



City of Brockton

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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City of Brockton Receives Additional Community Development Block Grant, CARES Act Funding

Brockton, MA - The City of Brockton has been awarded an additional \$937,951 as part of the third round of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) CARES Act funding. The CARES Act is administered through the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD). This is in addition to the \$841,179 that was received in the first round of funding in April 2020. The City will use these vital grant-making funds to address the ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Brockton Redevelopment Authority, which oversees all federal development funds for the City, will manage disbursement.

This CDBG CARES Act funding will support the City's most vulnerable residents through a variety of assistance programs. These include housing assistance, including support for rent, utility, and mortgage payments, small business survival and economic development, and other grants supporting the community at the ground level through existing organizations and programs, such as food pantries and social services.

"I am confident that these CARES Act funds will provide needed support for Brockton citizens, businesses, and the charitable organizations that serve the most vulnerable in our community," said Mayor Robert F. Sullivan. "Brockton has been hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic. Our citizens are struggling to make ends meet. I thank our state and federal delegations for helping make these funds a reality as it will provide much needed relief in our community."

"The CARES Act funding coming through CDBG has been extremely important to the COVID-19 response in Brockton," said Robert Jenkins, Executive Director of the Brockton Redevelopment Authority. "The first round of funding is still being utilized but has already impacted and assisted thousands in the community, and this third round of funding will just allow us to increase those helped to the tens of thousands."

"City of Champions"

Brockton organizations and businesses addressing the new and exacerbated needs created by COVID-19 could apply to receive funding through this grant program and thirteen met the CDBG and COVID-19 eligibility requirements. Housing assistance was a priority for the City of Brockton this funding cycle. The City allocated \$325,000 for the Housing Cost Assistance program administered by NeighborWorks Housing Solutions. This addition brings the total CDBG funding to \$682,000 for housing assistance within the City. The Housing Cost Assistance program is modeled after the Commonwealth's RAFT program but raises the eligibility income threshold and commits dedicated dollars to Brockton residents who are currently waiting in the region for RAFT assistance.

The City additionally allocated \$530,951 of this funding to public services in Brockton for a total of \$754,194 between all CDBG grant cycles. Organizations funded this round include:

- BAMSI, Dorn Davies Senior Center
- BAMSI, Helpline
- Boys & Girls Club of Brockton, Learning Pods Academic Support Program
- Brockton Interfaith Community, Mutual Aid
- Brockton Area Arc, Day Habilitation and Community Based Day Supports
- Family and Community Resources, Families in Crisis
- Father Bill's & MainSpring, COVID Response and Street Outreach
- Old Colony YMCA, Family Services and Technology
- The Charity Guild, Food Pantry
- United Way of Greater Plymouth County, Community Connections of Brockton

"I can't put into words how amazing this funding has been. We never would have been able to keep up with the dramatic increase in new food pantry clients had it not been for this funding," said Laura Striese, Executive Director of The Charity Guild.

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