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Barney S. Heath
Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: Newton City Councilors
Newton Planning & Development Board

CC: Ruthanne Fuller, Mayor
Jonathan Yeo, Chief Operating Officer
Maureen Lemieux, Chief Financial Officer

FR: Barney Heath, Director of Planning and Development
Amanda Berman, Director of Housing and Community Development
Rachel Powers, Community Development and HOME Program Manager

RE: You are Invited! National Community Development Week – April 22-26, 2019

Date: March 22, 2019

SUMMARY

National Community Development Week (CD Week), held annually during Congress' spring recess, recognizes the importance of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME), and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), and the projects they support. With the proposed elimination of both the HOME and CDBG programs in the President's recently released FY20 budget outline, continued advocacy and support is critical to our mission and success in assisting Newton's most vulnerable residents.

As recipients of these important program funds, the Housing and Community Development Division of the Department of Planning and Development is hosting a series of events to celebrate the occasion, promote the success of its partnerships and programs, and advocate for the continued support for program funding. **You are invited to join us for these exciting events!** See below for more details.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The mission of the City's Housing and Community Development Division is to maintain Newton's economic diversity through the production and preservation of affordable housing, housing rehabilitation, the provision of human services and homelessness prevention and support services, and the removal of architectural barriers for people with disabilities. We accomplish this mission through the use of CDBG, HOME and ESG funds received from HUD on an annual basis. While the City is

awaiting official notice from HUD of its allocations for FY2020 (July 1, 2019-June 30, 2020), we anticipate receiving approximately \$3,500,000 for these three programs.

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) is designed to develop viable urban communities by providing decent housing and a suitable living environment, and by expanding economic opportunities for low- and moderate-income persons. The City of Newton's CDBG program and funding amount is divided among four categories, including affordable housing, human service, architectural access, and neighborhood improvement. Anticipated FY20 allocation for Community Development Block Grant funds: \$1,900,000 (estimated 1% decrease from FY19).

As the lead entity for the WestMetro HOME Consortium, the City receives and administers HOME funds for the City and twelve other member communities – the Towns of Bedford, Belmont, Brookline, Concord, Lexington, Natick, Needham, Sudbury, Watertown, and Wayland, and the Cities of Framingham and Waltham. The purpose of the HOME Investment Partnerships Program is to provide funds for a wide range of activities, including developing, acquiring, and rehabilitating affordable housing and providing direct rental assistance that creates affordable housing opportunities for low- and moderate-income persons. Anticipated FY20 allocation for the HOME Investment Partnerships Program for the entire WestMetro HOME Consortium: \$1,437,500 (estimated 10% decrease from FY19).

The Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) is targeted at improving the lives and safety of persons who are homeless or at-risk of becoming homeless through three program categories, including emergency shelter, homelessness prevention, and rapid re-housing. ESG funds are awarded to local agencies within the Brookline, Newton, Waltham, and Watertown region. Anticipated FY20 allocation for Emergency Solutions Grant funds: \$161,000 (estimated 3% increase from FY19).

CD WEEK EVENTS

The week-long series commemorating Community Development Week will take place between April 22, 2019 and April 26, 2019, and includes the following activities:

➤ **CD Gallery at City Hall: (Open to the Public)**

The week-long gallery exhibit will showcase a series of photos highlighting local projects and activities, key partners, program beneficiaries, and the lasting impact of these federal funds throughout Newton and neighboring communities.

Date/Time: Monday, April 22 - Friday, April 26, 2019 during City Hall regular business hours
Location: Newton City Hall, 2nd Floor, 1000 Commonwealth Avenue, Newton

➤ **Tour of CDBG Housing Projects: (Invite Only)**

The Housing and Community Development Division, in partnership with the Newton Housing Authority, will host public officials, including the Executive Office, members of the City Council and the Planning and Development Board, on a guided tour of recently completed Newton housing rehabilitation and development projects. The tour will highlight the impacts of CDBG and HOME in supporting down payment and closing cost assistance, accessibility and safety improvements, and the creation of affordable housing. Transportation is being provided by way

of a van through the generosity of the Department of Parks and Recreation and space is limited! RSVP Required.

Date/Time: Monday, April 22nd, 2019, 2:45-5:00pm.

