

**CITY OF FITCHBURG**

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM**

**YEAR 48 PROPOSALS**

**CDBG YEAR 48 FUNDING REQUESTED**

PUBLIC FACILITIES AND IMPROVEMENTS (12)	\$850,113
PUBLIC SERVICES (9)	\$284,787
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (4)	\$220,000
REHABILITATION AND PRESERVATION (2)	\$123,456
PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION (1)	\$210,000
<b>TOTAL YEAR 48 FUNDING REQUESTS (28)</b>	<b>\$1,688,356</b>
<b>ESTIMATED FUNDS AVAILABLE:</b>	<b>\$1,001,125</b>

**SUMMARY OF YEAR 48 PROPOSALS**

**PUBLIC FACILITIES AND IMPROVEMENTS**

	<b>PROJECT</b>	<b>SPONSOR</b>	<b>YEAR 48 REQUEST</b>	<b>YEAR 47 AWARD</b>
<b>A</b>	<b>Parkhill Park Phase II</b>	<b>Parks &amp; Recreation</b>	<b>\$60,000</b>	<b>\$37,500</b>
	Continuation of projects at Parkhill Park to make improvements to the stonework along Sand Brook and repairs to the BMX Bike Park, the Ryan C, Joubert Skate Park and the baseball fields. The project will improve/preserve the stone bridges that lead hikers to the wooded sections of the park. Finally the important recreational features of the park (BMX, skate and baseball field) will be repaired to restore their usefulness to the neighborhood.			
<b>B</b>	<b>Parks &amp; Playgrounds</b>	<b>Community Development</b>	<b>\$80,000</b>	<b>\$74,999</b>
	Replace old and outdated play equipment at Parkhill Park and JoAnn "Mama" Fitz Park, Reconstruct Basketball Court at Mama Fitz Park, Related Site work.  Removal/disposal of existing play features and site furnishings and replacement with new, code compliant, inviting play options and site furnishings. Renovation of the basketball court at Mama Fitz Park will also take place. Replacement and/or addition of some pathways will be required to meet accessibility standards. Plantings will be added to provide shade and interest to the area. Public outreach, land survey and design work will be a part of the project. City Staff, a Landscape Architect (consultant) and a contractor will be needed to complete the work.			
<b>C</b>	<b>Sidewalk Accessibility</b>	<b>Disability Commission</b>	<b>\$43,000</b>	<b>n/a</b>
	Installation or replacement of curb ramps and sidewalk at key locations within the city to improve accessibility. Priority area one is the intersection of Wallace Ave and Elm Street - new curb ramps are required at all four corners. Priority Area two is the intersection of Main Street and Caldwell Ave where curb ramps are needed. Additionally, 175 feet of new sidewalk and replacement of new 3 curb ramps (two on Senior Center side, one on Court House side) is needed on Elm Street near the court house. This area of work connects to the intersection of Wallace Ave and Elm Street.			
<b>D</b>	<b>Streetscape Improvements</b>	<b>Community Development</b>	<b>\$130,000</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>
	Streetscape improvements within the urban core, city gateways or school walking routes. Funds may be utilized as match for Safe Routes to School, Complete Streets or other identified funding program. Work may include design, installation or replacement of sidewalks, curbcuts, fencing, lighting, plantings, intersection improvements or other infrastructure or accessibility improvements along City Gateways, in the urban core or other strategic locations.			
<b>E</b>	<b>Pleasant Street Sidewalk Improvements</b>	<b>Fitchburg DPW</b>	<b>\$58,472</b>	<b>n/a</b>
	Proposed scope of project consist of replacing the current asphalt sidewalk with ADA compliant concrete sidewalk on the South side of Pleasant Street from the intersection of Pleasant Street and Spring Street to the existing concrete sidewalk on the South East side of the Longsjø Middle School and the addition of ADA compliant wheelchair accessible ramps on Pleasant Street at Spring Street with RRFB's and a painted crosswalk.			
<b>F</b>	<b>Boutelle/Goodrich Sidewalk Improvements</b>	<b>Fitchburg DPW</b>	<b>\$71,419</b>	<b>n/a</b>
	Proposed scope of project consist of replacing the current asphalt sidewalk with ADA compliant concrete wheelchair accessible ramps on three (3) of the four (4) corners of the intersection of Boutelle Street and Goodrich Street with RRFB's and a painted crosswalk. This project was conceived by Ward 6 City Counselor Derrick Cruz to address pedestrian safety issues at the intersection of Goodrich Street and Boutelle Street. See the attached email thread discussing the project.			

