

CITY OF PAWTUCKET



DRAFT

Annual Action Plan

FY 2023-2024

(July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024)

for the

Community Development Block Grant Program

HOME Investment Partnership Program

Emergency Solutions Grant Program

**TO BE PRESENTED TO THE PAWTUCKET
CITY COUNCIL ON
WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 2023 – 7 P.M.**

FOR PUBLIC REVIEW

Citizen Comments on the Plan will be
accepted until May 31, 2023.

Comments may be mailed to: Mark E. Goudreau, Community Development Program Manager,
Pawtucket Dept. of Planning and Redevelopment, City Hall, 137 Roosevelt Avenue, Pawtucket, RI 02860
or email – MGODREAU@PAWTUCKETRI.COM
(401) 728-0500, Ext. 430

April 21, 2023

Bianca M. Policastro, Director

Donald R. Grebien, Mayor

2023-2024 Annual Action Plan Executive Summary

1. Introduction

The City of Pawtucket is an Entitlement Community that expects to receive funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to invest in local solutions to address housing and community development needs. The funds include the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), the HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME) and the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG).

The primary objective of the CDBG program is to develop viable communities through the provision of decent housing, a suitable living environment and expanded economic opportunities. HOME funds are dedicated to preserving and creating affordable housing. ESG supports outreach and shelters for homeless persons as well as programs that prevent or rapidly rehouse homeless individuals and families.

The City of Pawtucket is pleased to present an Executive Summary of its Annual Action Plan for Fiscal Year 2023 from July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024. The Annual Action Plan serves several functions:

1. Utilizing data and community input, it prioritizes housing and community development needs, delineates a one-year strategy for addressing those needs and establishes performance measures by which progress can be assessed in response to the City of Pawtucket's Consolidated Plan 2020-2024.
2. It describes recommendations for specific projects and services to address housing, community development, emergency shelter and homeless needs which were identified through public meetings, needs assessments, coalition meetings, consultations with community groups (e.g., neighborhood associations, linguistic minority organizations, etc.) and proposals solicited through both public meetings and the Request for Proposals (RFP) process.
3. It outlines activities that will be funded utilizing Federal Block Grants from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in accordance with 24 CFR Part 91.220 of Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974.

The City's Annual Action Plan has been prepared in accordance with guidance provided by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

2. Summary of the objectives and outcomes identified in the Plan Needs Assessment Overview

The 2023 Annual Action Plan includes the goals and objectives outlined below, all targeting community needs related to affordable housing, economic development and employment, and strengthening neighborhoods.

- Provide essential Public Services
- Improve Public Infrastructure
- Expand Economic Development opportunities through business assistance
- Improve availability and access to Public Facilities and Parks
- Increase Affordable Housing through Rehabilitation and new construction
- Increase the quality of life through Neighborhood Stabilization efforts
- Decrease the incidence of Homelessness and provide services to the homeless
- Planning and Administration

Funding Disbursement. The 2023 Annual Action Plan represents a single application for federal funding that incorporates three (3) HUD formula programs plus program income, for a total allocation of \$2,518,269 in FY 2023-2024 funds. The three (3) HUD programs are as follows:

- Community Development Block Grant (CDBG): \$1,674,919
- HOME Investment Partnership (HOME): \$ 569,137
- Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG): \$ 154,213

- Anticipated program income (loan repayment): \$ 120,000

3. Evaluation of past performance

The City of Pawtucket has demonstrated moderate progress in meeting the goals and objectives identified in the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan and the most recently completed year of the five-year Consolidated Plan cycle. The City's successful efforts focused on activities that have positively impacted the quality of life for low- and moderate-income residents. These efforts have included increasing the amount of decent, safe and affordable housing; expanding homeownership opportunities; investment in public infrastructure, facilities and parks and providing essential public services.

An inclusive public process, community input, careful planning and a significant commitment of financial resources enabled the City to achieve reasonable performance across all programs and objectives despite funding constraints from HUD grants.

The City of Pawtucket remains confident that its demonstrated high level of performance will be replicated during the period covered by this Action Plan.