Location: Attendees will be picked up at Newton City Hall

RSVP: Rachel Powers at rpowers@newtonma.gov by April 12, 2019

➤ **Fair Housing Training for Policy Makers: (Invite Only)**

The Division is also collaborating with the Fair Housing Committee to sponsor an interactive workshop that will inform critical decision makers on the Fair Housing Act and their responsibilities in aiding the City in its obligation to affirmatively further fair housing and to promote an inclusive environment free of discrimination. Space is limited, RSVP required.

Date/Time: Thursday, April 25th, 2019, 6:30-8:30pm

Location: Newton Senior Center, 345 Walnut Street, Newton

RSVP: Kathy Laufer, Chair, Fair Housing Committee at kklaufer@aol.com by March 30, 2019

➤ **Celebration of Newton Highlands Playground:(Open to the Public)**

In partnership with the Parks & Recreation Department, the public is invited to the official opening of the Newton Highlands Playground. Undergoing almost \$3 million in substantial improvements through a combination of public funds, this project exemplifies the impact of critical partnerships between city departments, boards, and officials to support the extensive renovation of a vital community resource. CDBG supported the installation of a new three-quarter mile accessible pathway in and around the park.

This family-friendly celebration will include a series of games and programming for all residents, including Zumba presented by the Newton Senior Center Fitness Program. Light refreshments will be provided. The more the merrier!

Date/Time: Friday, April 26th, 2019, 4:00-7:00pm

(Rain date: Tuesday, April 30th, 2019, 1:00-3:00pm)

Location: Newton Highlands Playground (Joseph Lee Park), 16 Dedham Street, Newton

If you have any questions, please contact Rachel Powers, Community Development and HOME Program Manager, at extension 1125 or rpowers@newtonma.gov.

ATTACHMENTS:

- CD Week Save the Date
- “Fair Housing Training for Policy Makers” Invitation

#CDWeek2019

Making Communities
Better Places
to Live and Work

Please join Mayor Ruthanne
Fuller in celebrating

National Community Development Week

Save the Date

CD Gallery at City Hall *(open to public)*

Monday, April 22 - Friday, April 26, 2019

Tour of CDBG Housing Projects *(invite only)*

In partnership with Newton Housing Authority

Monday, April 22, 2019, 3:00-5:00pm

Fair Housing Training for Policy Makers *(invite only)*

In partnership with Fair Housing Committee

Thursday, April 25, 2019, 6:30-8:30pm

Celebration of Newton Highlands Playground *(open to public)*

In partnership with Parks & Recreation Department

Friday, April 26, 2019, 4:00-7:00pm

***Rain date:** Tuesday, April 30, 1:00-3:00pm



For more information, contact Rachel Powers, rpowers@newtonma.gov or (617)796-1125
Housing & Community Development Division, Planning & Development Department

Fair Housing Training for Policy Makers

Considerations for Land Use, Zoning & Planning

This interactive workshop is exclusively prepared
for City boards, commissions, committees
and staff.

Presented by: Jennifer M. Goldson, AICP
Founder and Managing Director of
JM Goldson Community Preservation + Planning



You Are Invited

As a critical decision maker in the City of Newton, you are responsible for aiding the City in
its obligation to affirmatively further fair housing and to promote an inclusive environment
free of discrimination.

Please join us for this interactive and informative discussion.

What is Fair Housing and Why do we need it?
Fair Housing and Local Land Use Policies and Practices
Relevant Case Studies and Interactive Discussions

Hosted by: City of Newton's Fair Housing Committee and
Planning and Development Department

THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 2019 - 6:30PM - 8:30PM
Newton Senior Center, 345 Walnut Street, Newtonville

**Space is limited - RSVP to Kathy Laufer, Chair, Fair Housing Committee,
kklaufer@aol.com by March 30, 2019**

The location of this meeting is wheelchair accessible and reasonable accommodations will be provided to persons with disabilities who require assistance. If you need a reasonable accommodation, please contact the city of Newton's ADA/Sec. 504 Coordinator, Jini Fairley, at least two business days in advance of the meeting: jfairley@newtonma.gov or (617) 796-1253. The city's TTY/TDD direct line is: 617-796-1089. For the Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS), please dial 711.