



City of Woonsocket, Rhode Island  
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

The following is the public comment and question the City of Woonsocket's Planning and Development team received during the public comment period that took place from 3/22/23 – 4/12/23. This public comment period was regarding our CDBG, ESG and HOME grants.

Question received during virtual public hearing on 3/22/23:

1. When do you anticipate the release of the RFP?

A: At this time, the City Council, Administration and the Planning Department's team have not finalized the budgets.

Public comment received in writing through email on 4/11/23:

“Our recommendation would be to disperse funds through a competitive bid/RFP process. The purpose of this approach is for transparency and to encourage collaboration and innovation. A designated review committee should represent multiple perspectives/backgrounds. Emphasize projects that can impact the greatest number of individuals.

CDBG Funds:

- Building new affordable housing is absolutely critical to moving the City out of our current homeless crisis (acknowledging that this is, in fact, a statewide and national problem). The vast majority of those who are homeless in the City are born and raised or have been here for an extended period of time. These are our people and they need our help. Projects that bring together partners to address the need from multiple perspectives should be prioritized. An example would be a community development organization with a provider who is able to provide wraparound support services to link with their own resources, as well as those of other human services. This is critical to ensure that individuals can sustain their housing long-term.

ESG Funds:

- This pot of money is so small that it would seem that using these funds for homelessness prevention/rental assistance would be the most efficacious use of these dollars to prevent homelessness. It is important that these funds be used only for households who can sustain their rent independently following receipt of support.

- Given that there are three organizations in the City who provide emergency shelter, it does make sense to consider funding shelter operations as these programs operate on a shoe-string budget and this funding could make the difference in terms of continued operations.”