

CDBG Advisory Committee Public Hearing

The Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) has designated the Town of Amherst a Mini-Entitlement Community for the purpose of receiving Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds. Amherst is eligible to receive a maximum of \$900,000 in block grant funds for housing, community development and social service activities benefiting low-and moderate-income citizens. The CDBG Advisory Committee will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, November 3, 2011 at 5:00 p.m. in the First Floor Meeting Room of Amherst Town Hall to inform residents of the recommended activities proposed to be included in the Town's 2012 Mini-Entitlement CDBG application.

Project Areas may include Amherst Village Centers, the Town Center and in-fill development based on the Master Plan and the Community Development Strategy.

The following are the Committee's preliminary recommendations:

Non-Social Service Requests:

Town of Amherst	\$ 30,000	income Survey and Identification of Slum and Blight
Valley CDC	\$ 41,885	Valley CDC First-Time Homebuyer Program
Town of Amherst	\$228,000	purchase property for affordable housing
Town of Amherst	\$240,000	childcare modernization/HVAC and roof repair

Social Service Requests:

Emergency Shelter	\$90,500	to operate an emergency shelter for 2012 – 13
Town of Amherst	\$17,500	emergency fuel and rental Assistance
Center for New Americans	\$25,000	language and literacy for immigrants
Big Brother Big Sister	\$22,000	mentoring partnership
Amherst Survival Center	\$25,000	food pantry

Additional activities and project areas may be identified and discussed at the public hearing on November 3, 2011 that could be included in the Town's 2012 CDBG application.

The meeting will also include a review of program performance of prior year grants.

Any person or organization wishing to be heard will be afforded an opportunity. Reasonable accommodations will be attempted upon written request to the Select Board's office one week prior to the meeting. Written comments may be submitted to the Community Services Department (community@amherstma.gov) or for more information or call (413) 259-3117.

The Town of Amherst encourages the involvement of minority business enterprises and women's business enterprises.