

**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 \$231,203.00 and \$189,587 will be available for eligible projects.

Who is eligible for CDBG funds?

With the exceptions of 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.

Starting in 2015 the PA-DCED requires the County to administer Brown, Derry, and Granville Township's and the Borough of Lewistown's CDBG funds. These municipalities do not have a formalized application process. Interested groups within these municipalities are encouraged to contact the respective municipality to discuss applying for 2020 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 are improvements to water and sewer systems, housing rehabilitation for income qualified families, demolition of blighted structures, roadway improvements, ADA modifications to public facilities, and playground improvements. In addition, a portion of the funds may be used for increasing the services of an existing public service, or adding a new public. Non-profit organizations that service every municipality within Mifflin County may also apply for funding based upon fair share from the four entitlement municipalities, Brown, Derry, and Granville Townships and the Borough Lewistown. Prohibited activities include buildings for general 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 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.

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., senior citizens and handicapped individuals, also known as limited clientele.

*** If an application requires an income survey, the applicant is responsible for covering the costs associated with completing the survey. The completion of income surveys should be completed as soon as possible after an application is submitted, if not before the application is submitted. The Planning and Development Department staff can conduct the survey. These costs must be non-CDBG funds and they are not reimbursable from grant funds, in the event the application is funded. Income survey costs vary depending on the number of residents in the service benefit area.**

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 yet to be determined.

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 D. Fultz. For information, please contact Chastity at (717) 242-0887 or at cfultz@mifflinco.org

