



City of Rochester, New Hampshire

Office of Planning and Development

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Community Development Block Grant Program

What is it?

The Community Development Block Grant program (CDBG) is the nation's eighth largest federal domestic program that provides funding for a wide variety of activities in over a thousand communities across the country. Since 1974 CDBG funding has been the means through which communities have been able to provide services and facilities to benefit low and moderate-income persons and families that would otherwise be unable to access such support.



For thirty years the CDBG program has been providing a critical revenue source that opens the door for assisting City residents through programs and projects that are beyond the City budget by providing safe, decent and sanitary housing, suitable living environments and necessary public services.



How does Rochester benefit?

The City of Rochester is an "entitlement" City that, by virtue of this designation, receives CDBG funding each year. As an entitlement community the City has received over \$8 million dollars over the life of this highly successful program and has leveraged millions of additional dollars from the private and public sector making precious CDBG dollars stretch even further. Ten years ago, Rochester received nearly \$400,000 dollars each year. Unfortunately, budget cuts and reprioritization at the federal level have significantly diminished this original entitlement from the early program years. In FY 05, Rochester is slated to receive \$349,000. While significantly less than in the past, CDBG remains a vital component of the partnership between our City budget and services, and those provided by our skilled non-profit partners.



Whether it's the rehabilitation of housing units, programs to spur economic development, public services that serve our community or construction projects that improve our streets, sidewalks, public buildings and neighborhood parks, CDBG funding has had a far reaching effect in supporting the growing and changing needs of our City.



What would happen if this funding were cut?

A "CDBG Accomplishment Impact Study" was conducted in February of 2005 to highlight how CDBG funding directly benefited the City during fiscal year 03-04.



How did Rochester spend its entitlement funding during fiscal year 2003-2004?

The City of Rochester received an entitlement of \$376,000 for programs during FY 2004. Those funds were competitively awarded and distributed for a wide variety of projects and programs benefiting low and moderate income residents, including:

Street and Sidewalk Restoration: \$275,000

- Maple/Waldron St., Chestnut Hill Rd, Highland St., and planning for Washington St. improvements

Public Facilities Improvements: \$38,363.

- Playground equipment and safety surfacing at Rochester Child Care Center
- ADA improvements at the Homeless Center for Strafford County

Housing: \$108,596

- 50-50 match with state weatherization funds for energy conservation improvements to households receiving fuel assistance
- One time emergency grants and no interest loans for comprehensive housing rehabilitation work

Public Services: \$55,490

Programs that provide a wide variety of services to low-income residents:

- GED/Job Readiness for 17-21 year olds
- Three area homeless shelters
- Supplemental food for seniors and WIC recipients
- Security deposits for homeless, people with mental illness
- Crisis support for victims of sexual assault and domestic violence
- Supportive services for persons living with AIDS/HIV
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Economic Development: \$85,760

- Small Business Development Center
- Loans to Bee's Day Care and First Star Manufacturing