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**The City of Bristol Announces the 2020 Community Development Block Grant Awards and Special Allocation for COVID-19**

(BRISTOL, CT: June 12, 2020) – The City of Bristol announced the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) awards, based on an allocation received from the federal Housing and Urban Development agency, in the amount of \$669,779. Each year, the City of Bristol, through the Economic & Community Development (ECD) Department, holds meetings and public hearings for the purpose of announcing and discussing the ECD’s recommendation of programs and funding for submission to the ECD Board, the Bristol City Council, and finally to HUD.

The proposed use of these federal funds was recommended by the Economic & Community Development Policy Committee to be awarded to the following local organizations:

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Amount</b>
<b>Public Service (Limited to 15% of total funds)</b>	
Prudence Crandall - Shelter, counseling	\$ 7,467
Family Resource Centers	\$ 3,000
HRA- Case Manager	\$ 20,000
The Agape House -Warming/Cooling Center	\$ 11,000
Salvation Army Bristol Corps	\$ 7,000
St. Vincent DePaul Homeless Shelter	\$ 25,000
United Way Summer Youth Employment	\$ 4,000
Bristol Boys & Girls Club – Cambridge Park	\$ 23,000
<b>Public Facilities (Capital Projects)</b>	
City of Bristol – sidewalks in Opportunity Zone	\$ 50,000
Komanetsky Estates – Congregate housing	\$ 20,000
Disabled American Veterans – ADA accessibility	\$ 25,000
Imagine Nation - Leak repairs	\$ 10,000
New England Carousel Museum – safety lighting	\$ 15,000

“Over many decades the CDBG programs have had a direct impact on the socio-economic environment here in Bristol. These funds have provided financial support that addresses homelessness, substance abuse, domestic violence, youth programs, job enrichment and needs of our senior population to list just a few. CDBG funding has had a significant positive impact on the quality of life within our community.

In addition, we have funded infrastructure initiatives such as; sidewalk replacement, facility improvements, elevators, structure repairs, and modernization of facilities that provide meals to those in need.

Our Housing Rehabilitation Program has provided hundreds of thousands of dollars for improvements and repairs to residential properties in Bristol. This has enabled many of our senior residents to make repairs using these grant funds which will enable them to remain in their homes,” stated Howard Schmelder, Economic & Community Development Commissioner for the City of Bristol.

In addition, the City of Bristol has been awarded \$393,989 in **Coronavirus (CDBG-CV) Funds**. After a Public Hearing and vote of the Policy Committee, the City submitted a Substantial Amendment to the Year 45 Annual Plan and Consolidated Plan for 2015-2020, and approved amendments to the Citizen Participation Plan that will enable the City to react quickly to public health emergencies in the future. The CDBG-CV funds will be directed to St. Vincent De Paul Mission to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus, by expanding their facilities to add more accommodations, enable social distancing, and develop plans for an overflow facility that can be activated in the event of a resurgence of Covid-19 cases among the vulnerable populations in the future.

“The traditional distribution of the annual CDBG allocation is going to some worthy causes and supporting some of our local organizations that are doing great work in Bristol,” said Mayor Ellen Zoppo-Sassu. “I was also very happy to receive the extra funds that will be used to assist St. Vincent DePaul to increase their capacity to serve more people in their shelter, hopefully decreasing the number of people living outside, especially in times like this when community transmission of the virus is still a concern.”

For more information about Bristol’s Community Development Block Grants, visit the City of Bristol website: [www.bristolct.gov](http://www.bristolct.gov). or contact Dawn Leger, Grants Administrator at [DawnLeger@BristolCT.gov](mailto:DawnLeger@BristolCT.gov) | 860-584-6191.

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