks in the units and have sent photos.
6. Bridge Community Church – roof replacement: Todd Williams, Pastor. They have leaks in the community areas where many different groups meet.
7. Bristol Family Resource Center – child assessments: Linda Rich, Director. Their program is located in Title 1 schools where there is a high need. She spoke about the FAST program (Family Assessment Support Team). She described this new program which provides home visits for children at risk. They provide support and resource referrals.
8. HRA of New Britain – Cast Management and Housing Stabilization: No one was available to speak.
9. Agape House – homeless aid: Christine Theborge, 43 School St. Ms. Theborge described the services that they provide. They serve around 65 clients per day. 95% of the clients are Bristol residents. Additional funds are needed for their van. She described what they do.
10. Disabled American Veterans – accessibility: Bill Bilodeau, Treasurer. Mr. Bilodeau distributed photos. About 85% of their clients are Bristol residents. There are various upgrades being done.
11. Salvation Army Bristol Corps – operational funds: No one was available to speak.
12. St. Vincent DePaul – Homeless Shelter: Deacon Stan Piotroski, Chairman of the Board. They are looking for continued funding and additional funding to bring on board an outreach person for 20 hours a week to locate those sleeping outside and bring them into the shelter and provide what they need. He provided statistics. 45% of the clients they serve are from Bristol and the rest are from the surrounding towns which have no provisions for homelessness.
13. United Way – Walsh Summer Work Experience: Nancy Micloskey, Community Impact Coordinator. This program operates in the summer and all 30 students are from Bristol. She described the program, the services provided and the experience received by the participants.

14. Brian's Angels – homeless aid: Pat Stebbins. Pat described their services. The organization is 100% volunteer run. She described the plans for additional services. They serve between 20 – 50 people per day and about 85% of their clients are from Bristol.
15. Bristol Boys & Girls Club – Outreach Program Services: Jay Maia, V.P., Professional Development. Mr. Maia thanked the ECD and said that they are celebrating 25 years at the Cambridge Park facility. They serve over 400 children at this facility. He described the programs which also includes an “Elite” program which includes the entire family.
16. Imagine Nation – infrastructure: Coral Richardson, Director. One Pleasant St. They have a water problem in their classrooms and their temporary fix is not working. They serve over 126 children on a daily basis.
17. Turning Point Christian Center – deck, exit improvement: Ron Chaika, Office Administrator. 83 Bellevue Ave. Mr. Chaika thanked the ECD for their previous grant. They need to work on their porch. They currently have 10 clients, 40% from Bristol.
18. New England Carousel Museum – safety upgrade: Morgan Urgo, Executive Director, 95 Riverside Ave. She thanked the ECD for past projects and spoke about their planned project for exterior lighting. They can't be open late at night because it is too dark and they need to light the sidewalk. They have about 24,000 visitors a year and about 15-20% are Bristol residents.
19. For Goodness Sake – Housing Assistance Program: Diana Jusino, Director of Operations. She thanked the ECD for past support and spoke about their services. They have served 1324 households this past year.
20. Parent & Child Center at Bristol Health– parenting programs: Amanda Sawyer, Director, 222 Main St. They have lost their State funding this year. They provide in-home parenting support. She described the program and clients who are served. 85% are WIC families. 100% of the clients are from Bristol. They currently have around 60 clients. She thanked the ECD for their support.

No other comments were forthcoming from the Public.  
The Public Hearing was closed at 5:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Christine Cooper,  
Recording Secretary