

**CITY OF FITCHBURG**

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM**

**YEAR 49 PROPOSALS**

# YEAR 49 ESTIMATED FUNDING

## AVAILABILITY OF PROPOSAL FORMS FOR YEAR FORTY-NINE PROGRAM

Estimated CDBG funds available for Year 49 (2023-2024) are as follows:

Estimated Year 49 Entitlement*	Amount to be determined
Year 48 Entitlement	\$956,587
Program Income available from prior years (Misc.)	\$450
Reprogrammed Funds	\$TBD

### CDBG Housing Revolving Loan Funds:

Anticipated Program Income July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023	\$40,000
Anticipated Fund Balance as of June 30, 2023	\$50,000
Potential Program Income from July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024	\$38,000

### CDBG Business Revolving Loan Funds:

Anticipated Program Income July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023	\$47,000
Anticipated Fund Balance as of June 30, 2023	\$80,000
Potential Program Income July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024	\$63,000

### HOME Revolving Loan Funds:

Anticipated Program Income July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023	\$54,000
Anticipated Fund Balance as of June 30, 2023	\$525,000
Potential Program Income July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024	\$52,000

**\* This figure may fluctuate pending budget approval by Congress**

**CDBG YEAR 49 FUNDING REQUESTED**

PUBLIC FACILITIES AND IMPROVEMENTS (13)	\$739,100
PUBLIC SERVICES (12)	\$426,194
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (5)	\$230,000
REHABILITATION AND PRESERVATION (2)	\$128,139
DEMOLITION/CLEARANCE (1)	\$175,000
PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION (1)	\$210,000
<b>TOTAL YEAR 49 FUNDING REQUESTS (34)</b>	<b>\$1,908,433</b>
<b>ESTIMATED FUNDS AVAILABLE:</b>	<b>\$956,587</b>

## SUMMARY OF YEAR 49 PROPOSALS

### *PUBLIC FACILITIES AND IMPROVEMENTS*

	<b>PROJECT</b>	<b>SPONSOR</b>	<b>YEAR 49 REQUEST</b>	<b>YEAR 48 AWARD</b>
<b>A</b>	<b>City Park Signs Replacement and Updating</b>	<b>Parks &amp; Recreation</b>	<b>\$12,000</b>	<b>N/A</b>
	The purpose of this project is to create uniformity and a consistent message throughout all of the parks regarding rules, regulations, general information, and contact information to create a culture and illustrate what is expected of the people who visit the parks, playgrounds, fields, etc.			
<b>B</b>	<b>Parks &amp; Playgrounds</b>	<b>Community Development</b>	<b>\$75,000</b>	<b>\$74,408</b>
	This project will include the completion of the upgrades to Mama Fitz and Parkhill Park and provide necessary park designs and match to leverage grant funding to update outdated park features and meet the City's Open Space and Recreation Plan to upgrade old equipment and reuse existing parks to meet current recreational needs of the community.			
<b>C</b>	<b>North Street Sidewalk</b>	<b>City of Fitchburg</b>	<b>\$176,000</b>	<b>n/a</b>
	Installation of concrete sidewalks along the easterly side of North Street between McKay Avenue and Lincoln Street. This project would include excavation, gravel, loam, seeding, landscaping, and granite curbing, There is presently no sidewalk on either side of the street. This would present safe access to local students and pedestrians walking between the campuses and the school parking lots at the Civic Center.			
<b>D</b>	<b>Twin City Rail Trail Connector</b>	<b>Dept. of Public Works</b>	<b>\$95,000</b>	<b>n/a</b>
	The proposed project will pay for consultant fees to help improve existing sidewalks along Railroad Street and provide an ADA-compliant, bike- and pedestrian-friendly, well-marked route from the northern terminus of phase I of the Twin Cities Rail Trail project to the southern terminus of Phase II of the Twin Cities Rail Trail Project.			
<b>E</b>	<b>Outdoor Fitness Court And Outdoor Fitness Studio</b>	<b>Fitchburg Parks &amp; Recreation Department</b>	<b>\$65,000</b>	<b>n/a</b>
	Proposed scope of project consists of the installation of a National Fitness Campaign Fitness Court and Fitness Studio to provide all members of the community access to premier outdoor fitness spaces to exercise, play, and do other activities to improve quality of life.			
<b>F</b>	<b>Abolitionist Park</b>	<b>Fitchburg Department of Public Works</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>	<b>n/a</b>
	Proposed scope of work consist of replacing the current sidewalk; the intersections of Snow Street and Union Street, and Snow Street and Cherry Street, with ADA compliant concrete sidewalk and wheelchair ramps. Additionally providing additional street parking on the East side of Snow Street. Along with the redesign of the concrete side walk to eliminate the current driveway entrance on the park side of Snow Street.			
<b>G</b>	<b>Lowe Park Design Plan</b>	<b>Fitchburg Parks &amp; Recreation Department</b>	<b>\$75,000</b>	<b>n/a</b>
	Proposed scope of project consists of obtaining a design plan to ensure proper funding is acquired when it comes to improving Lowe Park in conjunction with NuVue Redevelopment of the school building and surrounding area. Park creates an improved green space for local community, neighborhood families, children, and senior citizens.			

