



# MEMORANDUM

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"...meeting community needs...enhancing quality of life."

TO: Community and Economic Development Committee

FROM: Nikki Gerhard, Community Development Specialist  
Karen Harkness, Community & Economic Development Department Director  
Monica Stage, Community & Economic Development Deputy Director

DATE: May 6, 2020

RE: Modifications to the 2020PY Community Development Block Grant Funding

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The City of Appleton CDBG HUD award is \$592,072 for the 2020 fiscal year, which began April 1, 2020 and expires on March 31, 2021.

The final 2020 awards were approved on March 18, 2020 by the Common Council, totaling \$779,342.80 (City programs and sub recipients combined). This total included an additional \$200,000 rolled over from the 2017PY and is dedicated to affordable housing initiatives.

Due to the ongoing uncertainty surrounding the current COVID-19 pandemic, the Appleton Police Department and the Boys & Girls Club decided to cancel the Summer of Service program for 2020, which was awarded CDBG funding in the amount of \$72,051.06. This leaves \$72,051.06 of public service dollars unallocated for the 2020 CDBG program year.

The CDBG Advisory Board was asked to consider staff recommendations for the reallocation of the \$72,051.06, as well as \$12,729.20 that was originally left unallocated. By majority vote, the Committee recommends the approval of the staff recommendations.

These recommendations will be considered by Common Council on May 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Staff recommends the following:**

- 1) **Combine the \$72,051.06 with the \$12,729.20 that was originally proposed to remain unallocated until the 2021 application process, offering a total of \$84,780.26 to public service programs in our community**

While typically, the CDBG program is held to strict thresholds, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, HUD has temporarily lifted those restrictions. This includes the 15% cap on public service activities, now allowing the City to allocate a total of \$101,540 (17%) toward programming and services.

2) **Award LEAVEN, Inc. an additional \$28,260.09, for a total allocation of \$45,019.83**

LEAVEN is proposing to use these additional funds in their Emergency Assistance Program, which serves at-risk or precariously housed individuals by providing owed rent and utilities to prevent homelessness. They are proposing to serve a total of 150 City of Appleton households with the total allocation.

3) **Award Salvation Army of the Fox Cities \$28,260.09, for a total allocation of \$28,260.09**

Salvation Army is proposing to use these funds to support their Pathway of Hope program, which is another at-risk/homelessness prevention program and offers not only rent and utility payments, but case management and prevention planning.

4) **Award Pillars, Inc. \$28,260.08, for a total allocation [under public services] of \$28,260.08**

While Pillars, Inc. Adult and Family Shelter is already receiving an allocation of \$75,000 for the replacement of their facility elevator, this additional allocation would support Pillars' Prevention & Diversion programming, which serves clients in the community who are at risk of becoming homeless and may not qualify for other housing options.

In the last month, the COVID-19 outbreak has caused unprecedented unemployment and put thousands of households at risk of being unable to afford housing and other basic needs. It is important that multiple systems are given the resources to work together to address the needs in our community. City staff has been working closely with philanthropic entities and community partners to understand the needs of our community during this pandemic. The above recommendations are made with the support of these partners, as they manage the short and long-term needs as a result of this public health crisis.

The following attachments are provided for additional information for this action item.

**Attached Documents:**

- 1.) March 11, 2020, Memo from Community Development Specialist to CEDC  
RE: Final Recommendations for 2020 CDBG Funding
- 2.) Revised Award Recommendations for the 2020 CDBG Program Year
- 3.) Executive Summary of Award Recommendations for 2020 CDBG Program Year
- 4.) Community Foundation Pandemic Response Letter

If you have any questions, please contact me at 832-6469 or [nikki.gerhard@appleton.org](mailto:nikki.gerhard@appleton.org). Thank you!