

City of Utica, New York

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM PROGRAM YEAR 2017 - 2018

In order to be considered for funding, one (1) original, two (2) copies & one (1) electronic copy of your proposal must be submitted to the following address:

City of Utica, New York Department of Urban & Economic Development Attn: Mr. Brian Thomas, Commissioner Utica City Hall 1 Kennedy Plaza Utica, New York 13502 bthomas@cityofutica.com

FUNDING SCHEDULE

RFP Announcement: Friday, January 27, 2017

Public Meetings:

Wednesday, February 8, 2017 @ 6:30 PM UNHS Empowerment Center, 230 James Street

Wednesday, February 22, 2017 @ 7:00 PM Shoppes at the Finish Line, 809 Court Street Relocated to the Westside Senior Center, 717 Court Street

> **Proposal Submission Deadline:** Friday, February 24, 2017 by 12:00 PM Noon

Website Address

NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY FOR THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG), PROGRAM YEAR (PY) 2017 - 2018

BACKGROUND

This Request for Proposal (RFP) announces the availability of federal funding for the Program Year (PY) April 1, 2017 through March 31, 2018 for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, and requests proposals related to these funds.

The CDBG Program is funded and regulated at the federal level by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and administered locally by the City of Utica, through the City's Department of Urban & Economic Development. The CDBG Program is authorized under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974. The regulations implementing the CDBG Program are located in 24 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 570.

The goals of this program are in accordance with the City's locally-developed Five-Year Consolidated Plan which supports a viable urban community through implementation of the following National Objectives:

- Assistance to persons of low to moderate income
- o Safe and decent affordable housing
- A suitable living environment
- Expanded economic opportunity
- Aid in the elimination of slums and blight

The primary objective of this RFP is to identify projects and activities that are consistent with the City's CDBG Consolidated Plan and the priorities identified in the City's Two-Year Annual Action Plan, developed as a result of an intensive Community Needs Assessment process conducted in 2014-15.

The City of Utica **2015 - 2020 Consolidated Plan** can be viewed at: <u>https://www.cityofutica.com/departments/urban-and-economic-development/community-development-programs/cdbg-information/index</u>

The **HUD Community Needs Assessment** Two-Year Action Plan is available at: https://www.cityofutica.com/departments/urban-and-economic-development/index

The **Empire State Poverty Reduction Initiative** is a New York State program that will be providing \$1.5 million in grant funding to the City of Utica to work in collaboration with its designated lead agency partner, United Way of the Valley and Greater Utica Area, to help move residents out of poverty.

According to most recent statistics, approximately 30% of Utica households are living in poverty including 72% of African American and 66% of Hispanic children. The ESPRI program will:

- Identify specific, measurable objectives to improve residents' well-being and quality of life
- Better align public and private resources with community-based interventions that are successful in improving outcomes for residents
- Develop strategies that match promising practices to the unique challenges of each particular community

• Build partnerships among public and private, municipal and nonprofit organizations to provide a continuum of solutions

Utica's ESPRI Steering Committee is taking the HUD Community Needs Assessment to the next level, focusing on those in extreme poverty. Applications received may also be considered for leveraged funds from this initiative, which may be available later this year.

ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION:

All proposers must meet the local and HUD defined threshold requirements as detailed in the RFP Requirements listed below. Incorporated nonprofit agencies, especially those serving low and moderate-income Utica residents, are eligible to apply.

Proposals must meet a CDBG National Objective and fall within one of the City's priorities to be considered for funding. Those proposals not meeting all of the RFP Requirements will not be considered and applicants will be informed upon receipt of the incomplete or ineligible application.

CDBG PROGRAM FUNDING:

The total amount of CDBG funds awarded to the City for Program Year 2017 - 2018 is estimated to be \$2,177,142 based on 2016 - 2017 funding levels. It is important as you develop your project timeline, to note that CDBG program funds are not anticipated to be available until August, 2017.

CDBG regulations specify the types of eligible uses of CDBG funds and establish funding limits for certain types of activities:

• No more than fifteen (15%) percent of the total grant, including estimated program income, (estimated \$344,571) can be spent on Public/Human Services.