<b>H</b>	<b>Abolitionist Park Phase 3b</b>	<b>Friends of the Fitchburg Abolitionist Park</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>	<b>\$4,651</b>
	If funded again, CDBG funds would help FFAP complete the final phase of the Park's development (phase 3b), which includes: the development of an interactive display board, where images of abolitionist come to life to tell their stories and how they were connected to Fitchburg.			
<b>I</b>	<b>Crocker Field-Broad St. Entry</b>	<b>City of Fitchburg, School Department</b>	<b>\$7,000</b>	<b>n/a</b>
	Funds for the project will restore the pavement at the Broad Street entry by removing the existing asphalt overlay and the original concrete pavement underneath. They will be replaced with concrete pavement to restore the original appearance.			
<b>J</b>	<b>Honor Guards</b>	<b>Mulch for Military</b>	<b>\$15,000</b>	<b>n/a</b>
	The focus of the project is to beautify and maintain military gravesite's markers and install Military Guards to prevent markers from sinking. Part of this also involves thoroughly cleaning the markers - some granite, some bronze. Funds will be used to produce each guard installed, approximately 340.			
<b>K</b>	<b>Safety and Building Updates Coolidge Pool House</b>	<b>Fitchburg Parks &amp; Recreation Dept.</b>	<b>\$23,500</b>	<b>n/a</b>
	Funds used to update and improve the pool house at Coolidge so it can operate safely and effectively for the community. Installation of an eye wash station for the employees and pool guests in case of a chemical incident, improve the interior and exterior lighting so staff and guests have safe access to the facility, addition of safety/security lighting and security system to protect and keep the facility safe and secure, and lastly anti-slip coating added to the flooring in and around the pool house to reduce the possibility of people slipping and becoming injured.			
<b>L</b>	<b>Commercial Kitchen Capital Reinvestment Project</b>	<b>YMCA of Central Massachusetts</b>	<b>\$75,000</b>	<b>n/a</b>
	The proposed scope of work in the existing 576 ft kitchen will replace all major kitchen equipment and most support features. The scope will remove and dispose of equipment that exceeded its life expectancy with replacement of the range and hood, dishwasher, refrigerators and freezer to achieve a fully functional kitchen that meets current codes and design standards. Upgraded electrical power and lighting, cabinet work and refurbished finishes will be included.			
<b>M</b>	<b>Parking Lot Revitalization</b>	<b>The Rollstone Congregational Church</b>	<b>\$15,600</b>	<b>n/a</b>
	The Rollstone Congregational Church seeks funding to renovate a small piece of their land to be used as a parking lot. The entire funding request would pay to remove existing asphalt, rocks, and debris, and replace it with base, join the abutting asphalt, and install new asphalt. Building would be used for community-based activities including as a polling site, commercial space for Finnicky Fork, Small business office space, Boy/girl scout troop meeting space, community concerts, Hands of Hope would also share the facilities in feeding and helping the homeless.			

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**13 PROPOSALS – \$739,100**

