

New York State Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program **2020 Application Round Public Hearing**

The New York State Office of Community Renewal (OCR) is administering the 2020 Small Cities Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and holding a competition for funding, which is open to all New York State municipalities smaller than 50,000 people which are not located in the central city of a Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), and counties with a population of less than 200,000. Approximately \$30 million will be available to New York State in 2020, along with any funds recaptured from previously unimplemented grants that are reprogrammed by OCR.

Eligible program categories are public infrastructure (drinking water/clean water/storm water and public works), public facilities (typically water and sewer projects), public infrastructure, community planning, economic development and small business assistance. Counties are eligible for up to \$1,000,000 in CDBG funding directly for public infrastructure, and up to \$1,250,000 for projects that are co-funded with other State and Federal programs. Public facilities grants are allowed up to \$300,000, and Community Planning grants are allowed up to \$50,000. This application round has applications that are due on March 5, 2021, and approximately \$20 million is available in this round. Greene County does not intend to apply for funding in this round.

Greene County is likely to apply for up to \$300,000 for a refunding of the County's Microenterprise Program. Economic Development and Microenterprise funding is part of the Open Round, and communities may apply at any time once a public hearing is conducted and an application is authorized by the Greene County Legislature. Approximately \$10 million is available in the Open Round competition.

The proposed Microenterprise will fund up microenterprises with grants of up to \$25,000 and grant/loan combinations of up to \$25,000 up to the maximum amount of funding applies for. The funding will support low-moderate income person owned businesses and businesses that will hire low-moderate income persons as part of their business expansion. Funding may be targeted to specific industries and/or targeted areas of the County.

New York State has also released funding for the Housing round of CDBG, which includes housing rehabilitation, first-time homeownership, private water/wastewater assistance and manufactured housing replacement. Counties may apply for up to \$1 million in assistance in the Housing round. Applications are due for that round on Friday, April 9, 2021 at 4 p.m.

Greene County anticipates 2021 CDBG funding to become available during the Consolidated Funding Application cycle, which is expected to return after not occurring in 2020. Applications for this funding will be part of a separate hearing and application cycle.

Greene County has received funding from New York State several times in the past for this activity, including four times the activity has been offered by the State in the last five eligible years: 2010, 2011, 2014 and 2016. The County believes that there is additional need, and that a refunding of the Microenterprise Program is the most effective application for funding that Greene County can make at this time.