• Twenty (20%) percent of grant may be used for the City's administrative costs (estimated \$459,428).

• At least 70% of the available funds must be used for activities benefiting low to moderate income persons.

2017 - 2018 CDBG Program Priorities

In addition to the overall goals of the Consolidated Plan, special consideration will be given for projects related to the following Community Needs Assessment Two-Year Action Plan priorities for 2017-2018:

CNA Goal 1: Facilitate Employment

Subgoal: Daycare Provider Assistance Subgoal: Daycare Entrepreneur Certification

The City will work with existing agencies to identify, enable, train and certify/license new daycare providers to provide quality care (including nutritious meals) to children and families. The Plan commits to a goal of certifying at least one (1) additional provider and to updating the childcare provider inventory.

CNA Goal 3: Improve Educational Opportunities

Subgoal: Adult Learner Outreach Programs Subgoal: Target Area College Advancement Programming Subgoal: Target Area School to NANO Program

Relative to the first subgoal, the City will work with organizations to support the United Way Literacy Coalition's five-goal plan with a focus on adult learners to increase high school graduation or high school equivalency rates by fifteen (15%) percent by:

• Increasing learner retention by creating a support network of adult learners by using a combination of Bridges out of Poverty initiatives and mentors

• Marketing successful adult learners' stories to show that high school equivalency is possible and manageable

• Working with employers to encourage learner's completion

Relative to the second subgoal, the City commits to providing support of the Community Foundation's 25/25 goal by providing support for college advancement programs, which may include:

• Assisting high school seniors to become involved in programs dedicated to making higher education accessible to low-income youth who have the desire and the will to continue their education, but who feel college is out of reach due to economic, academic and other barriers

• Assisting college students to become involved in programs linking them to local employers and organizations interested in providing internships, apprenticeships and mentorships - all aimed at keeping the students in the area after graduation

CNA Goal 4: Enhance Public Safety	CNA	Goal 4:	Enhance	Public	Safety	Su
-----------------------------------	-----	---------	---------	--------	--------	----

Subgoal: Cultural Development Programs -New Arrival Center

The City commits to supporting the Oneida County Vision 2020 initiative to establish a resource center to welcome and acclimate/consolidate services for refugees, immigrants and visitors in a one-stop location.

	Subgoal:	Access to Healthy Foods -
CNA Goal 5: Improve Health and Wellness		Market Garden Truck
•	Subgoal:	Access to Healthy Foods -
		Market Shuttles

The City commits to supporting at least one (1) mobile market truck equipped with an electronic benefits transfer (EBT) machine to serve each food desert area within the target area at least one (1) day per week and to provide shuttles to the public markets from residential areas within the food desert areas.

CITY Goal 1: Youth Activities

The City will invest in at-risk-youth-focused community initiatives that provide young people with employment, leadership opportunities, safe places to live and play and access to quality education, including mentoring, career exploration, summer employment, dropout prevention, financial literacy, academic assistance and sports and recreation programs.

Additionally, activities that transform the lives of at-risk youth are also a 2017-18 program year City priority. Bonus points will also be credited to eligible youth activities as indicated in the RFP Evaluation Scoring Criteria section.

QUESTIONS

Any questions regarding this notice may be directed to Patti DeCarr at 315-792-0181 or via email at pdecarr@cityofutica.com.

