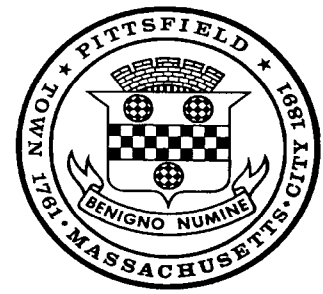


City of Pittsfield, Massachusetts

Mayor James M. Ruberto

Department of Community Development

Deanna L. Ruffer, Director



Community Development Block Grant Program

What is it?

The Community Development Block Grant program [CDBG] is the nation's eighth largest federal domestic program funding a wide variety of activities in over 1,168 communities across the country. Since 1974 CDBG funding has been used by communities to create jobs, improve neighborhoods and homes and provide services and facilities to benefit low and moderate-income persons and families that would otherwise be unable to access such support.

For 36 years the CDBG program has provided a critical funding source for providing safe, decent and sanitary housing, suitable living environments and necessary public services. CDBG funded programs have kept local contractors and trades employed by providing funding for housing rehabilitation and public facility improvements. CDBG funds are also used to help small businesses grow and create jobs for City residents.

How does CDBG benefit Pittsfield?

The City of Pittsfield receives an annual allocation of approximately \$1.6 million in CDBG funding to provide resources to a variety of community projects and organizations. The City has received more than \$57 million dollars over the life of this highly successful program and has leveraged hundreds of millions of dollars from the private and public sector making precious CDBG dollars stretch even further.

Whether it's the rehabilitation of housing units, programs to spur economic development and create jobs, public services that serve our community, construction projects that improve our sidewalks, the creation of community gardens, or improving neighborhood parks, CDBG funding has had a far reaching effect in supporting the growing and changing needs of our City.

Over the past five years, 132 jobs were created; and 91,353 persons, 5,439 housing units, 55 households, and 31 businesses were assisted through CDBG funded programs offered by the City of Pittsfield.

Why is CDBG such a successful program?

The CDBG program's success is derived from its local flexibility and Adaptability to meet the needs of individual communities. The CDBG program is based on local choices and local decisions. Public input is not only encouraged it is required to ensure that the use of these federal dollars is locally driven and meets local needs. The two Neighborhood Initiatives, Pittsfield Economic Revitalization Corporation (PERC), and the Human Services Advisory Council (HSAC) are examples of how Pittsfield involves the community in the CDBG program.



Westside
Community Garden



Public Infrastructure
Trees



Job Creation

Over the past five years CDBG dollars totaling \$8,205,964 have created more than 150 jobs and helped more than 90,000 people.

Economic Development: \$1,500,304

Direct financial assistance to assist businesses with technical assistance grants and loans to create jobs, and for commercial improvements such as handicapped accessible improvements. **A total of 132 jobs were created through the City's CDBG economic development programs.**



Public Facilities Improvements: \$1,522,763

Public improvements such as the reconstruction of sidewalks and installation of curb cuts, development of parks, and planting street trees. Parks assisted included: Carrie Bak Park; Springside Park; Tucker Park Tot Lot; and Pitt Park, **providing construction work for 13 local companies.**



Housing: \$2,628,152

Housing programs such as down payment assistance for first-time homebuyers, housing rehabilitation including lead paint abatement, individual development accounts for the Assets for Artists program, installation of handicapped accessible ramps, and City assisted rehab with the Taconic Vocational Carpentry program. **A total of 176 units of housing rehabilitated, providing work for 36 companies employing 85 people.**



Public Services: \$1,469,905

Programs that provide a wide variety of services to low-income residents: Berkshire Children & Families preschool; Berkshire Community Action Council homeless shelters; Berkshire County Kid's Place; Brien Center for Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services; Child Care of the Berkshires; Christian Center; Red Cross; United Cerebral Palsy; Key Program; Western Mass Legal Services; and the Elizabeth Freeman Center. CDBG funds **provided programs and services to 44,186 persons.**



Elimination of Neighborhood Blight: \$1,084,840

Activities and programs to improve neighborhoods that include code enforcement, the demolition of vacant and condemned structures, boarding up vacant buildings, and clean/lien activities. **Created 2.5 jobs and demolished 17 buildings.**