4. Summary of citizen participation process and consultation process

In order to ensure maximum participation from the citizens of Pawtucket, the Consolidated Planning process included public meetings and consultations with key sub-populations. In addition to consultations the City held public meetings. An additional public meeting will be held before the City Council on Wednesday, May 10, 2023, where the public could comment on the Plan. The City also offered various applicants with technical assistance in preparing applications for funding requests.

This year's process:

Friday, February 3, 2023	General newspaper notice/email meeting invitation to non-profits, community groups and City Councilors to apply for CDBG funds
Tuesday, February 7, 2023	Prepare presentation, stats review 2022-2023 grant year; review funding expectation 2023-2024
Wednesday, February 15, 2023	Review 2020-2024 ConPlan Needs, restate needs
Tuesday, February 21, 2023	CDBG Public Meeting to Explain Grant Process <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presentation of 1 year ConPlan Needs/Explanation of CDBG/ESG/HOME Programs <p>Public Meeting: 6 p.m., City Council Chambers</p>
Friday, February 24, 2023	General newspaper notice/applications available/applicationsemailed to prior years' applicants
February 22- March 10, 2023	On-call meetings with applicants to assist with grant eligibility and preparation
Friday, March 10, 2023	Application deadline 12 p.m.
March 10 – March 22, 2023	Review of all submitted applications for eligibility/status of current CDBG grant if previously funded.
Monday, March 13, 2023	Email list of all applications received, send to Mayor and City Council in advance of public hearings
Wednesday, March 22, 2023	Public Meeting: CDBG Public Service Application Public Hearing Blackstone Valley Visitor Center Theatre 175 Main Street, Pawtucket, RI – 5 p.m.
Thursday, March 23, 2023	Public Meeting: CDBG Activities/HOME Housing Applications Public Hearing Blackstone Valley Visitor Center Theatre 175 Main Street, Pawtucket, RI – 5 p.m.

March 23 – April 5, 2023	Internal review of all submitted CDBG/HOME/ESG applications against City’s Consolidated Plan Priorities, Initial Environmental Reviews.
April 5 – April 7, 2023	Finalize funding application to HUD
Friday, April 21, 2023	HUD-required newspaper advertisement announcing availability of final application for 30-day required public comment period. The City’s proposal can be viewed on the website.
April 6 – May 9, 2023	Input finalized funding plan into HUD-prescribed format, complete Environmental Reviews.
Wednesday, May 10, 2023	Public Meeting: City Council meeting 7 p.m., City Council Chambers
Friday, May 12, 2023	Submit plan officially to HUD for 45-day review period
Monday, May 15, 2023	Notify applicants of anticipated funding
Friday, June 30, 2023	Anticipated approval date from HUD to begin PY23 Program Year funding.

All meeting locations were accessible to persons with disabilities, and all meeting notices included information about how to request accommodations, such as a translator or other assistance.

5. Summary of public comments

The Draft Annual Action Plan will be available for review and public comments between April 21 and May 31, 2023. Any comments received during that time period will be included here along with the City’s response for the Final Action Plan.

6. Summary of comments or views not accepted and the reasons for not accepting them

All comments will be incorporated into the Plan.

7. Summary

The 2020-2024 City of Pawtucket Five-Year Consolidated Plan reflects the community input received from various individuals and organizations as well as City departments. It is hoped that the priorities chosen will have the effect of improving the lives of Pawtucket’s low- and moderate-income residents, thereby enhancing the quality of life for all Pawtucket citizens.

The following activities listed in the Draft Annual Action Plan have been proposed to receive Annual Action Plan program funds during the 2023-2024 program year.

During Program Year 2023-2024, the City of Pawtucket will continue to make moderate progress in implementing its Housing and Community Development goals and priorities as set forth in its Consolidated Plan 2020-2024 and the 2023 Annual Action Plan. Many of these activities stand out as having the

potential for positively impacting the quality of life for the City's low- and moderate-income residents. All of these activities have come to fruition as the result of an active public process, community input, careful planning and a significant commitment of financial resources while providing tremendous opportunities for low- and moderate-income individuals and families, both young and old, throughout the City of Pawtucket.