RFP REQUIREMENTS

- 1. The scope of Program Services must be Utica-based.
- 2. Proposed program and activities must show a direct benefit to low- to moderate income Utica residents.
- 3. Responders must be a legally constituted non-profit organization or government entity:
 - Must provide 501(c)(3) tax-exempt IRS status
 - Must provide current IRS Determination Letter
 - Must provide Articles of Incorporation
 - Must provide current Dun and Bradstreet Number
- 4. Responders must provide current documentation that it possesses adequate fiscal, management systems and legal certifications to implement the proposed project:
 - Must provide current 990's
 - Must provide copy of Annual Report with Financial Data.
 - Must provide copy of last Independent Audit, results & copy of management letter.
 - Must provide copy of Affirmative Action Plan.
- 5. Responders must demonstrate a minimum of twelve (12) months previous experience as of the application deadline of Friday, February 24, 2017.
- 6. A qualified Fiscal Officer/Bookkeeper (preferably certified by AICPA) must be listed in the proposed budget and a resume included as part of the application.
- 7. Agencies that have not submitted performance reports and those with past compliance and performance problems *will not* be considered for funding.
- 8. Program activities must be available to serve all religious, race and ethnic groups, in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and Section 109 of Title I, of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974.
- Program activities must comply with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which states: "No qualified individual with handicaps can be excluded from participation in or denied the benefits of any activity receiving Federal financial assistance."
- 10. Program activities should be designed to comply with Improving Access to Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) 24 C.F.R. §576.407(b). Executive Order 13166 seeks to improve access to federally assisted programs and activities for individuals who, as a result of national origin, are limited in their English proficiency. Organizations shall take reasonable steps to ensure meaningful access to their programs and activities to LEP individuals, regardless of language spoken. Meaningful access may entail providing language assistance services, including oral and written translation, where necessary. Sub-recipients must follow the requirements outlined on 24 C.F.R. §576.407(b). HUD published Final Guidance to Federal Financial Assistance Requirements Regarding Title VIProhibition Against National Origin Discrimination Affecting Limited EnglishProficient Persons in the Federal Register on January 22, 2007 (72 F.R. 2732).

- 11. Program activities must meet a National Objective and must conform with all other federal eligibility requirements and HUD regulations. For more information refer to www.hud.gov.
- 12. Proposed program must include a performance measurement component to track productivity, program impact and the link goals with outcomes (the extent to which the activities produce the desired outcomes in the overall community or in the lives of persons assisted).

RFP EVALUATION - SCORING CRITERIA

Applications will be evaluated and scored in seven (7) major categories to determine eligibility and capacity for funding consideration. These include:

CATEGORY	TOTAL POINT VALUE
1. Problem and Need Statement	10
 Does the Proposal meet Priority Needs as identified in the City's 2015 - 2020 Consolidated Plan? 	15
3. Does Program scope and design clearly link goals with outcomes?	10
 Does the scope of proposed activities reflect a level of efficiency (quantity, quality, and pace) 	15
5. Can the results of the program and proposal be clearly documented?	10
6. Does the proposed Program meet a 2017 - 2018 priority need as identified and described in the City's Two-Year Action Plan (pages 3 and 4of this Request For Proposals) including activities for at-risk youth?	25
7. Bonus Points - 25% Leverage & Self-Sufficiency Plan * What other funds are being leveraged and how will the program be self- sufficient in the future?	15
TOTAL POINTS [includes bonus points]	100

*Self-Sufficiency Bonus Points will be given for a minimum 25% cash leverage and clearly designed plan for reducing reliance on future CDBG funding.

PROPOSAL CHECKLIST

 Name of Organization:

 Project Name:

To be considered for funding, each proposal must include the following documents. Please place an "X" to indicate that the item is included in your submission. If an item is not applicable, indicate "N/A" on the corresponding line. Be sure to include this checklist as the cover page of your proposal.

If you need assistance, contact Patti DeCarr at (315) 792-0181.

1 This Proposal Checklist 2 **RFP** Project Form **Organization Balance Sheet** 3 Organization's Tax-exempt Documentation Copy of Certification of Incorporation Copy of By-laws Copy of organization's organizational chart Copy of IRS tax status letter Dun and Bradstreet (DUNS) number Copy of organization's latest fiscal audit or 990 4 Project Narrative (7 single-sided pages) pages **Project Budget** 5 6 Other (if applicable) Resume or Bio of fiscal officer/bookkeeper Affirmative Action Plan Section 3 Plan, if applicable Limited English Proficiency Plan

2017 - 2018 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) Request for Proposal (RFP) Project Form

