

**SUMMARY of SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENTS to
FY 2020 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN
TONAWANDA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

Tonawanda Community Development is proposing Substantial Amendments to the FY 2020 Annual Action Plan for Tonawanda’s Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. The amendments establish programming for the special CDBG appropriations made by the CARES Act to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the COVID-19 crisis.

The Substantial Amendments to the FY 2020 Annual Action Plan include the following revisions:

1. Increase the FY 2020 CDBG Budget to incorporate \$624,178 in Supplemental Round 3 COVID funds (CDBG-CV) awarded by the CARES Act and allocated according to the following program/budget lines:

Town of Tonawanda

Police Behavioral Health Team	\$ 60,000
Accessible Playground	\$ 140,000
Exercise Equipment	\$ 32,000
Sidewalks and Ramps (Including Thistle Crossing)	\$ 53,754
Sanitary Sewer – Water Resources Department	\$ 136,284
Pedestrian Safety Action Plan (ADA Ramps and Push Buttons)	\$ 77,304

Village of Kenmore

Sidewalks and Ramps	\$ 124,836
TOTAL Round 3 CDBG-CV Budget	\$ 624,178

Summary of Proposed Activities:

POLICE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TEAM – The Town of Tonawanda will provide CDBG-CV funds to develop and sustain a fully evaluated co-responder model, which combines Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) trained police officers with licensed mental health counselors and licensed clinical social workers who can assist the police officers during incidents in the field, or remotely from a control room. The behavioral health clinician will be provided via a partnership contract with Endeavor Health Services. Using CDBG-CV funds, this project will be classified as an urgent need and will be employed townwide. This project responds to COVID-19.

Specifically, this activity will serve to address challenges for individuals with mental health and addiction that have arisen from, been exacerbated by, or are in response to the changed environment due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

ACCESSIBLE PLAYGROUND – The Town of Tonawanda will provide CDBG-CV funds to purchase and install an accessible, all-inclusive, playground and safety surface at Sheridan Park. Funds will pay for the equipment, safety surface, freight, and labor costs. COVID-19 has had and will continue to have a profound effect on the mental and physical health of people of all ages. Many programs and facilities were shut down, severely limiting the opportunities for physical activity and socialization. As the Town playgrounds have since reopened, we see now more than ever a need to make our facilities – especially our playgrounds – more accessible for all our residents. Providing such amenities will increase physical activity, mental and emotional health, socialization, and quality of life.

EXERCISE EQUIPMENT – The Town of Tonawanda will provide CDBG-CV funds to purchase and install up to seven outdoor exercise equipment stations along the Rails to Trails path within the confines of Lincoln Park. COVID-19 has had and will continue to have a profound effect on the mental and physical health of people of all ages. Many programs and facilities were shut down, severely limiting the opportunities for physical activity and socialization. Despite this, the Town’s Rails to Trails path was heavily used by those looking to get fresh air and some exercise. While gyms are currently open, the strict policies in place along with the tough economic situation many people are finding themselves in as a result of this pandemic, there is an opportunity for us to meet a need for outdoor exercise. These stationary exercise units, which have been popular in other parks, allow users to build strength and flexibility while increasing their cardiovascular fitness, improving their mood, and getting fresh air and Vitamin D. Providing such amenities will increase physical activity, mental and emotional health, socialization, and quality of life.

SIDEWALKS AND RAMPS (INCLUDING THISTLE CROSSING) – The Town of Tonawanda will provide CDBG-CV (as well as FY 2021 CDBG) funds to reconstruct substandard sidewalk sections and ADA ramps within low moderate income neighborhoods to create more suitable living environments for the local residents. Work will likely be contracted out. If so, all Federal regulations concerning procurement, labor, etc. will be adhered to. In addition, ADA ramp improvements will occur at Thistle crossing which is outside of a low moderate income neighborhood, but still qualifies as it is removing barriers for the disabled. The COVID-19 pandemic has magnified the importance of socially-distanced physical activity for both physical and mental health. This project responds to COVID-19 by improving the safety and accessibility for all pedestrians who use these sidewalks and curb ramps, providing them with improved infrastructure to be physically active.

SANITARY SEWER – WATER RESOURCES DEPT. – The Town Water Resources Department will hire a contractor or complete the work themselves (materials only), depending on scope of work, to slip line the sanitary sewer along Thurston Avenue and/or Westchester Avenue from Elmwood to Military. There are many valid residential concerns about COVID-19 in wastewater. This project will abate sewer backups into residential properties thereby preventing the spread of COVID-19.

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY ACTION PLAN (ADA RAMPS AND PUSH BUTTONS) – The Town of Tonawanda will provide CDBG-CV funds to improve pedestrian safety and general accessibility at six (originally 10) intersections within the Town of Tonawanda. Improvements include re-striping crosswalks, adding pedestrian warning signs, replacing sidewalk ramps with ADA compliant ramps, and installing pedestrian signal equipment with accessible push buttons. CDBG-CV (as well as FY 2020 CDBG) funds will be used for the ADA compliant ramps and accessible push buttons. The additional improvements will be funded with \$315,140 of NYSDOT funds and operational funds from the Police Department. The COVID-19 pandemic has magnified the importance of socially-distanced physical activity for both physical and mental health. This project responds to COVID-19 by improving the safety and accessibility for all pedestrians who use these intersections, providing them with improved infrastructure to be physically active.

VILLAGE - SIDEWALKS AND RAMPS – The Village of Kenmore Department of Public Works will hire a contractor or complete the work themselves (materials only), depending on scope of work, to reconstruct substandard sidewalk sections and ADA ramps within low moderate income neighborhoods to create more suitable living environments for the local residents. The COVID-19 pandemic has magnified the importance of socially-distanced physical activity for both physical and mental health. This project responds to COVID-19 by improving the safety and accessibility for all pedestrians who use these sidewalks and curb ramps, providing them with improved infrastructure to be physically active.