

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG)

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania receives CDBG funds from HUD each year and distributes it to eligible counties, cities, boroughs, and townships pursuant to the provisions of PA Act 179 of 1984. The funds are intended to help create viable communities by providing decent housing, a suitable living environment, and expanded economic opportunities, principally for low-to-moderate income persons.

Erie is one of 50 counties “entitled” to apply for and receive an annual CDBG allocation from the state and since 1985 has received approximately \$14.2 million in CDBG funding. The County’s funds are used to assist “non-entitlement” boroughs and townships undertake projects which address their housing and/or community needs and which principally benefit low-to-moderate income persons. A “non-entitlement” is a municipality that does not receive an annual CDBG allocation from the state or HUD. Of the 38 municipalities in Erie County, 29 are designated as “non-entitlement” and therefore can apply for a share of the County’s grant dollars. The Department of Planning and Community Development is responsible for administering the County’s CDBG program.

In addition to the County’s CDBG program, the Planning Department has accepted responsibility for administering the CDBG programs of four (4) entitlement communities also referred to as “on behalf of” municipalities which include Girard Township, McKean Township, North East Borough and Edinboro Borough. These communities are “entitled” to receive state CDBG funds each year as a result of having a population according to the latest Decennial Census of 4,000 or more and meeting the minimum standards of physical and economic distress of the Federal Urban Development Action Grant Program. The grant funds of these “entitlements” are used to undertake activities which address their respective housing and community needs and which principally benefit persons of low-to-moderate income.

In addition to allocating funding to each state, HUD provides CDBG monies directly to certain entities such as *Principal Cities of Metropolitan Statistical Areas (i.e. City of Erie)* and *Other Metropolitan Areas with populations of at least 50,000*. Millcreek Township falls within the latter category and since 1998 has received a direct CDBG allocation from HUD totaling approximately \$6.2 million. As with the state CDBG recipients, the funding is used to address housing and/or community development needs which principally benefits Millcreek Township low-to-moderate income persons. The Erie County Department Planning & Community Development administers Millcreek’s CDBG program at the request of the Township supervisors.

Combined, the Erie County Department of Planning and Community Development is responsible for the yearly administration of nearly \$900,000 in CDBG program funds.

Of note, neither the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) nor the Commonwealth of PA through the Department of Community and Economic Development provides CDBG assistance directly to individuals, businesses, nonprofit organizations, or other non-governmental entities.

Activities that can be funded with CDBG

CDBG monies can provide for a wide array of activities. These “Eligible” activities include but are not limited to the following:

- Water, sanitary sewer, and storm sewer construction
- Street reconstruction
- Sidewalk and curb replacement including removal/replacement of curb-cut ramps for ADA accessibility
- Park and recreation facilities/improvements
- Removal of architectural barriers to provide accessibility for the disabled
- Single family housing rehabilitation
- Public services (i.e. services to assist senior citizens, disabled persons, and those who are food insecure *(not to exceed 15% of the grant allocation)*)
- Fair Housing activities
- Program administration *(not to exceed 18% of the grant allocation)*.

National Objective of the CDBG Program

Each “Eligible” activity must meet one of three (3) National Objectives:

- ✓ Principally benefit low-to-moderate income (LMI) persons,
- ✓ Aid in the prevention or elimination of slums or blight, or
- ✓ Meet a community development need having a particular urgency because existing conditions pose a serious and immediate threat to the health and welfare of the community and other financial resources are not available to meet the need.

Of the three (3) objectives, the *primary objective* is to Principally Benefit Low- to-Moderate Income (LMI) persons.

For additional information regarding the CDBG program, please contact the CDBG Administrator at (814) 451-7330 or jberdis@eriecountypa.gov

ATTACHMENTS:

- State & HUD CDBG Allocations
- Map Identifying Non-Entitlement and Entitlement Municipalities
- Examples of Activities/Projects which will be undertaken this year (2022) or have been completed in the past 5 years with CDBG funds.
- FY 2021 CDBG Program Guidelines and Application to request a share of COUNTY CDBG funds. (The FY 2022 Application will be made available sometime in April 2022)

ATTACHMENT _____

A Sampling of Activities/Projects which will be undertaken this year (2022) or next, or have been completed in the past 5 years with CDBG funds.