•					
Name of Organization:					
Application Street Address:					
City, State and ZIP:					
Contact Person:					
Phone/Fax/E-mail:					
Activity to be Funded:					
Amount Requested:					
Type of Activity:	Construction	Program Operating Funds			
	rogram Actrivity Funds No Construction)	Program Administrative Funds			
Organization's Funding History:		New / Never Funded Project			
(check only one)		Current / Ongoing Project			
# of Years Perviously Funded:		Previously Completed Project			
Previously Funded (Project Name)):				
National Objective To be eligible to receive CDBG funding, all funded activities must meet at least one of the following National Objectives (§ 570.200(a)(2)). CHECK EITHER A OR B , NOT BOTH.					
☐ A. Benefit to persons of low	v-/moderate-income (§ 57	0.208(a)) If checked, check only <u>one</u> of following:			
neighborhood, in Limited Clientele (the activi	which at least 51% are conside	area, such as a particular street or a red to be low/mod using HUD Census data) t least 51% low/mod, generally not			
Housing Activities (the activities		new or improved housing for residents			
☐ Job Creation/Retention (t	,	ion of new job opportunities made available			
□ B. Elimination of slums and		l, check only one of following:			
Area Basis (the activity will eliminate blighting conditions across a larger geographic area)					
Spot Basis (the activity will eliminate blighting conditions in a single location)					
Job creation/retention (the activity	will result in the creation of new	job opportunities made available			
Total # of (unduplicated) pers	sons to be served:	Line 1			
Total # of low/moderate inco	me (unduplicated) person	s to be served: Line 2			
Estimated % of low/moderate	e income persons to be se	Divide Line 2 by Line 1 and multiply by 100			

HUD FY 2016 Low (80%) Income Limits for the Utica-Rome Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)

FY 2016	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
LIMITS	Person						
Low-Income (80% of MFI)	33,550	38,350	43,150	47,900	51,750	55,600	59,400

Are at least 51% of the clients that you intend to serve with this activity considered to be low- to moderate-income?

By what standard will income e	ligibility of beneficiaries be	e measured?	
US Census Data	🖂 US Census Data	Other (specify)	

All submissions must include a current Agency/Organization Balance Sheet

Agency/Organization Balance Sheet			
ASSETS Current Assets			
Cash - Checking Accounts	\$		
Cash - Savings Accounts	\$		
Accounts Receivable	\$		
Securities	\$		
Other \$	\$		
Fixed Assets			
Land, Buildings & Equipment	\$		
Endowments	\$		
Trusts \$	\$		
Other \$	\$		
Total Assets	\$		
Current Liabilities LIABILITIES			
Accounts Payable	\$		
Notes Payable	\$		
Other \$	\$		
Long-Term Liabilities			
Mortgage Payable	\$		
Other \$	\$		
Total Liabilities	\$		
FUND BALANCE (Total Assets - Total Liabilities)	\$		

Not-for-profit organizations must also attach all appropriate items listed on the RFP Checklist.

Attached Narrative

A separate (attached) narrative which addresses the following must be included in your proposal. Narratives may not exceed seven (7) one-sided pages. Each page must have a minimum of 1" margins.using Times New Roman with minimum font size of 12.

Proposals that do not adhere to these requirements will not be considered for funding.

1. Activity Description - Provide a detailed description of the proposed activity to be funded which clearly specifies the location of the proposed activity and the clientele to be served by age, sex, race or other distinguishing demographic characteristic.

2. Activity Problem & Need Statement - Describe the community need being addressed by the activity, including a description of the problem/need to be addressed by the activity and the manner by which the problem/need was identified. The description should also address how the need relates to the priorities of the City of Utica's 2015 - 2020 Consolidated Plan and/or the Community Needs Assessment Two-Year Action Plan.

3. Activity Goals - Describe in detail the anticipated goals of the proposed activity and how the goals are consistent with the goals of the City of Utica's 2015 - 2020 Consolidated Plan and/or the Community Needs Assessment Two-Year Action Plan.

