

Public Hearing
NYS CDBG Public Facilities Grant Application
June 20, 2024

The Public Hearing on New York State Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Public Facilities Grant Application was called to order by the Chair at 10:05 A.M. Five Legislative members were present with Legislators Flesher, Monell, and Standinger being absent.

There were six people in attendance.

The Clerk read the legal notice as published in the official newspapers.

Brittany Woodburn, Director of Economic Development & Planning Department spoke. "Tioga County Economic Development & Planning is assisting Catholic Charities of Tompkins/Tioga with a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) through their Public Facilities Program. The only eligible applicants for the program are counties, towns, villages, and cities, so if we are awarded the grant, we are allowed to sub-grant the funds to another organization like Catholic Charities. This is similar to what we are doing with the Neighborhood Depot here in Owego, NY. The intent of the program is to have Catholic Charities purchase a mobile food truck so they can continue to provide their meals and food preparation services to low/moderate income individuals within Tioga County. The food truck itself is going to sit at their new location on West River Road, Nichols, NY, but with the mobility of the truck it is going to allow them to outreach and serve more areas in the County. Nichols, NY is considered a food desert, as the only place to get groceries currently is the Dollar General otherwise people have to travel to Owego, NY or Waverly, NY and if you do not have transportation, it is difficult.

"The program will provide free meals and food rescue services through partnerships such as Grand Union and Tioga Downs to recover food and use the ingredients to prepare and package meals to send home to individuals and families. They serve a lot of people and not just in Nichols, NY as they have a huge client base. Without them being able to purchase this mobile food truck, they would not be able to continue that programming. Their new space does not have a certified commercial kitchen they can do this in, and it is not possible for them to build that out in their new space. They have one quote right now for just under \$250,000 and there is no match requirement from the County, as it would be fully grant funded through the CDBG program. However, the County would receive a 5% administration fee based on the total project costs."

Director of Public Health Vroman spoke. "Since this is a mobile food truck, it will need to be permitted. If you haven't already had a conversation with our Environmental Health Director, I would encourage that. Some of the things you spoke about such as the preparation of meals and giving it to individuals, I would encourage you to have that conversation, so you do not hit any roadblocks. We would love to support the effort."

There being no further comments, the hearing was adjourned at 10:11 A.M.