



To: Tricia Abbott, Controller/Interim Town Manager

From: Sergio Mendoza, Planning Director

CC: Bob Valois, Director of Operations

Date: April 16, 2025

Re: 2025 Community Development Block Grant proposal

The purpose of this memo is to request Town Council approval of a resolution which will recognize the Town's submittal of a project application proposal for Community Development Block Grant ("CDBG"). The Town of Munster has been approved to receive an estimated \$102,997.00 in FY 2025. The Town's application must be submitted to the Lake County Community Development by May 5, 2025 and project construction is anticipated to begin in the fall of 2025.

Background

The CDBG was created under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (Act") to develop viable urban and rural communities. This grant funds activities that benefit households with low and moderate incomes, prevent or eliminate slums or blight, or meet other community development needs that have a particular urgency.

The CDBG is not a competitive grant. CDBG funds are distributed to state and local governments in accordance with appropriated Federal funds, demographic factors, and other housing variables. Because Lake County is identified as an "Urban County" under Federal guidelines, the Town of Munster receives these from through the Lake County Community Economic Development Office (LCCED).

LCCED administers the program locally and is responsible for ensuring the distribution and project selection occur within appropriate areas of the municipal boundaries that satisfy the objectives of CDBG. In past years the Town has applied CDBG funds to the qualifying northwest area of the town. Previous year projects in this area have included alley reconstruction and the installation of ADA compliant infrastructure. This year, the town will continue to apply CDBG funds to the northwest area of town that will promote the health and enhance the safety of its residents and pedestrians through a project know as Phase I of Munster "Short Streets" Sidewalk Reconstruction Project.

Proposed Project

For 2025, the Town is proposing to leverage its CDBG funding allotment to reconstruct 1,000 linear feet of sidewalks and ADA compliant crossing intersections in the most needed areas of northwest section of Town bounded by:

- North of Ridge Road
- South of Interstate Highway 80/94
- East of Hohman Avenue
- West of Manor Avenue

Residents of this area have expressed concerns of the deteriorating conditions of existing sidewalks, including hindering any ability to safely walk within these neighborhoods. The Department of Public Works supports the proposed CDBG project and has estimated the cost for correcting 1,000 linear feet of sidewalks in Phase I is estimated to be \$160,00.00. It is recommended to apply the 2025 CDBG funds of

\$102,997.00; along with the remaining 2023 CDBG funds of \$13,311.00; and local contribution of \$43,692.00 to this CDBG project.

Recommendation:

1. Conduct a public hearing on April 21, 2025 to obtain input from local residents on the proposed use of the CDBG finding.
2. By motion and voice vote, adopt the Affirmative Action Program and the Section 3 Understanding.
3. By motion and roll-call vote, adopt CDBG Resolution to authorize the Munster Town Council President to submit a project proposal for the CDBG for Federal Fiscal Year 2025/2026

Attachments:

1. Citizen Participation Plan
2. Affirmative Action Program Implementing Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968
3. Section 3 Understanding
4. Draft Resolution - A Resolution Authorizing and Directing the Town Council President of the Town of Munster to Submit a Project Proposal for Community Development Block Grants Funds for Federal Fiscal Year 2021.
5. Proposed project location map and cost estimate, as EXHIBITS within the 2025 CDBG Application