

August 19, 2020

Mr. Miguel Rivera
Housing and Community Development Manager
State of Connecticut Department of Housing
505 Hudson Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06106-7106

Submitted via email: sccv.applications@ct.gov

Subject: Small Cities Community Development Block Grant-COVID (SC-CDBG-CV)
Tranche 1 Application for Funding

Dear Mr. Rivera:

I am pleased to submit an application for funding under the Small Cities Community Development Block Grant-COVID program (SC-CDBG-CV) on behalf of the Town of Mansfield. As in many communities, our low and moderate-income residents are struggling with the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Proposed Public Service Activities

As further described in the attached Statement of Need and Project Description, the Town is requesting **\$500,000 in Small Cities CDBG-CV funding** to establish a COVID-19 Resident Assistance Program. The proposed program would provide the following services to residents at or below 80% of Median Income who have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. These services are intended to bridge the gap between existing state and federal assistance that is provided to households of lower incomes and households that qualify for assistance through the CDBG program.

- **Childcare Assistance.** The Town would provide up to three (3) months of assistance with childcare costs. For the duration of the assistance period, the participant would be responsible for paying 7% of their income toward childcare costs, and the Town would pay the balance to the childcare provider up to a pre-established maximum amount.
- **Food Security/Nutrition Assistance.** The Town would provide food security/nutrition assistance to households through a weekly distribution of grocery staples, prepared meals and meal kits. Food would be distributed through a contactless pickup system at the Mansfield Senior Center or contactless delivery for households that are unable to get to the Senior Center due to lack of transportation or other vulnerabilities.
- **Rental Assistance.** The Town would provide rental assistance pursuant to the program guidelines being established by the Department for SC-CDBG-CV funds.

We estimate that **100 Mansfield low and moderate income households** will receive assistance through these programs; however, the actual number served could be greater or smaller depending on the types of assistance needed by each participating household. For example, high demand for direct assistance payments provided to landlords and childcare providers could reduce the number of households served. In contrast, if the strongest demand is for food security/nutrition assistance, we expect that more than 100 households could be served as the estimated cost of providing that service is significantly less than the direct assistance programs.

The proposed services are consistent with the State's 2019-2020 Action Plan Amendment for Housing and Community Development CARES Act funding as follows:

- 100% of the beneficiaries of the proposed services will be low-moderate income residents
- These new public services will only be provided to residents that demonstrate an impact from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Availability of Funding

While the need for these services exists, the Town is unable to provide funding for these new services given the economic toll the pandemic is taking on state and local resources. As home to the main campus of the University of Connecticut, Mansfield has one of the highest percentages of state-owned, tax-exempt property in the State of Connecticut; the value of State-owned properties comprises 60% of total real estate value in Mansfield. Accordingly, approximately 34% of our annual revenues are provided through PILOT and other municipal aid/intergovernmental funds. With the State incurring unprecedented costs in controlling the pandemic, we are anticipating that municipal aid may be significantly reduced in the coming year. This anticipated revenue shortfall combined with increased expenses associated with responding to the pandemic limit the ability of the Town to initiate any new services.

Regionalization

I understand that the Department of Housing is very interested in seeing these types of services offered on a regional basis. As these are new services for the Town of Mansfield, we need to establish the program before we can contemplate the possibility of extending service to residents of nearby municipalities. Depending on the success of the program and the capacity of Town staff, we could explore the potential of expanding services to surrounding communities as part of the second round of funding.

Required Documentation

Mansfield DUNS Number: 0833458840000

Mansfield FEIN Number: 06-6002032

In accordance with the requirements identified for the Special Funding Round, the following documents are enclosed with this letter of application:

- Statement of Need and Project Description
- Town Council resolution authorizing submission of the application

- Notices of public hearing and associated Affidavits of Publication from the Hartford Courant and The Chronicle. The public hearing notice was also posted in the Legal Notices section of the Town's website on July 30, 2020 (<http://www.mansfieldct.gov/DocumentCenter/View/8930/07-30-2020-Public-Hearing-Notice-of-CDBG-Grant-Application>). The public hearing notices were published at least five days in advance of the virtual public hearing pursuant to the Town's Citizen Participation Plan, which was amended on July 27, 2020.
- Minutes of the virtual public hearing conducted by the Town Council on August 10, 2020, which can be viewed at https://townhallstreams.com/stream.php?location_id=69&id=25978.
- Copy of the power point presentation made at the public hearing
- Emails submitted in support of the application
- Environmental Review Determination
- Fair Housing Action Plan
- Citizen Participation Plan Amended July 27, 2020

Thank you for your consideration of this application. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact one of the following individuals:

- John Carrington, Interim Town Manager, at 860.429.3336 or carringtonjc@mansfieldct.org
- Linda Painter, Director of Planning and Development, at 860.429.3329 or painterlm@mansfieldct.org
- Jillene Woodmansee, Planner I, at 860.429.3341 or woodmanseejb@mansfieldct.org

Sincerely,



John C. Carrington
Interim Town Manager

c: Town Council
Linda Painter, Director of Planning and Development
Jillene Woodmansee, Planner I

