

PY 2020 CDBG/HOME Project Funding Applications and Recommendations

CDBG Public Services funds available: 15% of \$1,124,056 = \$168,608.40

Type	Funding Source	Requested Amount	Recommended Funding	Organization Name	Program Name	Project Description
Public Service (new)	CDBG	\$ 22,026	\$ 22,026	Harvest Time	Upgrade Walk-in Refrigeration and Freezer Units	This organization provides food distribution to the homeless and low-income residents from the church site of Calvary Assembly of God. Their current refrigerator/freezer is 25 years old, expensive to run, and insufficient to their needs. Replacing with a larger, walk-in, energy-efficient unit is essential to the continuation of their program and would allow them to provide additional food to our recipients and potentially increase the number of beneficiaries of the service.
Public Service (new)	CDBG	\$ 38,960	\$ 38,960	Symple Equazion	Aim High P.O.W.E.R. Academy (AH)	Existing progam provides free shelter to young women aged 18-24 who were either homeless or at risk of homelessness. Org requests CDBG funding to provide 15 residents with life skills training to enable them to be successful after the program, including: personal development, job coaching, computer access, resume writing, interview training, communication skills, and financial literacy skills. Funds are also requested to help offset operational costs of providing the 18-month free shelter and existing program to the residents.
Public Service (new)	CDBG	\$ 10,800	\$ 10,800	Alliance for Community Transformations - Valley Crisis Center Program (VCC)	VCC "Increasing Housing and Financial Stability Project"	Existing program is a shelter for individuals impacted by domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking. Org requests funding to provide first and last month's rent, assistance with classes and related materials or fees in order to gain employment to individuals residing at VCC's emergency shelter. Ten resident individuals will be served through this project: five with rent or other housing costs, and an additional five with provision of financial assistance for costs associated with gaining employment, including classes and materials.
Public Service (continuing)	CDBG	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	Merced Rescue Mission	Warming Center	The Merced Rescue Mission requesting funding for costs to operate an overnight warming center for homeless individuals between December 1, 2020, and March 31, 2021, when shelters are full and weather is below 40 degrees and/or raining.
Public Service (continuing)	CDBG	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	Sierra Saving Grace Homeless Project	Emergency Assistance Program	Sierra Saving Grace requests funding to provide one-time rental, mortgage, and utility assistance for a maximum of three months to homeless or low-income households at risk of homelessness. Payments will be made to the landlords, mortgage holders, or electric/gas utility company on behalf of the tenant/homeowner. Goal of the program is to prevent homelessness and enable safe, healthy living environments for residents.
Public Service	CDBG	\$ -	\$ 4,920	(NONE)	First-Time Homebuyer Classes	<u>First time home buyer classes.</u> Last year's 2019-20 Annual Action Plan awarded funding to Community Housing Council (Fresno) , but this program was unable to be implemented, and funds were re-allocated to programs to assist the COVID-19 response. As this type of activity is a Council Priority, staff recommends re-funding this activity for the 2020-21 Annual Action Plan to be able to implement when it is safe to hold these classes.
PUBLIC SERVICE:		\$ 111,786	\$ 116,706	TOTAL (remaining of 15% cap = \$ 51,902.40)		

Non-public service funding recommended (CDBG & HOME):						
Type	Funding Source	Requested Amount	Recommended Funding	Organization Name	Program Name	Project Description
Admin	HOME	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000	Project Sentinel	Project Sentinel Fair Housing	Providing Fair Housing services and outreach to the City. To combat illegal housing discrimination, Project Sentinel provides comprehensive fair housnig services of civil rights enforcement (audits and complaint-based investigations) and community outreach and education. Education and outreach activities inform community members of their fair housing rights and responsibilities. These services are provided throughout the rental and homeownership process and are available to home seekers, in-place residents, and housing providers. Provision of these services will help create and maintain healthy communities and will assist the City of Merced in meeting is obligations to affirmatively further fair housing. Project Sentinel proposes to emphasize education of general housing rights to low-income tenants and housing providers (property owners, managers, property manmanagement companies).
Admin	CDBG	\$ 38,000	\$ 38,000	Merced County Human Services Agency	Continuum of Care - Collaborative Applicant	The purpose of the Collaborative Applicant is to act as the legal entity for the Merced City and County Continuum of Care Board and to provide administrative support. This includes completing the annual Grant Inventory Worksheet, CoC Application for funding, annual Homeless Count, HIC/PIT/AHAR reporting, grant monitoring, CoC meetings, ESG Grant Application, 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness, HEARTH Regulation Implantation, Coordinated Entry System, and apply for any new funding available for homeless services.
Housing Rehab (new)	CDBG	\$ 45,000	\$ 45,000	Habitat for Humanity of Merced County	Brush with Kindness	HFH Merced County requests funding for their Brush With Kindness (BWK) program, which assists very low- and low-income residents with necessary improvements that extend the life of their home. HFH Merced County requests material costs to perform 10 to 12 necessary minor home improvement projects during the year of an average cost of \$3000 per home. Labor will be provided by the program and the homeowner.
Acquisition (continuing)	CDBG	\$ 320,000	\$ 350,000	Sierra Saving Grace Homeless Project	Supportive Housing*	Acquire a 2- or 3-unit existing residence to repair/rehab, then rent to formerly homeless or at-risk individuals or families with supportive case management provided by Sierra Saving Grace. Benefits of program are 1) market-rate units are converted to supportive housing, which addresses homelessness; and 2) neighborhoods are improved by the rehabilitation of the units; 3) preserves housing, as most units need major repairs. <i>* Applied for \$320,000 - staff recommending more because additional funds are available and due to limited purchase options at the lower price.</i>
Acquisition (continuing)	CDBG	\$ 295,000	\$ 325,000	Merced Rescue Mission	Hope for Families*	Acquire a 1- or 2- unit existing residence to repair/rehab, then rent to a formerly homeless or at-risk family with children. Case management and coordination of services is provided by the Merced Rescue Mission to ensure family is successful in finding work and permanent long-term housing. <i>* Applied for \$295,000 - staff recommending more because additional funds are available and to provide broader purchase options to the program.</i>