



For Immediate Release – January 14, 2020

**Four Berkshire County towns to pursue Community Development Block Grant**

**Dalton, MA** – Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC), is happy to announce that a regional CDBG grant application will be submitted to benefit residents of Dalton, Becket, Stockbridge and Sheffield. The four Berkshire County municipalities, with Dalton in the lead, are joining forces to apply for housing rehabilitation grant funds, through the FY2020 Massachusetts Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program.

CDBG grants provide low-to-moderate income households with up to \$40,000 for housing rehabilitation projects. The popular program, in existence since the 1970's, has helped thousands of homeowners nationwide to maintain and upgrade their homes.

BRPC's Community & Economic Development Program Manager, Patricia Mullins explained, "We're pleased to be assisting these four communities to submit a joint application for the CDBG program. The joint application demonstrates that we've adopted a regional approach to preserving and improving our housing stock throughout the county, and we believe that makes our application far more competitive."

Traditionally, communities have chosen to use CDBG funds to rehabilitate substandard dwelling units, to bring them up to current housing code, or to make needed repairs that enhance "livability," such as replacing roofs, installing insulation and energy-efficient windows. Mullins continued, "CDBG housing rehabilitation funds are intended to assist low-to-moderate income homeowners make necessary improvements. CDBG funds can be also be used for other types of community development projects, at the communities' option, such as infrastructure improvements or improvements to other public facilities, too. If a municipality wants to increase accessibility to municipal buildings or parks, they can apply to use a portion of the funds for ADA upgrades, or conduct planning for a larger project in the future."

The FY2020 CDBG housing rehab program income limits will range from \$49,700 for a single-person household, up to \$98,700 for a family of eight. In anticipation of the grant application being funded, the Planning Commission is developing a Waiting List of interested homeowners.

For more information, or to sign up for the Housing Rehabilitation Waiting List, residents of Dalton, Becket, Stockbridge and Sheffield may call Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, Laura Dorr at 413-442-1521 x23.

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