

Town of Hampton
Board of Selectmen Public Hearing for Small Cities
May 3, 2012
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A Public Hearing was held Thursday, May 3, 2012, at the Town Office Building for the purpose of soliciting public input regarding a proposed Fiscal Year 2012 Small Cities CDBG Program Grant Application to be submitted to the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) for renewed funding for the Hampton Regional Housing Rehabilitation Program (HRHRP), and to discuss the progress of the current FY 2011 Small Cities grant. It also provided an opportunity to comment on the existing program, and the proposed Program Income Reuse Plan.

Present for the Board: First Selectman Allan Cahill, Selectman Chapel, and Selectman Grindle. **Staff Present:** Liz Stillman, Recording Secretary

First Selectman Cahill opened the public hearing and summarized its purpose. He introduced Peter D. Sanborn, President, Community Opportunities Group, Inc., representing HRHRP and the Town's Small Cities Program Office. The HRHRP currently serves the towns of Hampton, Chaplin, Eastford, Pomfret and Scotland. Hampton proposes to file this application jointly on behalf of some, or all, of these municipalities. Hampton is the lead administrative municipality and legal recipient of such grant.

The HRHRP assists qualifying low- and moderate-income households in these five communities with home improvements and repairs. The Town currently intends on submitting a grant application for up to \$300,000 in funds, which will be used for direct assistance, program delivery and general administrative costs. The Town may also receive Program Income from prior grants that may be used to assist additional households.

Activities eligible for funding under the CT Small Cities CDBG Program include housing rehabilitation and/or support of new housing construction, economic development, public housing modernization, infrastructure and public facilities. Maximum grant award limits vary from \$300,000 to \$750,000 depending on the activity category. To be eligible for funding, any proposed project must carry out at least one of three national objectives of CDBG program. Mr. Sanborn described these and the manner in which they are used to qualify a grant activity.

He said that he wanted to summarize the Town's grant activity under consideration for the FY 2012 funding round. The application is due on June 8. Because the HRHRP still has a lengthy waiting list, it plans to seek additional funding to continue. He referred to the informational handout, which also summarized past achievements and the status of the current grant (FY10) that was awarded to the Town October 2010. He expects that all of the current funds will be committed this summer. If the town receives the FY 2012 grant being applied, the HRHRP may be able to continue without interruption. Even accounting for the cases completed with the FY 2010 grant and currently underway, the program's waiting list is still about the same size than it was when the town applied for the grant two years ago. He said that he was available to respond to comments, and answer questions, from the Board and citizens.

Mr. Sanborn said that the usual maximum cap on a grant application for housing rehab is \$300,000. Mr. Sanborn said that he believes that Hampton is one of only two communities in the state that operates a regional housing rehab program and that it was the first one ever to do so, making it a leader.

Mr. Sanborn referred attendees to the informational handout sheet and to the income limits table. He directed attendees to see the town-by-town breakdown of assistance that the HRHRP has accomplished since its inception. He explained that the Town has received nearly \$600,000 in loan repayments over the years that have been recycled by the program to assist additional homeowners. These repayments are known as Program Income.

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He said that the town needs to include a Program Income Plan in the grant application. This lays out how the town intends to use income that may be earned from this grant. He explained some technical matters that govern Program Income. He will be recommending that the Selectmen vote to continue to use the revamped Program Income Plan that the prior BOS adopted in 2010 and 2011, with one change. He explained the change.

If you wish to view the FY 2011 Small Cities Program Grant Application, or the grant application's Environmental Review Record, a copy of each is will be available either at the First Selectman's office or the Small Cities Program office. 455-0738)

Adjournment: There being no further matters to discuss at this Public Hearing, First Selectman Cahill adjourned the meeting at 7:00 p.m

Respectfully submitted, Liz Stillman
Recording Secretary