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**PUBLIC SERVICES**

	<b>PROJECT</b>	<b>SPONSOR</b>	<b>YEAR 49 REQUEST</b>	<b>YEAR 48 AWARD</b>
<b>N</b>	<b>Street Outreach</b>	<b>Fitchburg Dept. of Public Health</b>	<b>\$70,000</b>	<b>\$26,012</b>
	Outreach activities will be conducted by contracted Street Outreach Workers in coordination with partnering agencies including referrals to medical/mental health/substance use treatment, shelter, etc. Outreach activities will include supplying necessary health, hygiene and safety items as deemed appropriate by the Outreach Workers. Funds will cover one contracted worker and supplies needed.			
<b>O</b>	<b>Fitchburg Farmers' Market</b>	<b>Growing Places</b>	<b>\$8,495</b>	<b>\$7,327</b>
	Project funds will be used to support the Fitchburg Farmers' Market, which helps expand access to healthy food for Fitchburg families, especially marginalized populations, including low-income residents. The Fitchburg Farmers Market Manager, Assistant Market and Activity Coordinator, Community Nutrition Coordinator, weekly hands-on activities for the youth, and Translator will be paid through these funds.			
<b>P</b>	<b>Spartacus Program</b>	<b>Montachusett Regional YMCA</b>	<b>\$25,000</b>	<b>\$11,148</b>
	Program funds will be used to support staff salaries of the Teen Center Spartacus Program. As one of our signature Y initiatives at the Montachusett Community Branch, Spartacus is a program designed to help at-risk teens that are vulnerable to issues, such as substance abuse, failing school and anger management, make healthy decisions. Through a diverse offering of curriculum, including physical engagement, academic tutoring, community service opportunities and workshops focused on topics like anger management, leadership development and substance abuse, participants build their character, self-confidence as well as their abilities. Our local partners, such as public school boards, LUK Inc. and MOC, enrich and strengthen our program offerings with additional content. A myriad of adult role models, both from the YMCA and the Fitchburg community at large, allow for teens to constantly learn and grow outside the classroom while in a safe environment at the branch. With the knowledge they gain, we equip teens with the necessary skills and knowledge to create solutions to the challenges they are presented with in everyday life as they work towards a bright, productive future for themselves.			
<b>Q</b>	<b>Drug Enforcement Patrol Program</b>	<b>Fitchburg Police Department</b>	<b>\$65,000</b>	<b>\$60,385</b>
	Program funds will be used to provide police overtime monies to conduct drug related investigations within the designated CDBG areas. Project activities will include arrest, surveillance, and execution of search warrants, drug seizures, weapons seizures, US currency seizures, and vehicle seizures. Additionally, funds will be used to conduct targeted proactive patrols within CDBG areas primarily the downtown area and the rail trail district that falls within the CDBG area.			
<b>R</b>	<b>Family Homeless Shelter</b>	<b>North Star Family Services</b>	<b>\$12,500</b>	<b>\$9,290</b>
	North Star provides the only safety net program for homeless families in our region. Emergency shelter, meals, clothes, intensive case mgt., educational training, job and housing search, trauma informed programming, financial literacy, coaching and monitoring.. The CDBG funds will be used to pay for staff salary costs.			
<b>S</b>	<b>Youth Innovation Center: YOUTH Empowered Programs</b>	<b>Making Opportunities Count (MOC)</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>	<b>N/A</b>
	Program funds will be used to provide Consultant support, training, and supplies to the Youth Innovation Center, a recently renovated center in the Cleghorn neighborhood of Fitchburg identified as a disadvantaged area struggling with high rates of poverty and low rates of educational attainment and earnings. The center would give youth access to quality programming, an opportunity to expand the empower program for the youth, and provide peer engagement, career mentorship, and violence prevention programming.			

