

PUBLIC NOTICE
CITY OF SCHENECTADY
CONSOLIDATED PLAN – 2021-2022 ACTION PLAN
CALL FOR IMPLEMENTERS

SCOPE OF PROJECT AND INTENT

The City of Schenectady announces the availability of +/- \$2.6 million in funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to assist the City in achieving positive outcomes for its residents and organizations. These Consolidated Plan resources encompass the following Federal programs: Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) and HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME). Please be aware that the exact figure of available funding has not yet been confirmed by HUD and is subject to change.

This Call for Implementers is designed to inform potential applicants (implementers) and interested parties of the range of program investments the City of Schenectady would like to make. The City wishes to achieve the following overarching outcome:

The City of Schenectady's neighborhoods are thriving, vibrant communities where residents and businesses are afforded viable opportunities to improve their quality of life.

The following statements represent the City's potential investment allocation of Federal Consolidated Plan, 2021-2022 Annual Action Plan funds. Applications must meet one of the three national objectives, address one or more of the four goals and address one or more of the related objectives within those goals.

National Objectives

1. To benefit low- and moderate-income persons.
2. To aid in the prevention or elimination of slums or blight.
3. To meet community development needs having a particular urgency.

Priority Needs, Objectives and Outcomes Identified

The 2020-2024 5-Year Consolidated Plan proposes a strategic investment approach, focused on using HUD funding to make a concentrated impact in key areas, and on building capacity through leveraged funding and collaborative community efforts. Building off the HUD funded 2017 Community Needs Assessment, with stakeholder and public input, current and near future (1-5 year) priority needs were identified. These needs, framed within the constraints of allowable uses and the amount of available HUD funding, led to the development of the following 2020-2024 goals and objectives.

See next page for Priority Needs, Objectives, and Outcomes

1) **Goal: Housing Opportunities**

Support programs that provide quality, affordable housing options and initiatives for rehabilitation of the existing housing to help stabilize neighborhoods and meet the needs of all residents.

Objectives:

- **Support Housing Rehabilitation** - Provide loan and grant programs for homeowners and landlords in key areas of the City to remedy blighted conditions.
- **Emergency Housing Services** – Work with social service organizations that provide rental assistance, utility assistance, and emergency shelter to residents to reduce homelessness throughout the City.
- **Provide Wraparound Services for Public Housing Residents** - Assist with housing support services (case management) related to mental health, addiction, independent living skills, employment and education.
- **Address Dilapidated Properties** – Support neighborhood stabilization, technical assistance and code enforcement activities. Provide home repair assistance to homeowners as a preventative measure. Provide funding to manage vacant city owned properties and to assure they do not become health and safety risks.
- **Offer Homeownership Incentives** - Support programs that enable homeownership, including down payment assistance, low interest loans and housing counseling.

2) **Goal: Expand Economic & Workforce Development**

Assist small businesses and non-profit organizations located in the target areas to remove major barriers to the City's growth and prosperity by supporting and increasing access through infrastructure upgrades and programs that provide training, technical assistance and work opportunities.

Objectives:

- **Upgrade Infrastructure and Streetscapes** - Coordinate actions and available resources for infrastructure upgrades, streetscape improvements and public space amenities to support the growth of existing businesses and attract new economic activity.
- **Support Workforce and Leadership Diversity** - Support City recruitment policies, local re-integration programs and leadership opportunities that embrace diversity.
- **Foster Training to Work Pipelines** – Support programs that include training, paid internships, apprenticeships and mentorship programs focused on local employment sector needs.
- **Remove Employment Barriers** - Provide access to reliable transportation options, affordable childcare, and technical assistance to enable parents and others to find and retain jobs throughout the City.

3) **Goal: Strengthen Local Neighborhoods**

Enhance community assets and advance cultural and recreational initiatives to engage residents, improve health, safety and education, while creating jobs.

Objectives:

- **Promote Summer Recreational Programs & Youth Employment** - Keep youth engaged in activities at City parks and facilities for both recreation and employment – providing opportunities for social interaction and on-the-job training.
- **Support “Community Hubs”** - Support the development and enhancement of community centers in challenged neighborhoods to help nurture talent, build leadership capacity and highlight diversity.
- **Increase Nutritional and Environmental Education** –Address food insecurity by supporting education and access to affordable and nutritious food options - including urban farming, neighborhood grocery stores and mobile farm markets.

Please note that priority will be given to projects/programs directly addressing the recommendations of the 2020-2024 Federal Consolidated Plan which can be found (1) at the City of Schenectady’s website (www.cityofschenectady.com) or send a request to CommunityDevelopment@schenectadyny.gov for a copy of plan.

To familiarize and assist applicants with the application format, **TWO virtual technical assistance sessions will be held via WebEx on Tuesday, February 9, 2021, from 10am-11am and from 3pm-4pm.** Attendance at one of these sessions is *required* for all potential grantees. The virtual format is in response to COVID-19 and social distancing requirements.

Completed proposals are due by 4:00 p.m., Friday, March 5, 2021. They can be submitted electronically through the online application or mailed to the address below. Instructions and applications can be found online at www.cityofschenectady.com on the Development page.

For more information, please contact:

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