



Community Development Block Grant - Public Services Funding Program Policy Principles for FY 2027

MISSION

At the Office of Workforce Development (OWD), our purpose as an innovative public agency is to promote economic self-sufficiency and to ensure the full participation of all Boston residents in the city's economic vitality and future. We are an advocate, clearinghouse, and laboratory for "best practices" in literacy, beginning at birth; lifelong learning; job training/placement; and support services so Bostonians may fulfill their educational and employment aspirations.

OVERVIEW

In March 2026, the Mayor's Office of Workforce Development (OWD) intends to release a Request for Grant Applications (RFGA) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 Community Development Grant (CDBG) Public Services funding. Each year, the City of Boston receives CDBG funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) through the Mayor's Office of Housing. The funds are primarily used for affordable housing and economic development activities. However, up to 15% of the funds can be used for "public services" related to economic development. As the City's workforce development agency, OWD manages this portion of the funding on behalf of the Mayor's Office of Housing.

The public services component of the CDBG funds services for low-income individuals and families with the goal of moving them out of poverty towards economic security. For the upcoming FY 2027, OWD proposes to continue to prioritize programs and services aimed at employing people in career sectors that provide them with long-term economic stability and growth. Employment programs, when combined with post-secondary education and critical wrap-around support services, are capable of promoting sustained, significant change in the lives of low-income people.

This document offers policy principles highlighting program and service priorities for FY 2027. The policy principles will guide the development of the upcoming RFGA.

GOAL

The goal of Boston's CDBG Public Services funding is to ensure that low-income Boston residents are connected to a continuum of education, workforce development, and economic security programs to increase their capacity to obtain career-oriented employment leading to economic stability.

STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

These policy principles address the need to promote economic stability and mobility, as well as the need to develop a talent pipeline for employers. These core beliefs shape strong programs:



- Investment in programs that place individuals on a continuum of quality education, training, workforce development, and economic security. This continuum is defined as high school diplomas/HiSET attainment, matriculation into post-secondary education or industry-recognized training programs, placement into jobs with demonstrated career paths, and/or access to income maximization programs¹ that stabilize individuals and families with barriers.
- A high degree of coordination of wrap-around support services, which address a wide range of individual and family needs. These can include, but are not limited to, financial literacy, ESOL/Adult Basic Education, income maximization, mental health, childcare, transportation, and individual case management.
- The use of partnerships and collaborations is strongly encouraged to ensure that there are no gaps in a continuum of programs and supportive services to address a wide range of needs.
- The use of work-based training that provides maximum opportunities for participants to gain employment skills that meet employer needs.

SIZE AND GRANT PERIOD

To optimize our grant dollars, OWD intends to award grants in the amount of \$50,000 - \$95,000 to successful applicants. Grants are awarded based on a two-year funding period; the second year is a refunding year for programs that meet or exceed standards in the first year of funding through the RFGA for CDBG-PS. We strongly encourage proposals from organizations that have experience managing federal grants with extensive reporting requirements. Please note that all awards are subject to funding availability.

TARGET POPULATIONS

- Low-income Boston residents.
 - These youth, adults, and seniors are defined by HUD as individuals with incomes at or below [80% of Area Median Income \(AMI\)](#).
- Preference will be given to re-entry or court-involved individuals; out-of-school youth; seniors; persons with disabilities; homeless individuals; documented immigrants; English Language Learners; dislocated workers; long-term underemployed or unemployed individuals.

INTENDED OUTCOMES

OWD intends to demonstrate the impact of CDBG funds by having a set of standardized outcome indicators and metrics to measure the effectiveness of CDBG programs.

- Placement and retention in jobs.
- Placement into post-secondary education and skills training leading to jobs.
- Increased income from access to cash-equivalent benefits, wages from employment, and other financial empowerment metrics.

¹ Income maximization is defined as any public or private benefits that are not earned through wages from employment. These can include but are not limited to SNAP, TAFDC, EITC, SSI, SSDI, alimony, child support, unemployment insurance, pension/retirement, disability benefits...etc.