<b>G</b>	<b>Franklin Road Sidewalk Improvements</b>	<b>Fitchburg DPW</b>	<b>\$151,222</b>	<b>n/a</b>
	Proposed scope of project consist of replacing the current asphalt sidewalk with ADA compliant concrete sidewalk on the North side of Franklin Road from the intersection of Franklin Road and Oakhill Road to the existing asphalt sidewalk at the intersection of Franklin Road and Depot Street and the addition of ADA compliant wheelchair accessible ramps at all intersecting cross street on the North side of Franklin road along Franklin Road with RRFB's and a painted crosswalk. The project also includes the proposal for ADA compliant wheelchair accessible ramps and concrete sidewalk at the intersection of Depot Street and Appleton Circle with RRFB's and a painted crosswalk.			
<b>H</b>	<b>North Street Sidewalk Improvements</b>	<b>Councilor Van Hazinga</b>	<b>\$176,000</b>	<b>n/a</b>
	To install a sidewalk along the easterly side of North St between McKay Avenue and Lincoln Street. There is presently no sidewalk on either side of the street, but this roadway provides pedestrian access to the McKay School and Fitchburg State University.			
<b>I</b>	<b>Abolitionist Park Phase III</b>	<b>Friends of the Fitchburg Abolitionist Park</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>	<b>n/a</b>
	If funded again, CDBG funds would help FFAP complete the third and final phase of the Park's development, which includes: the development of an interactive display board, where images of abolitionists come to life to tell their stories and how they were connected to Fitchburg; hiring an artist to paint a mural reflecting Fitchburg's role in the Abolitionist Movement and Underground Railroad; installation of a brick and paver patio; ornamental fencing to fill the gap between the Park and Hotel Raymond parking lot, and of a flagpole light.			
<b>J</b>	<b>Summer Street Art Improvements</b>	<b>NCM Assoc. of Realtors</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>	<b>n/a</b>
	This application is to obtain 'Improve Public Facility or Infrastructure' funds in the amount of \$5,000 to improve a commonly "tagged" area of Summer Street with a City of Fitchburg themed mural. Activities will include our Fitchburg resident artist creating a Fitchburg themed design for the mural. Disruption to everyday activities on Summer Street will be little to none as this artist is able to freehand the mural. He will be using spray paint only to complete the project.			
<b>K</b>	<b>Public Art Project</b>	<b>Community Development</b>	<b>\$25,000</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>
	This project will expand the public art offerings in Fitchburg in the Downtown, Rail Trail, and/or Gateways. Public Art may include murals, sculpture, and interactive art installations.			
<b>L</b>	<b>Food Pantry</b>	<b>Highland Baptist Church</b>	<b>\$45,000</b>	<b>n/a</b>
	The room where food is stored is in need of complete restructuring and securing in order to safely hold all food, freezers, and refrigerators. The organization has a drawn out blueprint of the plan from a company and have received bids to complete the project which is estimated at 40,000. The pantry is also in need of another commercial grade freezer and refrigerator in order to safely store more perishable food items.			