The three (3) entitlement programs are described as:

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG): The CDBG Program is used to assist Pawtucket residents in a number of ways including: providing low-cost loans to repair and improve single- and multi-family homes, installing or improving streets, sidewalks and parks, making loans to local businesses, funding for neighborhood and senior centers, assisting families with child care and many other activities directed at improving the lives of Pawtucket residents.

HOME Housing Investment Partnership (HOME): The HOME Program is used to assist Pawtucket residents with their housing needs. Programs funded with HOME dollars include: the nonprofit development of affordable housing and affordable rental housing units, a first-time homebuyers' program and rental assistance to tenants.

Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG): The ESG Program assists emergency shelters and homeless prevention activities, emphasizes rapid re-housing and assists people to quickly regain stability in permanent housing after experiencing a housing crisis.

Pawtucket's funding allocations for plan year 2023 can be viewed on the following charts.

City of Pawtucket, Rhode Island



July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024

**HOUSING AND COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT
ANNUAL ACTION PLAN**

FOR PUBLIC REVIEW

Citizen Comments on the Plan will be
Accepted until May 31, 2023

Comments may be mailed to: Mark E. Goudreau, Community Development Program Manager
Pawtucket Department of Planning and Redevelopment, City Hall, 137 Roosevelt Avenue, Pawtucket, RI 02860
or Email - MGOULDREAU@PAWTUCKETRI.COM

BASED ON ANTICIPATED 2023 - 2024 FEDERAL FUNDING

City of Pawtucket, RI 2023-2024 Housing and Community Development Action Plan
for Program Year 49 (July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024)

I. Community Development Block Grant Program

Anticipated 2023-2024 Federal CDBG Allocation Amount	\$1,674,919
Anticipated Program Income for Upcoming 2023-2024 Year*	\$120,000
TOTAL CDBG ALLOCATION	\$1,794,919

II. HOME Housing Investment Partnership Program

Anticipated 2023-2024 Federal HOME Allocation Amount	\$569,137
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III. Emergency Solutions Grant Program

Anticipated 2023-2024 Federal ESG Allocation	\$154,213
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TOTAL EST. FED. FUNDING BUDGET FOR 2023-2024	\$2,518,269
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2023-2024 Community Development Block Grant Summary

Anticipated 2023-2024 Federal CDBG Allocation	\$1,674,919
Anticipated CDBG Program Income for 2023-2024*	\$120,000
Anticipated 2023-2024 CDBG Total Budget	\$1,794,919

*This figure is a projection based upon anticipated loan repayments in the upcoming 2023-2024 program year (see accompanying detail).

2023-2024 CDBG BUDGET BREAKDOWN BY PROGRAM AREA

Anticipated 2023-2024 CDBG BUDGET \$1,794,919

- 1. Public Service Allocation \$352,983
- 2. Community Development Activities Allocation \$1,082,953
- 3. Administrative and Planning Allocation (20%) \$358,983

2023-2024 Community Development Block Grant Detail Notes

Anticipated CDBG Program Income for 2023-2024 Program Year:

Pawt. Redev. Agency Residential Rehab Loan Payments	\$45,000
Pawt. Bus. Dev. Corp. Business Loan Payments	\$75,000
TOTAL PROGRAM INCOME ANTICIPATED	\$120,000

2023-2024 Proposed CDBG Budget Allocations**PUBLIC SERVICE ACTIVITIES****DESCRIPTION****I. Senior Services****BUDGET**

Pawt. Senior Services/Senior Transportation

\$170,000

Operation and Programming of the Leon Mathieu Senior Center

New Horizons Adult Day Care

\$30,000

Adult Day Care for Low/Moderate Income Pawtucket Seniors

II. Child Care

Children's Friend and Service

\$5,000

Playground improvement/Sunshade

III. Counseling Services

Day One

\$8,000

Services to Victims/Families of Sexual Assault

IV. Summer Youth Programs

Camp Ramsbottom (Boys & Girls Club)

\$7,500

Summer Camperships at Camp Ramsbottom

Summer Teen Program (Boys & Girls Club)

