Town of Brookline
Department of Planning and Community Development

FIVE YEAR CONSOLIDATED PLAN
FISCAL YEARS 2021 - 2025
PUBLIC HEARING
JANUARY 28, 2020
The CDBG program is a flexible federal grant program that provides grantees with funding to address a wide range of community development needs. In past years, the Town has used its funds for:

- Public and non-profit housing rehabilitation (Pine Street Inn, Brookline Housing Authority)
- Affordable housing development (eligible uses - such as site or building acquisition)
- Public Facilities (Senior Center, Brookline Avenue Playground)
- Public Infrastructure (Gateway East, ENC)
- Public Services (Steps to Success, BCCMH, etc.)

and more...
CDBG – Sponsored Projects

Courtesy of Davis Square Architects
The Town must complete a Con Plan every five years to receive CDBG (and HOME) funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

- Prompts the Town to reassess the needs of some of its most vulnerable residents
- Provides opportunity for community to have input on CDBG spending priorities
- Serves as Strategic Plan to address community needs using federal resources over five year timeframe
- Acts as guiding document for allocations made under Annual Action Plans

Why a Consolidated Plan?

Town of Brookline, MA
Five Year Consolidated Plan and Strategy (FY2016-FY2020)
and
FY2016 Annual Action Plan
May 15, 2015
Community Needs

How are Needs and Priorities Determined?

- **Review of Data**: Census/ACS data, housing market data, local and regional plans
- **Community Survey**: Over 470 responses to widely-disseminated survey
- **Community Discussions**: Utilize events like Brookline Town Day to obtain face-to-face community feedback
- **Meetings with Stakeholders**: Over 20 organizations, departments, programs and committees consulted to date
- **Public Meetings/Hearings** – Piggyback when possible - held at strategic points in plan’s development process
Affordable Housing:
- There is a need for more affordable housing in the town (and region) for all incomes, in some cases with access to social services, especially for seniors and families between 30-80% AMI.
- Consistently, many residents are being pushed out of the community due to the lack of supply and rising costs of rental and ownership housing.
- Increasingly, a larger percentage of low- to moderate-income residents’ incomes are being spent on housing costs and causes many families to have issues with meeting basic needs.

Youth:
- Many low/mod income youth do not have the same access or exposure to activities and programs that their peers have
- There are gaps in programming for “tweens”
- Some students, including low/mod youth who are not on the college track, need job readiness and skills training to help them succeed in vocational or service-oriented careers

Public Spaces/Infrastructure:
- There is a need to create infrastructure that supports alternatives to automobile travel, such as walking and biking, that is designed to serve the mobility needs of the disabled and seniors
- There is a need to make parks and public spaces more accessible to the disabled and seniors

Public Services:
- The Town's low/mod income population is not homogenous, and many populations require different types of services from ranging from mental health, transportation, job training, childcare services to English language lessons

Funding:
- Overall, funding for many programs services in the Town is scarce and dwindling; local organizations that serve lower-income populations require increased fiscal support to meet the needs of their clientele
Timeline

Summer 2019 – Ongoing: Conduct Needs Assessment - Prioritize Strategies to Meet the Needs

January 2020: Release DRAFT Consolidated Plan for Public Review
Hold 1st Public Hearing

February – March 2020: RFP Process to Complete Annual Action Plan

March - April 2020: 30 Day Public Comment Period for Con Plan and AAP Drafts

May 2020: Select Board Reviews and Approves Plans as part of 2nd Public Hearing

May 15, 2020: Final Submission of Con Plan and AAP to U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Immediate Next Steps

- RFP for CDBG funds will be available to prospective grantees on January 30, 2020

- CDBG Advisory Committee will meet in March to review applications and formulate recommendations for the Select Board’s consideration

Staff will request that Select Board hold 2nd public hearing in May 2020 to approve the Con Plan and AAP for submission to HUD
QUESTIONS? COMMENTS?

Contact Community Planning Staff with any questions about eligible activities or to offer comments on the DRAFT Con Plan:

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