



## PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

400 LA CROSSE STREET | LA CROSSE, WI 54601 | P: (608) 789-7512 | F: (608) 789-7318

### Staff Report Legislative File #19-1786

**To:** Community Development Block Grant Committee  
**From:** Caroline Gregerson, CDBG Administrator  
**Date:** 12/10/2019  
**Re:** Approval of CDBG/HOME 2020 allocation process (including pre-award amounts) and schedule.

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#### I. PRE-APPLICATION

All non-profit or non-City applications may only apply for funding if CDBG Administrator approves pre-application question responses. CDBG Administrator will approve of applicant's ability to apply for funds based on the following criteria:

1. Independently audited ever year
2. CDBG funds and Grant to be kept in a segregated account
3. Board of Directors that exercises fiscal and programmatic oversight
4. Conflict of interest statement
5. Drug-free workplace policy/non-discrimination in service policy
6. Written policies and procedures for their program
7. Staff paid with CDBG funds complete hourly timesheets and approved by a supervisor
8. Adopted procurement procedures (if CDBG funds will be used for items other than salaries)
9. Maintain individual case files with documentation of eligibility for beneficiaries

#### II. Available Funding and pre-selected projects

1. There will be no public service applications reviewed this year. All were approved for a 2-year funding cycle last year.
2. Additionally, we started a process of a two-year funding cycle for non-public service applications. Staff recommends to approved LCHDO and Code Enforcement Technician for a second year of funding. These amounts approved would be \$99,161 (LCHDO) and \$59,629 (Chronic Nuisance Technician). **Do we want these projects to still re-apply or pre-fund like last year?**
3. In discussions with other municipalities, it is unusual for a City-sponsored program to apply for its own funds like we do in La Crosse. **Does the Committee want to consider having the City projects complete applications for transparency and information but not make those project's funds part of the available call for proposals?**



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### Scenario 1: Pre-Funded Projects (City and prior-year applications)

Increase safety and maintenance of homes through code enforcement

1. City of La Crosse – Building and Inspections \$59,629

Increase the number of quality, affordable owner-occupied homes in distressed neighborhoods.

2. City of La Crosse- Replacement Housing (partnership with Western, Central) \$225,000 HOME (Acquisition/demolition funding will be funded through revolving loan/grants/TIF ~\$200,000)
3. Couleecap-LCHDO \$91,962  
(for significant rehabilitation or new construction)

Improve livability and attractiveness of Neighborhood Strategy Areas through public infrastructure.

4. Burns Park (new playground equipment) \$150,000

Prevent and end homelessness in La Crosse.

5. New Horizons, YWCA, Couleecap, LCEH/Independent Living Resources \$107,000

Alleviate poverty and increase self-reliance, with a focus on mental health and substance abuse issues, public safety, health care, domestic violence, and youth services.

6. Stepping Stones, La Crosse Area Family Collaborative, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Kane St Community Garden \$78,000

#### Planning and Fair Housing

Regional Housing Market Analysis (funded through available PI and RL, grant applications)

#### Administer the CDBG Program

7. City of La Crosse – Planning \$179,000

Total: \$890,591

Available in funds: \$1,146,455 (Contingent on final congressional approval)

**Remaining amount for projects: \$255,864**

*Plus special 2021 allocation for multi-family affordable housing loan, in support of a low-income housing tax credit project, with homeless housing set-aside: \$300,000*

**Scenario 2:** Only 2-year commitments, planning, administration pre-funded, city applications apply and subject to cuts in funding

**Remaining amount: \$630,864**

### III. EVALUATION OF APPLICATIONS

1. Applications will be ranked based on Committee and Administrative scores, once all funds have been allocated, the bottom tiered applications will not receive funding. If applications receive a cut in costs, the Committee shall identify what cuts in terms of level of service delivery can be expected.



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2. Only applications that meet one of the stated goals will be accepted.