



TOWN OF BROOKLINE

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Alison Steinfeld, Director

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM (CDBG)

What is it?

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program is one of the longest-running programs of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Enacted in 1974, CDBG provides funds to over 1200 communities throughout the country to address critical needs such as quality affordable housing, public facilities, infrastructure, job creation and public services that serve a majority of low-moderate income residents and families. Born from community input and support, CDBG provides freedom to communities to make local choices and decisions on how to best implement these funds.

How does Brookline benefit from CDBG?

The Town of Brookline receives an annual allocation of approximately \$1.3 million in CDBG funding to provide resources to a variety of community projects and programs. The Town has received over \$40 million in the last thirty years and has leveraged millions more from public and private sectors to help these funds spread even further to support projects and programs that help make Brookline a high-quality and inclusive place to live.

Affordable Housing

CDBG has supported both the expansion and improvement of affordable housing developments in the Town. For many years, the CDBG program has provided funding to the Brookline Housing Authority for capital projects such as the Egmont Street Playground, the addition of security cameras, and energy efficiency projects. CDBG has also assisted the Town by providing funding for acquisition of properties for increased affordable housing, such as Pine Street Inn's renovation of two lodging houses on Beals Street.

Public Services

CDBG provides funding to a variety of service agencies such as programs through the Brookline Housing Authority, the Brookline Community Mental Health Center, The Public Schools of Brookline and other organizations that assist low-income residents in the Town. This includes programs that support English as Second Language, early childhood intervention, job readiness assistance, services for residents that have mental or behavioral challenges, and numerous others. By serving both children and adults, public service programs supported by CDBG in Brookline work directly with the Town's most vulnerable populations by providing necessary social services to help these residents successfully incorporate themselves into the workforce, school, and the community as a whole.

Economic Development / Job Creation

CDBG supports eligible businesses with direct financial assistance, technical assistance grants and loans to help create jobs. In recent years, the Town of Brookline has used CDBG to offer micro-enterprise loans which assisted businesses with five or fewer employees.

Public Facilities/ Park Improvements / Infrastructure

CDBG funds that support public facilities such as town-owned and non-profit-owned buildings, streets, parks, playgrounds, and infrastructure improvements are an important part of the community development strategy and greatly assist in creating a diverse, sustainable community. The Town of Brookline has utilized these funds to support the Gateway East Project, the Brookline Community Mental Health Center, Brookline Avenue Playground, the Brookline Senior Center, and numerous other projects.

