



City of Westfield
OFFICE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



Municipal Building
59 Court Street Rm. 300
Westfield, MA 01085

413-572-6246 FAX 568-6850

Peter J. Miller, Director

RECEIVED

JAN 30 2026

WESTFIELD CITY CLERK

Michael A. McCabe, Mayor

CITY OF WESTFIELD

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING &
NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY
OF FFY 2026 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT AND
HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP PROPOSAL APPLICATIONS**

**Meeting Minutes of
January 21, 2026
11:00 a.m.
Room 315**

In attendance were: Peter Miller, Director of Community Development
Leanne Crosby, Community Development Block Grant Coordinator
Jane Toomey, Westfield Resident

Mr. Miller opened the public hearing for the FFY2026 Community Development Block Grant and HOME Investment Partnership Proposal Applications.

Mr. Miller stated there are 2 public hearings scheduled today. The purpose of these hearings are to receive input from the public as to the use of the CDBG funds.

Mr. Miller noted this is the second year of the city's 5-year consolidated plan, the city typically receives approximately \$406,000.00 a year for CDBG funding.

Mr. Miller discussed in further detail the requirements that must be met in order to receive CDBG funding.

The Goals of the CDBG Program.

- ✓ Decent, safe, sanitary housing
- ✓ Suitable living environment
- ✓ Expand economic development opportunities

The CDBG activities must be eligible under 24 CFR 570. The City will be holding a technical assistance program in February to assist in the preparation of applications.

Applications must meet one of the 3 National Objectives.

- ✓ Provides a benefit to LMI persons.
- ✓ Prevent or Eliminates Slum/Blight, or
- ✓ Meet an Urgent Community Need

Mr. Miller noted the City's main focus is to serve the LMI Persons which includes Area Benefit, mostly found in the downtown area. Census Data can be used to identify these areas, as well as survey data which the City has utilized for sidewalk projects.

Limited Clientele are presumed benefit such as elderly, homeless, disabled adults, abused.

Mr. Miller also discussed other CDBG eligible activities: Public facilities, Economic Development, Planning and Administration, Real Property and Housing Related.

Mr. Miller reviewed some of the public facilities that have been given funding in FY 25.

- ✓ Sidewalk replacement on Ashley Street and Taylor Avenue
- ✓ Heating Repair and Replacement Program with Valley Opportunity Council

Mr. Miller gave a summary of the HOME funds that will be available. The City belongs to a Consortium consisting of Holyoke, Chicopee and Westfield. Mr. Miller also added the city will be receiving an additional \$120,000.00 for HOME funds.

Mr. Miller stated the deadline for submission of CDBG proposals is March 6, 2026 at 4:00 p.m., and a Technical Assistance Workshop will be held on February 12th at 10:00 A.M.

Ms. Toomey expressed concern over the loss of the Hi-Set/ESL program previously ran by Domus, Inc. Serving a diverse group of approximately 12 students (ages 25–65) from 11 countries, it was expressed that the program provides critical workforce assimilation and language training. Ms. Toomey highlighted that loss of the program in Westfield's downtown creates significant barriers for low-to-moderate income (LMI) residents, specifically regarding the lack of transportation, childcare needs, and the cost of educational supplies.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30.