

Mifflin County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Fact Sheet



What is a Community Development Block Grant?

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) is a grant program funded through the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and administered through the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (PA-DCED). The goal of the CDBG program is to assist municipalities and counties in developing viable communities, by providing suitable living environments, decent housing, and by expanding economic opportunities, principally for low to moderate income (LMI) persons. Income limits are established through the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development. (US-HUD). Mifflin County will receive approximately \$223,100 and approximately \$183,000 will be available for eligible projects.

Who is eligible for CDBG funds?

With the exceptions of Armagh, Brown, Derry, and Granville Townships and the Borough of Lewistown, all of which receive their own CDBG allocations from PA-DCED, the County's allocation is used to fund eligible and fundable activities throughout the County to municipalities, authorities, and IRS registered non-project organizations, on a competitive basis. A resolution from the applicant's governing authority, approving the submittal of the CDBG application to Mifflin County is required. Activities that do not qualify as eligible **and** fundable will be disqualified from funding consideration.

Armagh, Brown, Derry, and Granville Townships and the Borough of Lewistown do not have a formalized application process. Interested groups within these municipalities are encouraged to contact the respective municipality to discuss applying for 2023 grant funds.

What type of activities are eligible for funding?

There are many options for using CDBG funds. Activities typically funded by the County program include improvements to water and sewer systems, single-family residential housing rehabilitation for income qualified families, demolition of blighted structures, roadway improvements, and ADA modifications to public facilities. In addition, a portion of the funds may be used for increasing the services of an existing public service, or adding a new public service. Non-profit organizations that service every municipality within Mifflin County may also apply for funding based upon fair share from the five entitlement municipalities (Armagh, Brown, Derry, and Granville Townships and the Borough of Lewistown).

Prohibited activities include acquisition, construction or reconstruction of buildings for the general conduct of government, general government expense, political activities, and purchase of equipment with the exceptions of equipment purchase integral to public works, fire equipment, and public service.



What type of activities are considered fundable?

To be considered fundable, all activities must meet one of three national objectives:

1. Must benefit a majority (at least 51%) of LMI persons and have other non-CDBG funds in place to cover the total costs of the project. If a community-wide project, such as funding for playground equipment is requested, at least 51% of the residents in the community as a whole must meet low/moderate income limits.
2. Removal of slum/blight
3. Meeting an Urgent Need

If a municipality would like a road to be repaved, the road project must exclusively benefit residents that are low/moderate income. In addition to Census data, communities may be able to determine fundability based upon the following methods:

1. A survey of the households in the service benefit area demonstrating that at least 51% of the individuals benefiting from the project have low to moderate incomes.
2. The project is designed specifically to serve low to moderate income individuals. An example of such a project is housing rehabilitation, where assistance is provided only to those families that meet income guidelines, or
3. The project is designed to benefit individuals who are presumed to have low to moderate incomes, i.e., elderly persons and severely disabled individuals, also known as limited clientele.

Most of our projects require an income survey. If an application requires an income survey, the applicant is responsible for covering the costs associated with completing the survey. The Planning and Development Department staff can conduct the survey. These costs must be covered with non-CDBG funds and are not reimbursable from CDBG funds in the event the application is funded. Income survey costs vary depending on the number of residents in the service benefit area. The applicant must contact the Mifflin County Planning and Development Department by May 12th with a brief project narrative and location in order for us to determine feasibility of your project.

Who decides how CDBG funds are distributed?

The Mifflin County Planning and Development Department (MCPDD) administers the CDBG program. The CDBG Advisory Committee consisting of MCPDD staff and members of the Mifflin County Planning Commission (MCPC) reviews and scores the applications received each year. Subsequently they make funding recommendations to the Mifflin County Commissioners who have final decision making authority, prior to forwarding the application to PA-DCED for approval. During the review process, there are many opportunities for public input through two public hearings. Applicants are **required** to make an oral presentation to the Mifflin County Planning Commission at a public meeting on June 22, 2023.

How can I find out more about the CDBG Program?

The program is administered by the Mifflin County Planning and Development Department. The Community Development Administrator/Assistant Director for the program is Chastity Fultz. For information, please contact Chastity at (717) 242-0887 or at cfultz@mifflinco.org