**12 PROPOSALS – \$850,113**

**PUBLIC SERVICES**

	<b>PROJECT</b>	<b>SPONSOR</b>	<b>YEAR 48 REQUEST</b>	<b>YEAR 47 AWARD</b>
<b>M</b>	<b>Street Outreach</b>	<b>Fitchburg Health Dept.</b>	<b>\$28,000</b>	<b>\$28,000</b>
	Outreach activities will be conducted in coordination with partnering agencies including referrals to medical/mental health/substance use treatment, shelter, etc. Outreach activities will include supplying necessary health, hygiene and safety items as deemed appropriate by the Outreach Workers.			
<b>N</b>	<b>Fitchburg Farmers' Market</b>	<b>Growing Places</b>	<b>\$7,887</b>	<b>\$7,543</b>
	Project funds will be used to support the Fitchburg Farmers' Market, which helps expand access to healthy food for Fitchburg families, especially marginalized populations, including low-income residents. The Fitchburg Farmers Market Manager, Assistant Market and Activity Coordinator, Community Nutrition Coordinator, and Translator will be paid through these funds.			
<b>O</b>	<b>Spartacus Program</b>	<b>Montachusett Regional YMCA</b>	<b>\$25,000</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>
	Program funds will be used to support staff salaries of the Teen Center Spartacus Program. Spartacus is a signature YMCA Of Central Massachusetts initiative designed to assist at-risk teens that are vulnerable to issues like substance abuse, failing school, anger management and more make healthy decisions. The program engages participants through physical engagement, academic tutoring, community service, leadership development, anger management counseling and workshops around substance abuse and gender violence – among other topics. Youth are presented with challenges and empowered with the knowledge and confidence to help them implement creative solutions. These skills help teens build a bright future for themselves. The initiative, offered through the YMCA's Montachusett Teen Center in Fitchburg, provides students with role models from within their communities, an adult-supervised environment in which to spend time after school and practical skills they can apply in academic environments and beyond. An increase in funds is requested so that the program can grow from 50 to 100 teens due to an increased demand brought on by the ongoing pandemic and the history of the program's success and impact on Fitchburg teens.			
<b>P</b>	<b>Drug Enforcement Patrol Program</b>	<b>Fitchburg Police Department</b>	<b>\$65,000</b>	<b>\$65,000</b>
	Program funds will be used to provide police overtime monies to conduct drug related investigations within the designated CDBG areas. Project activities will include arrest, surveillance, and execution of search warrants, drug seizures, weapons seizures, US currency seizures, and vehicle seizures. Additionally, funds will be used to conduct additional, targeted proactive patrols in the CDBG areas, primarily the Downtown and Main St district.			
<b>Q</b>	<b>Family Homeless Shelter</b>	<b>North Star Family Services</b>	<b>\$12,000</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>
	North Star provides emergency shelter, comprehensive support services, basic needs, self-sufficiency case management, and a pathway to permanently affordable housing. The organization documents improvement in: Safety & Stabilization, Basic Needs, Parenting, Child Development & Social Emotional Learning, Education, Finances, Employment, Housing, Health, and Well-Being. The CDBG funds will be used to pay for staff salary costs.			

<b>R</b>	<b>Homelessness Prevention Project</b>	<b>Community Legal Aid</b>	<b>\$20,000</b>	<b>\$11,000</b>
	<p>Funds from the Fitchburg CDBG program will allow CLA to continue to assist tenants with eviction cases before their court dates and to represent subsidy program participants threatened with termination from the programs, work that we are unable to prioritize in the absence of dedicated funding. This project allows CLA to target specialized housing resources to Fitchburg residents, in an effort to ensure that the City's most vulnerable individuals and families get the legal help they need to prevent homelessness. The ability to focus attention on Fitchburg allows CLA to identify systemic issues that affect many more tenants than just our clients.</p> <p>Other cases involve housing that is in dire need of repair. CLA is able to assert legal claims that result in improvement to housing conditions, which has the effect of making the unit more livable for the tenant and also increases the quality of the community's housing stock. Landlords in eviction cases are often represented by an attorney, making representation of tenants all the more critical. This is particularly the case in central Massachusetts. In FY 2021, in the Central Division of the Housing Court, only 8.6 percent of tenants were represented, compared to 75 percent of landlords. This demonstrates the continued crucial need for our services among tenants, as the percentage of represented landlords has grown since 2018 (when 66% were represented).</p>			
<b>S</b>	<b>Access to Recovery</b>	<b>Restoration Recovery</b>	<b>\$28,000</b>	<b>n/a</b>
	<p>Restoration Recovery Center (RRC) is a non-profit, community-based recovery center located in Fitchburg. RRC is guided by a mission to respond to people seeking recovery using a person-centered approach that promotes long-term recovery by providing holistic and faith-based alternatives. RRC is primarily a volunteer-run and peer driven service model. Program funds will be used to pay occupancy, utilities, office supplies, etc.</p>			
<b>T</b>	<b>Transportation to Full STEAM Ahead After School Program</b>	<b>Boys and Girls Club of Fitchburg and Leominster</b>	<b>\$20,000</b>	<b>\$16,000</b>
	<p>Program funds will be used to provide one-way transportation from Fitchburg schools to the Boys and Girls Club Afterschool Program located at 365 Lindell Street in Leominster. Approximately 300 youth will be served.</p>			
<b>U</b>	<b>Population Health</b>	<b>SproutChange</b>	<b>\$78,900</b>	<b>n/a</b>
	<p>Project funds will be used to provide public services in Fitchburg to improve population health among elderly, low-income, disabled persons, as well as those with chronic diseases (heart, lung, diabetes), and behavioral health disorders in Fitchburg through wellness and sustainable gardening programming that includes a budget to provide free of cost transportation stipends, childcare, and translation. Workshops include wellness programs on Food as Medicine &amp; Natural Remedies, Mental Health, Emergency First Aid in Your Kitchen, Heart Health, Lung Health, Healthy Blood Sugar, Healthy Aging, Gut-Brain Connection, DIY Cultured/Fermented Medicinal Foods, and more. Funding will be used for workshops, staff wages, and project management expenses.</p>			

