



**AMENDMENT
TO THE CITY OF WATERTOWN'S
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT
PROGRAM YEAR 2021 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN
DRAFT – DECEMBER 22, 2023**

On May 3, 2021, the City Council of the City of Watertown adopted the City's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Annual Action Plan for Program Year 2021. The plan included various projects for the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year, several of which this amendment will modify, either in scope or in budget or both.

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

Proposed Project	Approved Budget
Grant Street Sidewalk Replacement Project	\$363,705
Thompson Park ADA Ramp Replacement Project	\$75,000
N. Hamilton Playground Basketball Court	\$12,500
Northeast Target Area Tree Planting	\$10,000
535 Olive Street Demolition	\$35,000
Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation	\$196,000
Homebuyer Program	\$140,000
Point-In-Time Outreach and Education Initiative	\$10,000
Fair Housing Education	\$5,000
WCSD Food 4 Families	\$6,500
Target Area Smoke Detector Program	\$5,000
Seward Street Reconstruction Design	\$25,000
Program Administration	\$118,126.44
Total	\$1,001,831.44

This amendment will change the budget for several of the above-identified projects. CDBG regulations and our Citizen Participation Plan allow some flexibility for changes in project costs as the City implements the various programs and projects. The City may increase or decrease individual budget line items by up to 25 percent without amending the Annual Action Plan. However, in the case of the Grant Street Sidewalk Replacement Project, the actual cost was

approximately a 31 percent decrease from the originally budgeted amount. Also, in the case of the North Hamilton Playground Basketball Court Project, the actual project cost was approximately a 90 percent increase from the originally budgeted amount. Additionally, two new projects are being added to the 2021 Annual Action Plan to use the additional funding. The decrease and increase in the budget line items and new projects necessitates an amendment. The other projects with an amendment to their budgets, the Thompson Park ADA Ramp Replacement Project, the 535 Olive Street Demolition Project, the Point-in-Time Outreach and Education Initiative and Program Administration, changed by less than 25 percent.

The four projects collectively finished \$113,735.21 under budget. The City proposes to reallocate the surplus to pay for three projects that are over budget and two new projects. The proposed new projects are the Grant Street Reconstruction Project and the Franklin Street ADA Ramp Design which are described below.

Below is the revised CDBG Program Year 2021 Annual Action Plan budget, following all proposed revisions:

Proposed Project	Amended Budget
Grant Street Sidewalk Replacement Project	\$252,493.20
Thompson Park ADA Ramp Replacement Project	\$74,140.35
N. Hamilton Playground Basketball Court	\$23,856.03
Northeast Target Area Tree Planting	\$10,010.00
535 Olive Street Demolition	\$42,629.87
Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation	\$196,000.00
Homebuyer Program	\$140,000.00
Point-In-Time Outreach and Education Initiative	\$9,776.00
Fair Housing Education	\$5,000.00
WCSD Food 4 Families	\$6,500.00
Target Area Smoke Detector Program	\$5,000.00
Seward Street Reconstruction Design	\$25,000.00
Program Administration*	\$100,079.31
Grant Street Reconstruction Project	\$102,379.18
Franklin Street ADA Ramp Design	\$8,967.50
Total	\$1,001,831.44

*Includes the addition of \$58,041.44 in Program Income.

The following are descriptions for the above identified new projects:

Grant Street Construction Project:

The Grant Street Reconstruction Project will include the complete reconstruction of Grant Street between Main Street East and Henry Street. Improvements will include ADA ramp replacement, curbing replacement, new pavement, and replacement of various utilities such as water, sanitary sewer, storm sewer along with green infrastructure improvements and tree planting.

The City estimates that 150 low to moderate-income (LMI) families will benefit from the proposed project based on the estimated number of families in the Block Group and the LMI percentage for the Block Group that the project covers. Since 2020 ACS data on total families in a geography is only available at the Census Tract level, the city divided the number of families evenly across the three Block Groups in Census Tract 613 when estimating the number of families.

The project is located in the City's Northeast CDBG Target Area and is located in Census Tract 613, Block Group 2 which is characterized as having a low to moderate income population of 61.44 percent.

Franklin Street ADA Ramp Design:

This project involves the design of public infrastructure improvements consisting of ADA sidewalk ramps. The City proposes to reconstruct approximately 16 ramps in Census Tract 621, which has an estimated Disability Rate of 25 percent according to 2016-2020 Five-year American Community Survey (ACS) estimates, almost double the estimated nationwide Disability Rate. In addition, ACS data also estimates that approximately 29 percent of occupied housing units in Census Tract 621 do not have access to a vehicle, making pedestrian trips more likely.

The City will install the ramps in locations where either none currently exist or where the existing ramps do not comply with the current ADA PROWAG requirements. The City proposes to hire an engineering consultant to perform the design work.

This project will help to meet an important non-housing community development need identified in the City's Consolidated Plan which is to ensure pedestrian safety by providing for the safe movement of the elderly and disabled.

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. While developing this amendment to the City's Program Year 2021 Annual Action Plan, the City Council has scheduled a public hearing on the proposed amendment for Tuesday, January 16, 2024 at 7:15 p.m. in the City Council Chamber of City Hall. On December 22, 2023, 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 December 22, 2023 to January 22, 2024. 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, at the Watertown Housing Authority and on our website at www.watertown-ny.gov.