



## CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

JAMES L. SULLIVAN

City Manager

February 8, 1979

TO: Block Grant Advisory Committee

FROM: James L. Sullivan, City Manager

SUBJECT: Fifth Year Block Grant Project Recommendations

I am pleased to forward for your review my project recommendations for Year 5 of the Block Grant Program. Please note: There will be a public hearing on these project recommendations on Wednesday, February 14, 1979 at 7:30 PM in the City Council Chambers.

In many respects, the Block Grant Program has become relatively firm over the years, thus making the task of developing an annual program somewhat easier. I feel that we have evolved an agenda of activities which represents the best compromise between the many legitimate needs facing Cambridge and the limited resources available in the Block Grant Program.

However, the Year 5 Application Process has faced two major disruptions. First, major alterations in HUD regulations have produced a de facto prohibition on the funding of human services with Block Grant funds. Nevertheless, I think we will be able to find alternative sources of funding for at least the next year for most of the services we have funded for the last several years. Unfortunately, this situation leaves little opportunity for the funding of new human services. As in other years, however, we remain committed to assisting any program or agency to secure other funding or to resolve other operational or space problems. Indeed, toward this end, the Human Services component of the Community Development Department has been strengthened over the last six months.

The second major problem we face involves Block Grant commitments to the Wellington-Harrington Urban Renewal Project. The Cambridge Redevelopment Authority recently secured a \$7.9 million grant for completion of the Wellington-Harrington project. At the same time, HUD has taken the position that approximately \$2 million in Block Grant Funds must be committed over the next several years toward the Project. The City maintains that Block Grant and other City commitments to Wellington-Harrington during the last four years have more than met our financial obligation to the Project.

The controversy is now in the upper levels of HUD and close to final resolution. Clearly, if we must divert about \$700,000 of our Year 5 Block Grant program to Wellington-Harrington, the situation would be disastrous. We are optimistic enough to have not reserved this amount. At the same time, \$195,000 is reserved as some hedge against an adverse decision. In any case, we will keep you informed as to the situation.

As you review the attached project list, please note that both elderly services and community arts project proposals are still being reviewed by the G-30 Committee and the Arts Councils respectively. I will forward to you my recommendations on these areas at a later date.

I thank you for your participation and interest in the Block Grant Program. I look forward to hearing your questions and comments at the Public Hearing on February 14th, or by mail if more convenient.

February 6, 1979

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE  
BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM  
FIFTH YEAR APPLICATION PROCESS

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATIONS

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RECOMMENDED PROJECTS - YEAR V FUNDS

Private Housing Rehabilitation:		\$1,186,650
Homeowners Rehab, Inc.	\$275,000	
RCCC	175,000	
Just-A-Start H.I.P.	252,500	
Just-A-Start Rehab Assistance	190,000	
Revolving Loan Fund	75,000	
Special Projects	32,500	
Historic Preservation Program	40,000	
312 Loan Program Administration	146,650	
Open Space Acquisition and Development		300,000
Open Space Renovation (includes permanent art improvements - \$20,000)		120,000
Street Improvements		100,000
Sidewalk Improvements and Trees		200,000
Public Housing Modernization		182,000
Business District Improvements		50,000
Neighborhood Facilities		75,000
East End House	\$ 25,000	
Cambridge Boys Club	50,000	
Code Enforcement		50,000
Economic Development Assistance to Community Corporations		100,000
East Cambridge Stabilization Program		250,000
Cambridge Organization of Portuguese Americans		26,000
Reserve for Wellington-Harrington Completion (if required)		195,000
General Administration		313,345
Project Execution		140,000
Planning Zoning Studies		159,150
Contingency		<u>180,855</u>
		3,628,000

RECOMMENDED FROM OTHER FUNDS

Elderly Services (not yet finalized)	\$57,000
Elderly Services Planning	5,500
Community Arts Projects	30,000
Child Care Resource Center	30,000
Common Place Community Center	50,000
Concilio	33,000
Better Parks and Playgrounds	27,000

NOT RECOMMENDED

Building Improvements - 11 Inman St. (SCEOC)	5,000
Handicapped Accessibility - 11 & 15 Inman St. (SCEOC)	26,280
Renovations - Rutland Corner House	17,185
Haitian Community Center	55,000
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Feasibility Study - Business Enterprise Revolving Fund Home Improvements and Purchases (CEEDC)	
Economic Development Interim Land Banking (CEEDC)	75,000
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Legal Services for Neighborhood 3 (Cambridgeport Problem Center)	5,000
Child Care Services - 808 Memorial Drive	
Greater Neighborhood Board	30,000
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Energy/Weatherization Program (SCEOC)	22,000
Elderly Weatherization (SCEOC)	23,000
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Outpatient Alcoholism Services for Women (CASPAR)	14,375

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Comm. from Paul E. Healy, City Clerk, transmitting comm. from James L. Sullivan, City Manager Re: Fifth Year Block Grant Project Recommendations.

In City Council,  
February 8, 1979