<b>T</b>	<b>Mayor's Energy Fund</b>	<b>Mayor's Office</b>	<b>\$25,000</b>	<b>N/A</b>
	<p>Program funds will be used to assist income-eligible residents with utility assistance. The Mayor's Energy Fund will be an application process, following HUD income guidelines, which will provide funding to help those in need pay for their utilities so they will not be going without heat during our cold winter months and supplementing existing programs such as Making Opportunities Count and the YMCA to reduce the financial burden of qualified, poverty-level families in the consortium.</p>			
<b>U</b>	<b>Homelessness Prevention Project</b>	<b>Community Legal Aid</b>	<b>\$20,000</b>	<b>\$10,219</b>
	<p>Funds from the Fitchburg CDBG program will allow a CLA Attorney to continue to assist tenants with eviction cases before their court dates and to represent subsidy program participants threatened with termination from the programs, work that we are unable to prioritize in the absence of dedicated funding. This project allows CLA to target specialized housing resources to Fitchburg residents, in an effort to ensure that the City's most vulnerable individuals and families get the legal help they need to prevent homelessness. The ability to focus attention on Fitchburg allows CLA to identify systemic issues that affect many more tenants than just our clients.</p> <p>Other cases involve housing that is in dire need of repair. CLA is able to assert legal claims that result in improvement to housing conditions, which has the effect of making the unit more livable for the tenant and also increases the quality of the community's housing stock. Landlords in eviction cases are often represented by an attorney, making representation of tenants all the more critical.</p>			
<b>V</b>	<b>Access to Recovery</b>	<b>Restoration Recovery</b>	<b>\$20,000</b>	<b>n/a</b>
	<p>Restoration Recovery Center (RRC) is a non-profit, community-based recovery center located in Fitchburg. RRC is guided by a mission to respond to people seeking recovery using a person-centered approach that promotes long-term recovery by providing holistic and faith-based alternatives. RRC is primarily a volunteer-run and peer driven service model. Program funds will be used to pay salary, occupancy, utilities, office supplies, etc.</p>			
<b>W</b>	<b>Transportation to Full STEAM Ahead After School Program</b>	<b>Boys and Girls Club of Fitchburg and Leominster</b>	<b>\$70,199</b>	<b>\$14,864</b>
	<p>Program funds will be used to provide one-way transportation from Fitchburg schools to the Boys and Girls Club Afterschool Program located at 365 Lindell Street in Leominster. Approximately 105 youth will be served.</p>			
<b>X</b>	<b>Integrated Community Resources for Veterans</b>	<b>Clear Path for Veterans New England, Inc.</b>	<b>\$20,000</b>	<b>n/a</b>
	<p>Clear Path NE is requesting CDBG Funding to support hours for a Resource Coordinator to focus on outreach services to Fitchburg Veterans. This position will assist in reaching the most vulnerable Veteran population, low to moderate-income Veterans. The coordinator will collect information on income levels and needs and monitor the health and well-being of the families served. The resource coordinator will provide referrals to resources such as food, housing assistance, financial management, and other related services and activities. A particular concern among this population is isolation; the resource coordinator will arrange for transportation to the Clear Path NE facility, located in Devens, to participate in Veteran-focused activities, including basic health checks, ageless grace workshops, yoga mindfulness, and other programs designed to enhance social connectedness. All activities will be coordinated with the Fitchburg Veteran Service Officer, who may help to identify particularly vulnerable Veterans in the community.</p> <p>The priority focus areas for this cycle will be meeting food insecurity among elderly Veterans and family members in the Fitchburg Community while providing workforce development opportunities for homeless Veterans.</p>			

<b>Y</b>	<b>Food Support for Fitchburg Residents</b>	<b>Ginny's Helping Hand, Inc.</b>	<b>\$40,000</b>	<b>n/a</b>
City of Fitchburg CDBG Funding will be restricted to the food costs supporting Fitchburg residents. Seeking to Provide nutritious food to clients each month, improve the health and well-being of families in Fitchburg, and increasing options for healthier food, providing better access to produce, meats, and seafood.				

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**12 PROPOSALS – \$426,194**

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**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

	<b>PROJECT</b>	<b>SPONSOR</b>	<b>YEAR 49 REQUEST</b>	<b>YEAR 48 AWARD</b>
<b>Z</b>	<b>Small Business Technical Assistance Program</b>	<b>NewVue Communities</b>	<b>\$25,000</b>	<b>\$23,253</b>
NewVue Communities seeks funding to continue to provide technical assistance to small business owners and those positioned to start a small business. Providing business owner counseling, serving minority business owners, and packaging loan (and grant) applications will be the activities that drive our effort to impact the economy in Fitchburg. Funds will be used to pay staff salary costs.				
<b>Y</b>	<b>Main Street Studios</b>	<b>Fitchburg Cultural Alliance</b>	<b>\$60,000</b>	<b>n/a</b>
Main Street Studios provides a co-worker space and community arts center on main Street in Fitchburg. It offers affordable studio rentals and community space utilized for meetings, rehearsals, educational/professional development workshops, as well as community events. Main Street studios is developing a gallery and rental space where artists can display and sell work. This funding will support the staff to manage the facility, retail, and create programs.				
<b>X</b>	<b>Sign &amp; Façade Program</b>	<b>Community Development</b>	<b>\$60,000</b>	<b>\$55,806</b>
The program will be one tool of many in the City and downtown's economic development toolbox. The City will be working with property owners and code officials to eliminate blighting signage, broken windows, graffiti, and other blighting factors of downtown and several gateway corridors. This will allow the City to provide an incentive for business owners to replace signs and create a more attractive storefront within consistent design standards. This program will leverage other work as a part of the agreement. Business owners will be responsible for some match funding or in-kind improvements. Part of the assistance will include professional sign design using the City's updated design standards.				
<b>W</b>	<b>Fitchburg Downtown Coordinator</b>	<b>Fitchburg State University</b>	<b>\$35,000</b>	<b>\$32,554</b>
The Downtown Coordinator position, developed and supported collaboratively by the ReImagine partnership, Fitchburg State University, and The City of Fitchburg, is a critical component in the revitalization efforts underway in downtown Fitchburg. This position works directly with microenterprises by offering marketing and promotional services to grow sales and revenue for the overall economic development of downtown. The Downtown Coordinator is also responsible for developing and implementing events and activities that attract more visitors to the downtown area. Program funding will pay a portion of the Coordinator's salary.				