Infrastructure Improvements (Sanitary Sewer, Water, Roads, Sidewalks / Curbs, ADA Curb-Cut Ramps)

- **Walnut Grove Sanitary Sewer Extension Project** - Extension of public sanitary sewer service to twenty-one (21) manufactured homes in the Walnut Grove Condominium Park on Julia Drive in Lake City Borough. The sewer extension will consist of approximately 1,760 feet of 8-inch diameter gravity sewer main and manholes with a connection to the Borough's existing pump station at the intersection of Richardson Drive and PA Route 5.
- **Elm Street Water Line Replacement Project** - Installation of approximately 720 feet of 8-inch diameter PVC water line to replace a 6-inch cement asbestos line along Elm Street in Lake City Borough.
- **Center Street Sanitary Sewer Line Replacement Project** - Replacement of 575 lineal feet 8-inch clay tile pipe with a new 8-inch diameter PVC sanitary sewer line and appurtenances along Center Street from Buffalo Road to a point short of Edison Avenue in Wesleyville Borough.
- **Gindy's Mobile Home Park Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation Project** - Rehabilitation of three (3) deteriorated pipe segments measuring approximately 740 lineal feet in Gindy's Mobile Home Park located in Lawrence Park Township using the "cured-in-place pipe method". The interiors of ten (10) manholes were also repaired/rehabilitated.
- **South Washington Street Rehabilitation Project** – Rehabilitation of a 1,100-foot section of South Washington Street, from State Route 426 (Grahamville Street), north, to the south side of the Norfolk & Southern railroad crossing in North East Borough.
- **Darrow Road Reconstruction Project** - Reconstruction of Darrow Road from South Perry Lane to Heather Road, a distance of approximately 1,600 feet in Edinboro Borough.
- **Fairplain Road Reconstruction Project** - Reconstruction of a section of Fairplain Road measuring approximately 0.74 miles and extending from U.S. Route 20, northward, to the Norfolk & Southern railroad crossing in Girard Township.
- **Center Street Curbs and Sidewalks Replacement Project** - Replacement of sidewalk and curbs, installation of 12 ADA curb-cut ramps, and asphalt pavement replacement along Center Street from Buffalo Road to Freemont Street in Wesleyville Borough.
- **Handicapped Accessible Curb-Cut Ramps Project** - Construction of thirty-three (33) curb-cut ramps at ten (10) locations in Edinboro Borough.
- **Phase IX Sidewalk Accessibility Project** – Removal/replacement of one-hundred seventeen (117) curb-cut ramps in Millcreek Township for compliance with ADA.

Park and Recreation Facilities Improvements

- **Della Bayle Recreation Area Improvement Project** - Purchase and installation of new playground equipment and associated surfacing for the Della Bayle Recreation Area located at the corner of North Street and Raum Street in Wattsburg Borough.
- **Memorial Park Recreation Improvement Project** - Purchase and installation of new playground equipment and associated surfacing for Memorial Park located north of Buffalo Road (Route 20) along Pearl Avenue, Wesley Avenue and North Street in Wesleyville Borough.
- **Bicentennial Park Recreation Improvement Project- Phase III** - Installation of two (2) new 24'x28' pavilions on concrete pads and the purchase/installation of picnic tables and grills for Bicentennial Park in Springfield Township.
- **Countryside Estates Mobile Home Park Recreation Improvement Project** - Purchase and installation of outdoor fitness equipment for Countryside Estates Mobile Home Park in McKean

Township consisting of ten (10) accessible training stations appropriate for ages 13 and up and for all fitness and skill levels.

Housing Rehabilitation

-