**9 PROPOSALS – \$284,787**

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

	<b>PROJECT</b>	<b>SPONSOR</b>	<b>YEAR 48 REQUEST</b>	<b>YEAR 47 AWARD</b>
<b>V</b>	<b>Small Business Technical Assistance Program</b>	<b>NewVue Communities</b>	<b>\$25,000</b>	<b>\$25,000</b>
	NewVue Communities seeks funding to continue to provide technical assistance to small business owners and those positioned to start a small business. Providing business owner counseling, serving minority business owners, and packaging loan (and grant) applications will be the activities that drive our effort to impact the economy in Fitchburg. Funds will be used to pay staff salary costs.			
<b>W</b>	<b>Fitchburg Business Assistance</b>	<b>Community Development</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>	<b>\$150,162</b>
	Project funds will be used to provide loans/grants to Fitchburg businesses or property owners for business start-up, expansion, or to make required accessibility improvements.			
<b>X</b>	<b>Sign &amp; Façade Program</b>	<b>Community Development</b>	<b>\$60,000</b>	<b>n/a</b>
	The program will be one tool of many in the City and downtown's economic development toolbox. The City will be working with downtown property owners and code officials to eliminate blighting signage, broken windows, graffiti, and other blighting factors of downtown. This will allow the City to provide an incentive for business owners to replace signs and create a more attractive storefront within consistent design standards. This program will leverage other work as a part of the agreement. Business owners will be responsible for some match funding or in-kind improvements. Part of the assistance will include professional sign design using the City's updated design standards.			
<b>Y</b>	<b>Fitchburg Downtown Coordinator</b>	<b>Fitchburg State University</b>	<b>\$35,000</b>	<b>\$35,000</b>
	The Downtown Coordinator position, developed and supported collaboratively by the ReImagine partnership, Fitchburg State University, and The City of Fitchburg, is a critical component in the revitalization efforts underway in downtown Fitchburg. This position works directly with microenterprises by offering marketing and promotional services to grow sales and revenue for the overall economic development of downtown. The Downtown Coordinator is also responsible for developing and implementing events and activities that attract more visitors to the downtown area. Program funding will pay a portion of the Coordinator's salary.			

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**4 Proposals – \$220,000**

**REHABILITATION AND PRESERVATION**

	<b>PROJECT</b>	<b>SPONSOR</b>	<b>YEAR 48 REQUEST</b>	<b>YEAR 47 AWARD</b>
<b>Z</b>	<b>Critical Home Repair</b>	<b>Habitat for Humanity</b>	<b>\$20,000</b>	<b>\$20,000</b>
	Critical Home Repair is exterior or interior work to alleviate critical health, life, and safety issues or code violations for homeowners in need. Participants must own their own home and have a verifiable need that falls within scope and capabilities. The home must be a primary principal residence, current on mortgage, property taxes and insurance. Repairs must be necessary to function in the home and homeowners must partner with Habitat.			
<b>W</b>	<b>Code Enforcement</b>	<b>Board of Health</b>	<b>\$103,456</b>	<b>\$103,241</b>
	The Health Department will provide comprehensive code enforcement to encourage housing rehabilitation, in the City of Fitchburg lower income neighborhoods. Code Enforcement activities will continue with goals to address substandard housing conditions and conditions of slum and blight in target neighborhoods. Funds will be used to pay for one sanitary code inspector and 50% of one clerk position.			

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**2 PROPOSALS – \$123,456**

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**PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION**

	<b>PROJECT</b>	<b>SPONSOR</b>	<b>YEAR 48 REQUEST</b>	<b>YEAR 47 AWARD</b>
<b>X</b>	<b>CDBG Administration</b>	<b>Community Development</b>	<b>\$210,000</b>	<b>\$200,000</b>
	Project funds will provide for the necessary administration of CDBG programs and sub-recipient contracts in accordance with federal guidelines, including staffing, technical services, and planning activities. This also includes the cost of various activities such as the Consolidated Plan; Consolidated Annual Performance Report; Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing; and other strategic plans and services. These funds enable the City to apply for, receive, and administer additional federal and state grants. (Funding will not to exceed 20% of entitlement.)			

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**1 PROPOSAL – \$210,000**

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