<b>V</b>	<b>Fitchburg Public Market</b>	<b>Worcester Regional Food Hub</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>	<b>n/a</b>
	<p>The Worcester Regional Food Hub (WRFH) desires to bring a satellite of the successful Worcester incubator model to Fitchburg. We intend to disrupt the current state of population health and institutional inequities by not only addressing workforce and economic development, but also food insecurity and access to healthy foods. This will be by means of launching a public market which will highlight local food entrepreneurs who will sell their products wholesale and on-site, coupled with associated retail and eatery space. Funding will be to cover the first year of operational costs needed to launch the venture in downtown Fitchburg. The WRFH, which created a well-known brand of educating, training, and incubating rising food entrepreneurs in Central Massachusetts for the past several years, is growing. As they expand to Union Station in Worcester, the WRFH also seeks to add a satellite location in Fitchburg and brand it the Fitchburg Public Market (FPM).</p>			

**5 Proposals – \$230,000**

**REHABILITATION AND PRESERVATION**

	<b>PROJECT</b>	<b>SPONSOR</b>	<b>YEAR 49 REQUEST</b>	<b>YEAR 48 AWARD</b>
<b>U</b>	<b>Critical Home Repair</b>	<b>Habitat for Humanity</b>	<b>\$20,000</b>	<b>\$18,602</b>
	<p>Critical Home Repair is exterior or interior work to alleviate critical health, life, and safety issues or code violations for homeowners in need. Participants must own their own home and have a verifiable need that falls within scope and capabilities. The home must be a primary principal residence, current on mortgage, property taxes and insurance. Repairs must be necessary to function in the home and homeowners must partner with Habitat.</p>			
<b>T</b>	<b>Code Enforcement</b>	<b>Board of Health</b>	<b>\$108,139</b>	<b>\$96,224</b>
	<p>The Health Department will provide comprehensive code enforcement to encourage housing rehabilitation, in the City of Fitchburg's lower income neighborhoods. Code Enforcement activities will continue with goals to address substandard housing conditions and conditions of slum and blight in target neighborhoods. Funds will be used to pay for one sanitary code inspector and 50% of one clerk position.</p>			

**2 PROPOSALS – \$128,139**

**DEMOLITION/CLEARANCE**

	<b>PROJECT</b>	<b>SPONSOR</b>	<b>YEAR 49 REQUEST</b>	<b>YEAR 48 AWARD</b>
<b>S</b>	<b>Demolition</b>	<b>Community Development</b>	<b>\$175,000</b>	<b>n/a</b>
	<p>Proposed scope of project consists of the Removal of abandoned structures that pose an imminent threat to public safety and contribute to slum and blight conditions. The presence of abandoned and blighted properties, which are subject to vandalism and other criminal activity, lowers property values, discourages neighborhood investment and undermines neighborhood improvement initiatives. Removal of these properties is an important step in revitalization of our neighborhoods.</p>			

**1 PROPOSALS – \$175,000**

**PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION**

	<b>PROJECT</b>	<b>SPONSOR</b>	<b>YEAR 49 REQUEST</b>	<b>YEAR 48 AWARD</b>
<b>R</b>	<b>CDBG Administration</b>	<b>Community Development</b>	<b>\$210,000</b>	<b>\$185,844</b>
	Project funds will provide for the necessary administration of CDBG programs and sub-recipient contracts in accordance with federal guidelines, including staffing, technical services, and planning activities. This also includes the cost of various activities such as the Consolidated Plan; Consolidated Annual Performance Report; Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing; and other strategic plans and services. These funds enable the City to apply for, receive, and administer additional federal and state grants. (Funding will not to exceed 20% of entitlement.)			

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**1 PROPOSAL – \$210,000**

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