



City of New Bedford
Jonathan F. Mitchell, Mayor

City of New Bedford
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P R E S S R E L E A S E

Mayor Mitchell Announces 2015 Community Development Block Grant & Emergency Solutions Grant Recipients at Award Ceremony

More than \$2.4 million distributed to community-based organizations to stabilize low and moderate income neighborhoods and more than \$225,000 to prevent and address homelessness

New Bedford, Massachusetts – At a check presentation ceremony today, Mayor Jon Mitchell announced the 2015 Fiscal Year award recipients of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s (HUD) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funding tomorrow. On behalf of New Bedford, Mayor Mitchell awarded more than \$2.4 million in federal funds designed to improve and stabilize low and moderate income neighborhoods and more than \$225,000 to prevent and address homelessness to community-based organizations.

As an entitlement community, the city’s Department of Planning, Housing and Community Development receives an annual allocation of funding from HUD that is distributed to community-based organizations through a competitive grant process. Recipients of CDBG and ESG funds provide a variety of housing rehabilitation services, economic development loans, public services programs, and infrastructure improvements. As required by HUD, all programs and services provided under these grants must benefit the city’s low and moderate income residents and address community-based needs in New Bedford.

Mayor Mitchell said the CDBG and ESG programs bring, “vitaly important federal dollars into the city that we leverage to help provide a range of excellent programming, improvements and opportunities for the city’s neighborhoods, businesses and residents. New Bedford’s careful use of these limited dollars brings benefits that, though they are used now, resonate for years by improving the quality of life for New Bedford children, families and the entire community.”

In 2015, the city’s Department of Planning, Housing and Community Development received \$2,489,357 in CDBG and \$227,275 ESG funding. This year marks the 42nd year that New Bedford has successfully applied and received Community Development Block Grant funding. As one of the most successful entitlement programs in congressional history, the Community

Development Block Grant Program has provided over \$138 million of federal funding directly to the City of New Bedford over the past four decades.

CDBG remains one of the most diverse local federal programs because it is designed and implemented through community input and involvement. On an annual basis, the Department of Planning, Housing and Community Development [DPHCD] engages the community through a series of public meetings to encourage public input and comment in an effort to understand the city's most pressing community development needs. Through this open and public process, the DPHCD is able to understand the city's greatest community development needs and develop a targeted approach to neighborhood revitalization. As a result, CDBG funding continues to be the cornerstone of neighborhood revitalization initiatives, while providing precious funding to those individuals and families that demonstrate the greatest need. In 2015, a total of 22 agencies are being awarded CDBG funding.

During the ceremony, Mayor Mitchell also recognized the seven recipients of HUD's Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds. In 2015, the city received \$227,275 in ESG funds to provide valuable services to its most vulnerable population: those individuals and families experiencing or at risk of becoming homeless. The two key components of the ESG program include homeless prevention and rapid re-housing activities. Through the ESG program, agencies will administer programs designed to prevent homelessness, assist with emergency shelter operations and rapidly re-house those individuals and families experiencing homelessness in our community.

DPHCD Director Patrick J. Sullivan, who administers both programs noted, "the CDBG and ESG programs each provide critical funding for services and opportunities that are strategically used throughout the city, creating value, opening new doors and making meaningful, positive change. Every dollar is leveraged to maximize the effectiveness of these funds and we look forward to overseeing exceptional CDBG and ESG programs again this fiscal year."

For more information regarding New Bedford's housing and community development programs, contact the Department of Planning, Housing and Community Development, 608 Pleasant Street, at (508) 979-1500.

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