

BRISTOL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
PUBLIC HEARING
February 21, 2019
City of Bristol
2019-2020 Community Development Block Grant Program
5:00 P.M. BRISTOL CITY HALL
COUNCIL CHAMBERS

ATTENDEES: Howard Schmelder, David Mills, Tom Hick, Bob Passamano

STAFF: Dawn Leger, Grants Administrator
Justin Malley, Executive Director-BDA
Christine Cooper, Administrative Assistant

The Hearing was called to order by BDA Policy Committee Chairperson Howard Schmelder at 5:00 p.m.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance and a Moment of Silence, Opening Remarks were read by Commissioner Schmelder:

Welcome to the first Public Hearing for the use of Community Development Block Grant funds for Program Year 45, which runs from July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020. The federal CDBG allocations have not been announced.

BDA board members and staff were introduced.

Each year, as part of the required public process in the annual CDBG application to HUD, the City of Bristol, through the Bristol Development Authority (BDA), holds a public hearing for the purpose of receiving recommendations on needs in Bristol. No votes are taken at the Public Hearing. There is also a BDA Policy Committee meeting, a 30-day public comment period, and a second Public Hearing. Other opportunities for comment are at the BDA Board and City Council meetings. The meetings are posted with the City Clerk.

In response to our request for proposals, BDA received requests for \$513,374 from outside agencies that includes \$182,845 for Public Services. The City requests \$60,000 for the sidewalk replacement program. BDA staff requests \$200,000 for residential rehabilitation activities, and \$114,435 for administration of that program.

At this time we will hear

1. General comments from the public,
2. Presentations by applicant organizations according to the order in which they were received. By your presence here tonight, you are expressing appreciation for past support and future consideration. The Board has read the proposals submitted, therefore, we are requesting the applicants give a brief presentation only if there is additional information to present. Please give your name, the agency you represent and the address.
3. Any further comments regarding needs in the community and/or programs and projects requesting funding.

Presentations by applicant organizations (#13 and #16 had other obligations so they presented first)

1. #13 Bristol Historical Society – Elevator for Public Access: Mike Saman, President, 90 Summer St., Bristol.

Mr. Saman provided background information and gave information about their roof and renovations. They need a CPL (commercial lift) which will go up 14.5 feet. He provided information on why there is a need for this lift.

2. #16 Boys & Girls Club – Outreach Program Cambridge Park: Michael Suchopar, President and CEO, 255 West Street, Bristol and Jay Maia, Unit Director, 117 Davis Drive, Bristol.
They thanked the committee. The assistance for Cambridge Park budget is \$130,000/year. Children are charged \$2 as this is in an impoverished area. Jay added information and gave an example of one youth who had success. They have a Monday – Friday afterschool program.
3. #1 YWCA-Sexual Assault Crisis Service: Jessica Stepensky, Client Services Coordinator, 19 Franklin Ave., New Britain.
Ms. Stepensky provided her job description and her background. She provided information on the program and gave statistics. There is an increase in need.
4. #2 St. Vincent DePaul – Emergency Shelter: Susan Tyler, Board Member, 19 Jacobs St., Bristol.
Copies of additional information was provided. They wanted to stress the Point in Time Survey. They also provide case management and act as a referral service. Statistics for this year's Point in Time count were given. The overflow shelter were all from Bristol. They had 9 men and 3 people were turned away. They already have a projected deficit of \$33,000 and they may have to close.
5. #3 Prudence Crandall – Emergency Shelter: Barbara Damon, CEO, 594 Burritt St., New Britain.
Ms. Damon reported that they are at 100% capacity and often on overflow.
6. #4 Bristol Housing Authority – Komanetsky Estates. No one was present.
7. #5 United Way – Walsh Summer Work Experience: Don Osuch, President and CPO, 440 N. Main St., Bristol.
There was no additional information. She summarized the program which serves 30 students.
8. #6 City of Bristol – Sidewalk Replacement: Ray Rogozinski, Director of Public Works, Bristol.
Mr. Rogozinski reported that the sidewalk program allows them to target certain areas although this is the responsibility of the homeowner. This is a continuing program. This year they will be working on Divinity St.
9. #7 New England Carousel Museum – ADA Compliance: Louise DeMars, 95 Riverside Ave., Bristol.
Ms. DeMars reported she had nothing to add. There is a new program and the special needs rest room needs to be functioning.
10. #8 Shepard Meadows Therapeutic Riding Center– Program Operations: Shelly Pope, Executive Director, 733 Hill St., Bristol.
Ms. Pope described the program. They have been there for 15 years. Their fees are 20% of the annual cost. 50% of participants come from Bristol. They are always full and get inquiries daily. They have a part-time staff and rely on volunteers. They provide scholarships to those who cannot afford the fee.
11. #10 McCabe-Waters Little League – Facility Enhancement: Dan Casey, Grants Volunteer, Spruce St., Bristol.
The request is for infrastructure improvements. The dugouts are too short. The players are Bristol residents.
12. #9 HRA of New Britain – Case Management & Housing Stabilization: Marla Greponne, Director of Planning and Programs, 55 South St., Bristol.

They have no additional information. She described what success means to them and described their services and needs. 90% of the clients from the Bristol location are from Bristol. The need is great in this community. She answered questions.

13. #11 CCARC Inc. – Group Home for Adults with Disabilities: Anne Ruwet, CEO, 610 Burlington Ave., Bristol.
Their request is for capital improvement for siding.
14. #12 For Goodness Sake: Kendra Morales, President, 123 Whiting Ave., Plainville.
Ms. Morales thanked the committee and spoke to how the funds are used. They partner with many of the other organizations here tonight. They have operational expenses as they are a warehouse. They are now open two days and help 4-5 more families each week than previously. Their space has doubled as well as costs.
15. #14 Turning Point Christian Center – HVAC & Windows: Bob Rascati, Director, 83 Bellevue Ave., Bristol.
There is no new information. He described their services. They need a new furnace. He described success. They currently have 6 Bristol clients. Two of their graduates spoke
16. #15 Neighborhood Housing Services of New Britain – Bristol Affordable Home Ownership Initiative: John Kulkulka, Executive Director, 223 Broad St., New Britain.
Mr. Kulkulka described their service and how it works. He described their other funding sources.

No other comments were forthcoming from the Public.
The Public Hearing was closed at 5:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Cooper,
Recording Secretary