



## COUNTY OF DUTCHESS

MARCUS J. MOLINARO  
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

January 29, 2015

John Merwin, Supervisor  
Town of North East  
19 North Maple Avenue  
P.O. Box 516  
Millerton, NY 12546

Dear Supervisor Merwin:

I am pleased to announce that preliminary funding decisions for the 2015 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program year have been made and your project, *North East-Millerton Library ADA Handicapped Access Improvements*, has been recommended for \$64,600. It was our pleasure to work with members of the County Legislature, Community Development Advisory Committee, and other stakeholders to select the projects which best address both municipal needs and County priorities.

We'd like to strongly commend your communities for working together to craft a joint application. Your shared commitment to this project was a major factor in it being selected for funding.

The 2015 program was again very competitive. As you know, the CDBG Program has experienced significant cuts in the past decade. In 2003 we received a little over \$2 million while this year we expect a little over \$1.3 million. In 2003 we funded sixteen municipal projects, this year we will fund eight. In absolute dollars the cut is 34%, but adjusted for inflation the cut is 49%. We effectively have half the money we did a decade ago.

This year we are able provide \$939,000 to eight worthwhile projects in eleven communities. We were also able to provide \$164,000 to seven public service projects that will assist needy households throughout the County.

In this difficult fiscal environment it's more important than ever that we use these funds to make a meaningful impact in our communities. We have asked communities to be more strategic and creative with their applications, and look for opportunities to work with your neighbors to address shared needs. And you have responded. For the first time in years we received two joint applications; one of which is a project that is the product of three municipalities working together. In the future, we ask that whenever it makes sense to do so, you work with other municipalities or service providers and submit for CDBG dollars for joint projects that will not just benefit your constituents but the constituents of surrounding communities across Dutchess County.

Page Two

We would like to thank you for participating in the 2013-2015 Urban County Consortium. We will need to requalify this year for 2016-2018 and will be reaching out this spring.

We hope you see the value of this program in your community and neighboring communities, and choose to rejoin. We currently have 100% participation and hope to achieve this again. Even if your community isn't funded in a particular year your participation increases our annual allocation and helps projects in neighboring communities.

One statement we frequently hear is that joining the Consortium keeps you from applying for other funds. The only program Consortium membership precludes you from applying for is the New York State (NYS) CDBG Program. It's important to remember that the federal eligibility requirements for the County and NYS CDBG programs are identical. If a project is ineligible under the County's CDBG Program, it will be ineligible under the NYS CDBG Program. The NYS CDBG Program has also experienced cuts comparable to the County's program so it is also more competitive than ever. All other state and federal programs are open to your communities. If you have any questions about requalifying please contact us.

Once again we want to encourage you to start thinking about your 2016 applications. The Community Development staff is anxious to work with communities throughout the year to help identify competitive projects which meet federal requirement, and local and county goals. The staff can also help communities identify other funding opportunities.

Please note these decisions are preliminary, pending notification of our final grant allocation and completion of the comment periods. You will receive a final award letter once the County is notified of its allocation by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development. Since unlike last year the federal budget has been finalized, we expect our final allocation number shortly and anticipate being able to issue your agreements this spring.

Congratulations on your funding award. If you have any questions regarding your project, please contact Anne Saylor, Community Development Administrator, at [asaylor@dutchessny.us](mailto:asaylor@dutchessny.us) or (845) 486-3600.

Sincerely,



Marcus J. Molinaro  
Dutchess County Executive



Anne E. Saylor  
Community Development Administrator

c: Robert G. Rolison, Chair, Dutchess County Legislature  
Gregg Pulver, Dutchess County Legislator