\$7,500

Teen Summer Program

YMCA of Pawtucket

\$5,000

Summer Camperships in YMCA network

V. Youth Initiatives

B.V. Tourism Council River Classroom

\$5,000

Educational Outings on the Blackstone River Explorer Boat

Pawtucket School Department

\$11,000

School Robotics Program to focus on STEM

Clothes to Kids Rhode Island

\$5,000

Support Youth with Free Clothing

VI. Assistance To The Hungry

Pawtucket Soup Kitchen

\$37,000

Operation of the Pawtucket Soup Kitchen

Blackstone Valley Emergency Food Center

\$15,000

Operations of a Food Pantry

VII. Assistance to Disabled/Homeless

Pawtucket Housing Authority

\$5,983

Wellness Resource Center

VIII. Neighborhood Initiatives

Blackstone Valley Community Action Program, Inc.

\$6,000

Fair Housing Advocate

Blackstone Valley Community Action Program, Inc.

\$35,000

Woodlawn Community Center Programing

TOTAL CDBG PUBLIC SERVICES**\$352,983**

2023-2024 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

DESCRIPTION

I. Facility Improvement Projects:

BUDGET

Pawtucket Housing Authority	\$25,000
Cape Verdean American Community Development Center	\$20,000

Emergency Housing Shelter Improvments
Installation of ADA Compliant Restrooms

II. DPR Sponsored Improvement Projects:

City Park Improvements	\$300,000
City Streetscape Improvements	\$227,953
Blackstone Valley Bikeway - Pawtucket Portion	\$125,000
Citywide Street Trees	\$40,000
Citywide Parking Plan	\$50,000
City Art Installations	\$100,000
Sustainability and Resilience Program	\$85,000

Improvements to Parks City-Wide
Sidewalk, Travel Lane and Pedestrian Improvements City-Wide
Purchase of Land to Create Bikeway Connector
Street Trees in CDBG Eligible Neighborhoods
Comprehensive Study of City Parking
Statues Commemorating City's History
Strategies to Improve Climate Resiliency and Energy Efficiency

III. Economic Development:

Progreso Latino	\$10,000
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Minority Job Club Program

IV. Pawtucket Redevelopment Agency Renewal:

Pawt. Redevelopment Agency Spot Acquisition	\$50,000
Pawt. Redevelopment Agency Spot Demolition	\$50,000

Acquisition of Blighted Properties
Demolition for Removing Blighted Properties

TOTAL CDBG ACTIVITIES **\$1,082,953**

2023-2024 CDBG ADMINISTRATION/PLANNING

BUDGET

I. Dept. of Planning and Redevelopment Administration	\$284,000
II. Pawtucket Redevelopment Agency Administration	\$50,000
III. Pawtucket Business Development Corp. Administration	\$24,983

DESCRIPTION

Administration Costs for CDBG Grant Management
Administration Costs for Agency Programs
Administration Costs for Small Business Loan Programs

TOTAL CDBG ADMINISTRATION **\$358,983**

TOTAL ALL CDBG CATEGORIES **\$1,794,919**

2023-2024 EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT (ESG)

	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
I. Emergency Shelter Operations	\$35,500	Blackstone Valley Advocacy Center - Emergency Shelter Operations
II. Pawtucket Housing Authority Emergency Shelter Operations	\$82,213	Operating Funds Emergency Homeless Shelter
III. Homeless Prevention Programs	\$25,000	Renter Assistance Programs
IV. Dept. of Planning Admin. Set-Aside (7.5%)	\$11,500	Administration costs for ESG Grant management
TOTAL ESG	\$154,213	

2023-2024 HOME HOUSING PROGRAM

	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
I. HOME Administration Set-Aside (10% cap)		
City Administrative Reimbursement	\$56,913	Administration costs for HOME Grant management
II. Administration for Housing Non-Profits (5% cap)		
Pawtucket Central Falls Development Administration	\$20,000	Administrative funds to carry-out HOME projects
III. Available for Projects		
Pawtucket Central Falls Dev. - Sayles, Walker, Cherry, Japonica	\$62,224	Four (4) New Rental Units
Pawtucket Central Falls Development - 125 Young Street	\$140,000	New One (1) Family Dwelling
Pawtucket Central Falls Development - 160 Beechwood Avenue	\$290,000	Nine (9) New Rental Units
TOTAL HOME HOUSING GRANT	\$569,137	