



MEDIA CONTACT

Justin Malley, Executive Director
Bristol Development Authority
Phone: 860-584-6185

BDA Board Votes to Raise CDBG Housing Rehabilitation Allotments

(October XX, 2018) – The City of Bristol receives money from the Department of Housing and Urban Development as part of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program to manage a housing rehabilitation program for local homeowners to make necessary improvements and allow people to live in safe and sanitary housing conditions. In recognition of rising costs of home improvement projects, the Bristol Development Authority (BDA) Board of Commissioners that oversees this program recently voted to increase the maximum project amount from \$10,000 to \$15,000 for single family owner-occupied residences. Typical projects that fall under this program include emergency type repairs such as roofs, heating systems, broken sewer lines, handicapped access, and electrical issues like fuses.

"We have had some situations where we have not been able to assist certain applicants because of the \$10,000 limit," stated Commissioner Howard Schmelder. "Years ago you could replace a roof for under \$10,000, but we are finding that is not always true anymore. It doesn't make sense to have program guidelines that can't help the people who need it the most."

Residents must qualify for the federally-funded program based on household income levels. There are no program changes at this time to the owner occupied multi-family residence policy.

"This should reduce the frustration of working with residents who are in need but are stymied by either the reimbursement or the fact that their project exceeds \$10,000," said David Sgro, BDA Housing Rehabilitation Specialist. "I visit residents daily who are struggling to maintain their home. With this increase to the maximum allowable amount, we are now going to be able to help more people improve their homes which will benefit both the homeowner and neighborhoods."

"I think this is a great policy," stated Mayor Ellen Zoppo-Sassu who chairs the Bristol Development Authority Board. "I also like the fact that we have departments working together to identify resources that could help people who are being helped by other departments like our housing, zoning, or fire inspectors who have concerns. Helping people on fixed incomes or those with low income limits stay in their homes longer, and helping them to keep their homes in good repair helps quality of life and property values."

###

About the Bristol Development Authority. *The Bristol Development Authority (BDA) works to improve the physical, economic, and social environment of the Bristol community by serving as the primary governmental organization dedicated to promoting commercial development, to preserving and improving the City's housing stock, and to securing and administering the resources required to carry out these goals. The BDA is overseen by an appointed nine-member Board of Commissioners which governs economic and community development policies for the City. For more information, log onto www.bristolallheart.com or by email to bda@bristolct.gov.*