4. Activity Objectives, Outcomes and Outputs - HUD has prescribed specific objectives and outcomes to be used for all CDBG-funded activities in order to standardize achievements at the local, state and national level. Identify which of the following are the <u>best single objective and outcome</u> your activity will address. Bear in mind that, if funded, your information will be included in the preparation of the 2017 - 2018 Annual Plan and a report of your accomplishments will be required and included quarterly and year-end progress reports and the City's Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER).

Objectives

<u>Suitable Living Environment</u> - Includes activities that benefit communities, families, or individuals by addressing issues in their living environment such as public services, emergency essential services, capital improvements, neighborhood revitalization, etc.

Decent Affordable Housing - Includes a wide range of housing programs designedmeet individual family or community needs and not programs where housing is an element of a larger effort (such as would be captured above in Suitable Living Environment).

<u>Creating Economic Opportunities</u> - Includes activities related to economic development, commercial revitalization, or job creation

Outcomes

Availability/Accessibility - Outcomes that make services, infrastructure, housing or shelter availability or accessible to low-income people, including persons with disabilities. Accessibility includes making the affordable basics of daily living available and accessible to low-income people.

<u>Affordability</u> - Outcomes that provide affordability in a variety of ways in the lives of lowincome people; includes the creation or maintenance of affordable housing, basic infrastructure, or services such as transportation or day care.

<u>Sustainability</u> - Outcomes that promote Livable or Viable Communities, where the activity or activities improve communities or neighborhoods, helping to make them livable or viable by providing benefit to low-income people or by removing or eliminating slums or blighted areas.

5. Activity Justification - If the proposed activity has been funded in previous years, include an explanation of the reasons supporting why continued funding is necessary. Priority consideration will be given for those projects which include multiple partners and to projects that link to or expand other successful initiatives in the community.

6. Self-Sufficiency - Describe the manner by which your organization plans to make this activity self-sufficient; identify alternate funding sources or the possibility of partnering with other community organizations. If there is no plan to make the activity self-sufficient, explain the reason. In addition, if the organization requesting the funding has been funded consistently in the past, explain how continued funding will fund <u>new</u> activities. The City will give priority to those proposals that seek to fund new or expanded activities or services, as opposed to ongoing administrative costs.

7. Organization Description - Provide the following: 1. List agency personnel and their titles that will be involved in the proposed activity. 2. List all Board members for the organization (voting and ex-officio), and identify any potential conflicts of interest. 3. Narrative describing your organization's current ability and qualifications to carry out the proposed activity.

8. Contingency Plan - In the event that CDBG funds are not granted for this proposed activity, in whole or in part, or other funds anticipated to fund this activity are not received, describe the actions to be taken by your organization.

9. Activity Budget - Using the attached forms, provide details on the anticipated budget for the proposed activity. Note that one of the budget forms applies to proposed "construction" activities, while the second budget page applies to proposed "program" activities. If your project includes construction, you will complete BOTH budget forms.

CERTIFICATION: I hereby certify that the information contained in this proposal is true to the best of my knowledge. I do hereby agree to comply with all requirements of HUD Regulation 24 CFR 570 and other applicable Federal Regulations.

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE	TITLE
TYPED OR PRINTED NAME	DATE

Budget Forms and Instructions

- 1. Insert budget amounts for each applicable line item, including total amount, amount for which CDBG funds are sought and amount to be funded by other sources.
- 2. For each line item, fill in the source of the leveraged funds if applicable. Each line item allows for up to three (3) different sources of leveraged funds. For each source of leveraged funds, the proposal must indicate the status of these funds, selecting from the following possible choices: Anticipated, Committed, In-Hand, Donated or Requested. For the purposes of the application, Anticipated shall meanthat the your organization has some reasonable assurance that the funding will be received shortly; Committed shall mean that your organization has received a firm commitment from the source of said funds for the utilization of those funds for the intended purpose; In-Hand shall mean that your organization has actually received said funds and has ready access to those funds at time of submission of this proposal; Donated shall mean that the your organization will be utilizing donated materials, services, time or labor; Requested shall mean that the your organization has submitted a request (i.e., grant application) for said funding, but has not received any indication of the likelihood of receiving said funds.
- 3. Construction budgets should include a line item budget for contingency; the contingency should be expressed as a percentage of the project cost that is then added to the project cost to arrive at a total project cost.

