



# Community Development

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## 2022 CAPER Review

### Overview

The City of Massillon, Ohio has proudly contributed great effort in the utilization of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to assist the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) with the mission to provide a better quality of life for our citizens

There are certain requirements all projects and activities funded must meet. Each project and activity must address one of the three national objectives – Benefit low/moderate income persons; assist in the prevention or elimination of slum and blight; or Meet an urgent need. Of the funds: at least 70% must benefit low to moderate income; the amount of the grant used to fund Public Service Activities cannot exceed 15%; and administrative costs and expenses cannot exceed 20% of the grant.

The City is an entitlement community under the HUD CDBG Program, and as such, we are responsible for preparing,

submitting and administering the funds that we receive directly from HUD.

For the 2022 Program year the City was awarded Community Development Block Grant funds in the amount of \$665,007.00. The money from the 2022 grant, which ran from July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023, was used to fund local community development activities.

### Public Service Recipients

Of the total amount awarded, \$98,500.00 was given to local agency projects that applied for and were approved for the sub-recipient grant dollars.

Listed below are the agencies that were awarded funding through the Public Service portion of the grant, along with an amount and a brief description of the services provided with the CDBG grant:

- Boys and Girls Club of Massillon-\$9,500.00- provided a "Career Launch" program that mentors, educates, and

trains youth skills for future employment/careers.

- Canton Ex-Newsboys - Straight Path Program – was awarded \$8,000.00 but did not utilize funds due to received a substantial donation from a private donor.
- CommQuest - \$10,000.00- operated the Family Living Center Homeless Shelter located in Massillon.
- Domestic Violence Project-\$10,000.00- operated a shelter (confidential location) that provides short term emergency housing and supportive services for women and children who are victims of domestic violence.
- Faith in Action of Western Stark County - \$8,000.00 - provided caregiver services to elderly, frail elderly and handicapped persons of Massillon.
- Habitat for Humanity - \$6,000.00 - helps low to moderate income families get the home furnishings they

- need through free vouchers to shop at ReStore in Canton.
- Legacy Project of Stark County - \$3,000.00-provides a mentorship program inside Massillon City schools, provides community events, and offers a summer program where students can connect with one another as well as spend valuable time with their mentors.
- Make A Way-\$5,500.00-provided educational and peer support programs for persons with mental illness, physical disabilities, and /or developmental disabilities.
- Massillon Main Street - \$16,880.00 – assisted 4 businesses with façade improvements.
- Meals On Wheels-\$5,000.00 – provided meals to low-to-moderate income Massillon seniors
- Stark County Mental Health & Addiction -\$10,000.00-Stark County Homeless Hotline serves as Stark County Continuum of Care (CoC) centralized point of entry for persons seeking assistance with housing and social service needs.
- Stark Fresh - \$9,000.00 – provides Affordable, accessible food access solutions in areas of food apartheid, designed to meet the immediate needs of the community in which they are placed.
- Straight Path Program – was awarded \$3,000.00 but did not utilize funds.
- Vantage Aging - was awarded \$5,000.00 but did not utilize funds.
- Westark Family Services - \$9,000.00- provided an Elderly Homemaker Program in-home

personal care and assistance to elderly and handicapped persons.

- YMCA - \$5,000.00 – provides membership scholarships to low-to-moderate income individuals and families.

### Housing Activities

The Housing Department for the City of Massillon utilizes the CDBG dollars to operate several rehabilitation programs. The Emergency Repair program is designed to provide assistance for emergency problems that are a current threat to the health and safety of the household. The Minor Repair program is used to bridge the gap between the Emergency Repair (CDBG) program and the Full Rehabilitation Program (HOME) by providing assistance to repair one or more items that are in need of serious repair and bring them up to Minimum Code.

During the 2022 program year, the Housing Department provided assistance to 10 low-to-moderate income families, with a total of \$112,639.79. The following projects were completed:

- 2 Electrical Repairs
- 4 New Roofs
- 2 Plumbing Repairs
- 1 Handicap Accessibility Project
- 2 Other Exterior Improvements

The money provided also allows the City to operate our own Fair Housing program, in which we work to improve and promote housing opportunities within the community through education and outreach, monitoring and evaluation, and administration of fair housing laws. We were able to address tenant/landlord issues and, when needed, conducted counseling services between the tenant and landlord.

For the 2023 program year the Housing Department received \$9,035.96 for the Fair Housing Program. We responded to a total of 471 Fair Housing calls. Many of these calls were resolved by communicating with the tenant and landlord to find a compromise

acceptable to both parties; some calls were transferred to Code Enforcement and resolved through their Department. We also hosted our annual Fair Housing Lunch in April, 2023 in honor of National Fair Housing Month and continued our outreach and education efforts.

In addition to our normal programming, CDBG provided Habitat for Humanity with \$100,000. to use toward the neighborhood revitalization project taking place in the SW LMI target area.



### Code Enforcement

A key program helping to reduce slum and blight has been the Code Enforcement program through CDBG. In the 2019 Program Year the grant money was used to fund a designated Code Enforcement officer for the low-income neighborhoods and target area of the City. In total, \$32,448.00 was used, and over 150 inspections were completed and violations corrected. Inspections of housing units includes rental units, buildings, businesses, and organizations in Massillon's designated target area when complaints are filed by the public, identified by City staff, or during compliance monitoring.

### Other Programs

- A total of \$32,448.00 was committed for Downtown Street Improvements and \$119,811.16 for Target Area Streets during the 2023 program year. CDBG funding for street improvements in Massillon's target neighborhoods includes streetscaping and pavement repair, resurfacing, catch basin rehab, drainage, manhole rehab, partial and full depth replacement. The targeted area this year was Charles Avenue SE.
- Provided funding for the salaries of the Departments 3 employees.

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