



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

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EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
JAMES L. SULLIVAN
City Manager

February 20, 1976

To the Honorable, the City Council:

Transmitted herewith for your information and review is a draft of the City's application to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for Fiscal 1977 Community Development Block Grant funding.

The application is in the amount of \$3,758,000 and is expected to generate a minimum additional \$5,884,000 in matching funds. This potential for securing additional funds was a major criterion employed by the Executive Department in the selection of projects included in the draft application.

The \$3,758,000 to be applied for represents the City's "Hold Harmless" funding for Fiscal 1977, as established under the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974. This is a reduction from the \$4,035,000 assigned to Cambridge for Fiscal 1976. As you know, the 1974 Act stipulates that our Hold Harmless funding will continue to diminish until, in Fiscal 1981, it reaches an "entitlement" level of only \$1.6 million.


Working with others who face the escalating inner-city problems of today, we must seek the restoration of at least the average funding levels that existed during the five-year period preceding enactment of the Block Grant Program. In the Cambridge case, this was over \$4 million/year.

The enclosed draft application will be subjected to questions and comments at public hearings in the Council Chambers on February 24th and 25th, beginning at 7:30 p.m. It is hoped that members of the City Council will be able to attend either one or the other of these two hearings.

I want to take this opportunity to cite the hard and productive work put in by the 90-member Block Grant Advisory Committee and many other interested citizens throughout the application process that began last October. The impact of their thinking and effort is heavily reflected in the application draft. Looking ahead, it is hoped that we will have their continuing involvement in the program on a year-around basis.

The application in its final form must be submitted to the State Office of Planning on or before March 10th, in order to keep pace with the Federal timetable. We have been advised by letter that failure to meet the Federal deadline for filing will result in loss of the grant.

Respectfully submitted,



James L. Sullivan
City Manager