CONSTRUCTION BUDGET

Insert budget amounts for each applicable line item, including total amount, amount for which CDBG funds are sought and amount to be funded by other sources. Indicate up to 3 leveraged funding sources, then select the committment level from the drop down box.

	TOTAL ACTIVITY COST	REQUESTED CDBG AMOUNT	LEVERAGED FUNDS AMOUNT
Administrative Expense	\$	\$	\$
Admin Leveraged Funds Source 1			
Admin Leveraged Funds Source 2			
Admin Leveraged Funds Source 3			
Start-up Expense	\$	\$	\$
Start-up Leveraged Funds Source 1			
Start-up Leveraged Funds Source 2			
Start-up Leveraged Funds Source 3			
Architectural Fees	\$	\$	\$
Architecture Leveraged Funds Source 1			
Architecture Leveraged Funds Source 2			
Architecture Leveraged Funds Source 3			
Engineering Fees	\$	\$	\$
Engineering Leveraged Funds Source 1			
Engineering Leveraged Funds Source 2			
Engineering Leveraged Funds Source 3			

CONSTRUCTION BUDGET

Inspection Fees	\$ \$	\$
Inspection Leveraged Funds Source 1		
Inspection Leveraged Funds Source 2		
Inspection Leveraged Funds Source 3		
Land Development	\$ \$	\$
Land Dev Leveraged Funds Source 1		
Land Dev Leveraged Funds Source 2		
Land Dev Leveraged Funds Source 3		
Demolition / Disposal	\$ \$	\$
Demo Leveraged Funds Source 1		
Demo Leveraged Funds Source 2		
Demo Leveraged Funds Source 3		
Construction / Rehabilitation	\$ \$	\$
Construction Leveraged Funds Source 1		
Construction Leveraged Funds Source 2		
Construction Leveraged Funds Source 3		
SUBTOTAL	\$ \$	\$
CONTINGENCY %	\$ \$	\$
TOTAL CONSTRUCTION COST	\$ \$	\$

PROGRAM / ACTIVITY BUDGET

Insert budget amounts for each applicable line item, including total amount, amount for which CDBG funds are sought and amount to be funded by other sources.

	TOTAL ACTIVITY COST	REQUESTED CDBG AMOUNT	LEVERAGED FUNDS AMOUNT
Personnel - Salary	\$	\$	\$
Salary Leveraged Funds Source 1			
Salary Leveraged Funds Source 2			
Salary Leveraged Funds Source 3			
Personnel - Fringe	\$	\$	\$
Fringe Leveraged Funds Source 1			
Fringe Leveraged Funds Source 2			
Fringe Leveraged Funds Source 3			
Advertising	\$	\$	\$
Advertising Leveraged Funds Source 1			
Advertising Leveraged Funds Source 2			
Advertising Leveraged Funds Source 3			
Supplies	\$	\$	\$
Supplies Leveraged Funds Source 1			
Supplies Leveraged Funds Source 2			
Supplies Leveraged Funds Source 3			

PROGRAM / ACTIVITY BUDGET

Rent / Utilities	\$ \$	\$
Rent Leveraged Funds Source 1		
Rent Leveraged Funds Source 2		
Rent Leveraged Funds Source 3		
Incidentals (Copies, Phone, etc.)	\$ \$	\$
Incidentals Leveraged Funds Source 1		
Incidentals Leveraged Funds Source 2		
Incidentals Leveraged Funds Source 3		
Other (Specify)	\$ \$	\$
Other Leveraged Funds Source 1		
Other Leveraged Funds Source 2		
Other Leveraged Funds Source 3		
Other (Specify)	\$ \$	\$
Other Leveraged Funds Source 1		
Other Leveraged Funds Source 2		
Other Leveraged Funds Source 3		
TOTAL PROGRAM COST	\$ \$	\$