



Roxann Wedegartner
Mayor

City of
GREENFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

**COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

City Hall • 14 Court Square • Greenfield, MA 01301
Phone 413-772-1548 • www.greenfield-ma.gov

**Minutes for Public Hearing
CDBG 2018 Repurposing for Microenterprise Loan Fund**

Wednesday, May 13th, 2020 - 10:30 a.m
Via WebEx remote access (video and phone)

PRESENT:

MJ Adams – Director of Community and Economic Development, City of Greenfield
Lindsay Rowe – Community Development Administrator, City of Greenfield
Brian McHugh, Franklin County Redevelopment Authority and resident 95 Columbus Ave,
Greenfield

MJ Adams opened the Public Hearing at 10:38 am

Attendees asked to please sign in via the chat function.

MJ Adams summarized the Public Notice posted in the Recorder, and posted on the City of Greenfield's Website.

The purpose of this hearing is to discuss the reprogramming of FY18 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to create a small business (forgivable) loan program during the COVID-19 pandemic. The City is requesting to use some FY18 funds (approximately \$50,000) of Commercial Improvement Program for sign/façade rehabilitation to fund Commercial Improvements Assistance to For-Profit Businesses to support the small business loan program. Funds will first be targeted to micro-enterprises (5 or fewer FTEs including owner) with a second phase serving small businesses with 10 or fewer employees (including owner).

In addition to the reprogramming of Greenfield's existing CDBG funds, this hearing will also discuss additional allocations of CDBG funds that may be made available through the CDBG-CARES Act funds. As of April 24th, Greenfield's allocation of these

additional funds is not yet known and Greenfield will make that information known as soon as available.

See CEDD city website page <https://greenfield-ma.gov/cedd> for additional information. Any person or organization present will be given the opportunity to comment at the hearing. The City will make every attempt to provide interpretive and translation services, if necessary, with advance request. Comments may be submitted in writing or by e-mail to Lindsay Rowe at lindsay.rowe@greenfield-ma.gov

Last week the City received DHCD approval to reprogram 2019 CDBG funds to the COVID Microenterprise Assistance Program which opens today. We are requesting the 2018 funds be reprogrammed to this program too.

To be eligible for Microenterprise funds, the business must have been open since Sept. 10, 2019 - March 10, 2020; the owner must be income-eligible; the business is open now or will reopen; the business income must be over \$20,000. The loan is up to \$5,000 but will not offset the costs from other programs. At the end of Month 4, if they've documented that they've fulfilled all the duties of the loan, it will be converted to a grant.

The City held an information session for the program on May 12th; applications will be accepted starting today, May 13th, at noon, with review of applications starting early next week.

Brian McHugh - How are applications ranked? What is the methodology?

MJ Adams- We opened it up to first-come first-served.

Brian McHugh - What is "preference to bricks and mortar" then? Is that a tie breaker?

MJ Adams - We wanted to encourage bricks and mortar to apply.

Brian McHugh - As a resident, wanted to express support for this program and thinks it's great for the businesses of Greenfield.

MJ Adams - Also contemplating a program for Small Businesses, but have not yet held a public hearing on this program. Once HUD releases the federal register guidance, then the City will prepare the program and hold public hearings.

As there were no further comments, the hearing was adjourned at 10:47 am.