



Community Development Block Grant Entitlement Communities Program

AMENDMENT TO:

**Annual Action Plan
Program Year 2015**

**Prepared by the City of Watertown
Planning & Community Development Department
245 Washington Street
Watertown, NY 13601**

**Originally Adopted – May 4, 2015
Draft Amendment – January 20, 2018**



**PROPOSED AMENDMENT
TO THE CITY OF WATERTOWN'S
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT
PROGRAM YEAR 2015 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN
DRAFT – JANUARY 20, 2018**

On May 4, 2015, the City Council of the City of Watertown adopted the City's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Annual Action Plan for Program Year 2015. The plan included various projects for the 2015-2016 fiscal year including an owner occupied housing rehabilitation program, a rental housing rehabilitation program, sidewalk and ADA ramp construction projects, a tree planting project and a playground improvement project. Many of the projects have been completed or are near completion; however, there have been changes in the cost of several projects that necessitate an amendment to the plan to reflect the various budget changes.

The list of projects and their originally approved budget amounts are listed below:

| Proposed Project | Approved Budget |
|---|------------------------|
| Owner Occupied Rehab Program | \$370,000.00 |
| Rental Rehab Program | \$120,000.00 |
| Near East and East Target Area Sidewalk Project Phase 1 | \$90,000.00 |
| Near East Target Area Playground Improvement Project | \$90,000.00 |
| Huntington Street Tree Project | \$8,000.00 |
| ADA Accessible Sidewalk Ramp Construction Project Phase 1 | \$52,000.00 |
| Planning and Administration | \$54,662.00 |
| Total | \$784,662.00 |

CDBG regulations and our Citizen Participation Plan allow some flexibility for changes in project costs during the implementation of the various programs and projects. Individual budget line items can be increased or decreased up to 25% without amending the Annual Action Plan. In the case of the ADA Ramp Project, the actual costs have increased by 37%, thereby necessitating an amendment. The increased costs were due to unforeseen surveying costs associated with reestablishing survey monuments that were disturbed as part of the construction as well as additional labor costs. The cost of the Near East and East Target Area Sidewalk Project Phase 1 was also higher than originally estimated. This was due to costs that were incurred as a result of guide rail that needed to be purchased for the project. The guide rail

was not part of the original estimate. A change in the design of the project necessitated the installation of the guide rail for safety reasons. In order to make up the shortfall in both the ADA Ramp Project and the Sidewalk Project, the City is proposing to decrease the budget in the Playground Project from \$90,000 to \$53,153.58.

The revised CDBG Program Year 2015 Annual Action Plan budget is proposed as follows:

| Proposed Project | Amended Budget |
|---|-----------------------|
| Owner Occupied Rehab Program | \$370,000.00 |
| Rental Rehab Program | \$120,000.00 |
| Near East and East Target Area Sidewalk Project Phase 1 | \$111,259.72 |
| Near East Target Area Playground Improvement Project | \$53,153.58 |
| Huntington Street Tree Planting Project | \$4,177.79 |
| ADA Accessible Sidewalk Ramp Construction Project Phase 1 | \$71,408.91 |
| Planning and Administration | \$54,662.00 |
| Total | \$784,662.00 |

Decreasing the budget for the Near East Target Area Playground Improvement Project means that we will not be able to complete the improvements as originally proposed. Therefore, the City is also proposing to modify the scope of the project. Originally, improvements planned for this project included new playground equipment and associated site improvements at the North Hamilton Street Playground and the Academy Street Playground. With this proposed amendment, the City is proposing to only complete improvements at the North Hamilton Street Playground and eliminate the improvements at the Academy Street Playground. Improvements to the Academy Street Playground will be proposed in a future annual action plan so that the project can still be completed. The revised project description for the Near East Target Area Playground Improvement Project is as follows:

Near East Target Area Playground Improvement Project

The City of Watertown is proposing to undertake public infrastructure improvements consisting of playground upgrades in the Near East Target Area. The project will include replacement of playground equipment at the North Hamilton Street Playground. The Near East Target Area was identified in our outreach and consultation efforts as an area in which to focus our CDBG efforts. The Playground Improvement Project will focus on this area and will allow the City to help meet an important Non-Housing Community Development Need identified in our Consolidated Plan. That is to ensure that adequate recreational facilities are available for residents in all low to moderate income neighborhoods. LMI neighborhoods contain a very low

percentage of the total park land in the City. Where parkland and recreational facilities do exist, they are often inadequate in terms of the condition of the existing equipment, landscaping and access to the site. The project will include upgrades to the North Hamilton Street Playground including new playground equipment, landscaping and miscellaneous site amenities.

Citizen Participation

The City's Community Development Block Grant Program has an adopted Citizen Participation Plan that outlines various steps that the City must take in order to engage the public in the development of our annual action plans and any amendments to them. In the development of this amendment to the City's Program Year 2015 Annual Action Plan, the City Council has scheduled a public hearing on the proposed amendment for Monday, February 5, 2018 at 7:30 p.m. in the City Council Chamber of City Hall. On January 20, 2018 the City advertised in the *Watertown Daily Times* to notify the public of the public hearing date and time and to announce the start of a 30-day public comment period that will last from January 20, 2018 to February 20, 2018. The City also conducted outreach to several agencies and businesses by email notifying them of the proposed changes and made the proposed amendment available for review at City Hall in the Planning and Community Development Department, the City Clerk's Office and at the Roswell P. flower Memorial Library and at the Watertown Housing Authority.