



TO: WEST TISBURY SELECTBOARD
CC: JENNIFER RAND, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR
FROM: ALICE BOYD, BAILEY BOYD ASSOCIATES
DATE: MAY 3, 2020
RE: PARTICIPATION IN CDBG COVID-19 GRANT

The Federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, signed into law March 27, 2020 included Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for each state to assist local communities in meeting the COVID-related needs of low to moderate-income residents. The Department of Housing & Community Development will be making \$19m available to non-entitlement communities statewide (non-entitlement cities and towns do not receive CDBG funding directly from the Federal Government and must compete for funds passed through the State). We expect DHCD to release applications imminently and they will be expedited.

The Town of Edgartown is currently the lead community for a regional CDBG grant and is inviting the town of West Tisbury to participate in a four-town regional application that will provide three programs to benefit West Tisbury residents. The public hearing for this project will be conducted on May 11, 2020 at 4 pm and will determine the final application contents however based upon input from the Martha's Vineyard Community Development Advisory Group we anticipate applying for the following:

Small Business Forgivable Loans & Microenterprise Forgivable Loans

This loan fund would provide forgivable loans tied to job retention. The funds could be used by local businesses to bring back employees, or pay the overhead and costs of doing business. Businesses who retain employees for a set period of time would have their loans forgiven. Seasonal businesses are accepted into this program. We anticipate that 40% of the program funds will be utilized for this program.

Mortgage and/or Rental Assistance

These funds would benefit local residents with up to three months assistance on meeting rent and mortgage obligations. Residents must be income qualified and be determined as low-to moderate income. We would require applicants to verify that they had first negotiated with their mortgage lender or landlord previous to applying. Payments would be made directly to the lender or landlord. The local organizations that were polled recommended that 50% of the program funds be utilized for this program.

Homelessness Prevention



A small percentage of the grant funds may be used to fund motels where homeless residents have been housed during the pandemic. The funds to pay for the temporary use of local motels is depleted. Payments would be made directly to the motels.

There is no cost to the town of West Tisbury and there is great benefit to residents however there is a requirement to participate:

- The Select Board must vote to participate in FY19 CDBG-CV grant and sign two copies of a "Joint Authorization Form" (attached) and return it to me as quickly as possible

Proposed Motion: Move to participate in the regional FY19 CDBG-CV grant for Small Business and Microenterprise Loans along with Rental and Mortgage Subsidies and Homeless Prevention programs.

Thank you for your consideration.