

*Town of Hampton*  
*Board of Selectmen Public Hearing for CT Small Cities Grant Application*  
*March 17, 2016*  
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A Public Hearing was held Thursday, March 17, 2016, at the Town Office Building for the purpose of soliciting public input regarding a proposed Fiscal Year 2016 Small Cities CDBG Program Grant Application to be submitted to the Connecticut Department of Housing (DOH). The proposed application will request funding to continue the Hampton Regional Housing Rehabilitation Program (HRHRP), and to discuss the progress of the FYs 2014 and 2015 Small Cities grants. It also provided an opportunity to comment on the proposed grant and 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:** Valerie Imre, Administrative Assistant/Recording Secretary

First Selectman Cahill opened the public hearing and summarized its purpose. He introduced Peter Sanborn, of Community Opportunities Group, Inc. (COG), representing HRHRP and the Town's Small Cities Program Office. The HRHRP currently serves the towns of Hampton, Brooklyn, Chaplin, Eastford, Pomfret, and Scotland. Hampton proposes to file this application jointly on behalf of these municipalities. If awarded, Hampton will be the lead administrative municipality and legal recipient of the 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 \$600,000, which will be used for direct assistance, program delivery and general administrative costs. The actual amount requested will probably be less; COG is currently assessing the waiting list and developing the budget for the grant. In addition to the grant funds, 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 range from \$400,000 to \$800,000, 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 2016 funding round. The application is due on April 11. Because the HRHRP still has substantial waiting list, it plans to seek additional funding to continue. He referred to the informational handout, which also summarized the status of the active grants, as well as earlier achievements. Mr. Sanborn that the FY 2014 grant should be completed on schedule by mid-summer, and that he expects that the FY 2015 funds will be fully committed in early 2017. If the town receives the FY 2016 grant being applied for, the grant will probably be awarded in July or August. Even accounting for the current grants, there will be many applications awaiting assistance. Mr. Sanborn said that he was available to respond to comments, and answer questions.

Mr. Sanborn said that the usual maximum cap on a grant application for housing rehab is with three or more participating communities is \$600,000. Mr. Sanborn said that Hampton is one of only a few 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.

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Mr. Sanborn referred to the informational handout sheet and to the income limits table. He explained that the Town has received approximately \$650,000 in loan repayments over the years that have been recycled by the program to assist additional homeowners. These repayments are known as Program Income.

He said that the town needs to include a Program Income Plan in the grant application. This lays out how it expects to use income that may be earned from this and prior grants. He explained some technical matters that govern Program Income. He will be recommending that the Selectmen vote to continue to use the Program Income with the minor changes that are shown in the Plan, which was another handout.

If anyone wishes to view the prior FY 2015 Small Cities Program Grant Application, or the FY16 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: 455-9132, ext.8). The FY 2016 grant application itself is not yet currently available as it is being written.

**Adjournment:** There being no further matters to discuss at this Public Hearing, First Selectman Cahill adjourned the meeting at 6:23 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie Imre  
Recording Secretary