

RHODE ISLAND
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT
PY 2015 APPLICATION

<u>1a. Community Information</u>	
City/Town: City of Central Falls, The	
Duns #: 089357636	
Tax ID #: 05-6000063	

<u>1b. Application Contact Information</u>	
Contact Person: Peter Friedrichs	
Title: Director, Planning and Economic Development	
Phone: 401-727-7480	
Email: pfriedrichs@centralfallsri.us	
Fax:	
Mailing Address: 580 Broad Street Central Falls, RI 02863	

<u>2. Total Funding Requested</u>	
Total Funding Requested (Should reconcile with Budget Page)	\$450,000

3. Authorizing Resolution

The following certification must be completed and submitted as part of the final application:

This is certified as a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Council of the City of Central Falls at a meeting held on September 28, 2015.

WHEREAS, funds are available under the Rhode Island Community Development Block Grant Program, administered by the Department of Administration, Division of Planning, Office of Housing and Community Development; and,

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of Rhode Island has authorized the Director of said Department/Office to disburse such funds; and,

WHEREAS, it is in the interest of the citizens of the City of Central Falls that application be made to undertake a local Community Development Block Grant Program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CENTRAL FALLS:

That the filing of this application for the amount of \$450,000 to implement the activities proposed herein hereby authorized and that Mayor James A. Diossa is hereby authorized and directed to file this application with the Office of Housing and Community Development, to provide any additional information or documents required by said office, to make any assurances required in connection with this program, to execute an agreement with the State of Rhode Island and to otherwise act as the Representative of the City of Central Falls in all matters relating to this application and any award which may be based upon this application.

Date: 9/28/15	Signature:
Seal: <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">SEE ATTACHED</div>	Title: City Clerk

4. Chief Executive Officer Signature (Empowered by Resolution in #3 above)

Name & Title:	Mayor James A. Diossa
Signature:	
Date:	10/5/15

5. Certification of Public Hearing

The following certification must be completed and submitted as part of the final application:

1st Hearing Ad:	July 27, 2015	Held: August 11, 2015	
2nd Hearing Ad:	September 12, 2015	Held: September 21, 2015	

I hereby certify that public hearings duly advertised and convened on the above listed dates have been completed and that public comments made as the result of this process have been considered in the development of proposals contained in this application.

Date: 10/5/15	Signature:
	Title: Director, Planning and Economic Development

6. Certification of Local Planning Board

The following certification must be completed and submitted as part of the final application:

I hereby certify that, at a meeting held on October 2, 2105 at 6:00 PM, the Planning Board of the City of Central Falls reviewed the proposals contained in this application and has been given opportunity to comment on said proposals. The Planning Board certifies that to the best of its knowledge, the activities proposed are not in conflict with the general policies set forth in the Comprehensive Community Plan of the City of Central Falls.

Date: October 2, 2015

Signature:

Title: Chair, Planning Board

7. Local Prioritization of Project Proposals (do not include local administration).

Project Priority	Project Title	Amount Requested	National Objective			Pre-Agreement Consideration?
			LMI	SB	UN	
1	City Parks Safety and Security	\$ 90,000.00	X			N
2	Nuisance Property Enforcement	\$ 25,000.00	X			N
3	Closing Cost Assistance	\$ 50,000.00	X			N
4	Home Ownership Program	\$ 25,000.00	X			N
5	Youth Enrichment Program	\$ 99,166.66	X			N
6	Bicycle Master Plan	\$ 10,000.00	X			N
7	Neighborhood Health Station	\$ 40,000.00	X			N
8	Workforce Training Equipment	\$ 10,000.00	X			N
9	Workplace ESOL Classes	\$ 10,000.00	X			N
10	Tenant Education Curriculum	\$ 55,000.00	X			N
11	Housing Rehabilitation	\$ 0.00	X			N
12	Our Safe Home	\$ 6,666.67	X			N
13	Project RENEW	\$ 10,000.00	X			N
14	Pawtucket Soup Kitchen	\$ 5,000.00	X			N
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8. Project Proposal Abstracts (do not include local administration). For each activity, provide a project abstract. Be sure to specify how the CDBG funds will be used, who/how many will benefit, the need for the activity, other funding, and any other information that will assist the CDBG Committee in their review. 10 line limit. The space for each abstract will expand as needed to contain inserted text.

Project Priority	Project Title	Amount Requested	
1	City Parks Safety and Security	\$ 90,000.00	Insert abstract below:
Abstract >	<p>These funds will enable the City to undergo much-needed upgrades to its water and electrical utilities in City parks throughout the City. As a result of the negotiated sale of its water system during the bankruptcy, the City is no longer able to utilize water service in its park without backflow preventers. This left all of the park water features dry this past summer, preventing residents from cooling down in their parks. Additionally, many of our parks are without electrical service and lighting, making them unable to be utilized for events critical to the diverse communities of the City and unlit at night, creating dangerous harbors for vagrants. These parks are critical community assets currently unable to be used to their full potential.</p>		
2	Nuisance Property Enforcement	\$ 25,000.00	Insert abstract below:
Abstract >	<p>Following the national housing crash and Great Recession and the City's own bankruptcy, the quality of the housing stock in the city declined dramatically. Consequently, myriad Minimum Housing Code issues exist throughout the City, to the health and safety of our residents. The Mayor has created a Nuisance Property Task Force to address this issue, however the City is limited in its ability to send out officials to enforce the Code for delinquent properties, due to the limited availability of part-time staff. This funding would allow for additional enforcement officers to address the dozens of properties that are not in compliance with the Minimum Housing Code and improve the health, safety, and well-being of residents across our community. This will support the \$100,000 the city included in its 2015 budget for the Task Force and the recently created Assistant Director for Code Enforcement.</p>		
3	Closing Cost Assistance	\$ 50,000.00	Insert abstract below:
Abstract >	<p>This program, administered by Pawtucket-Central Falls Development, will provide gap financing for homebuyers in the City. Federal Housing Authority and Rhode Island Housing programs provide excellent opportunities for local homebuyers, but sometimes gaps still exist, particularly for residents of limited means. This project would target low and moderate income persons earning less than 80% AMI and would consist of deferred loans that would be forgivable over time. We anticipate we will be able to issue up to 20 loans in the first year of this program that will result in homeownership that would not otherwise be possible.</p>		
4	Home Ownership Program	\$ 25,000.00	Insert abstract below:
Abstract >	<p>This program would create a bilingual homebuyer education course provided by our local Community Development Corporation, Pawtucket-Central Falls Development (PCF) to expand already available homebuyer courses. This program would provide education to residents interested in owning their own home and stabilizing our neighborhoods. Data has shown that educated homebuyers are less likely to experience foreclosure. This program expects to serve 150 residents in its first year. Additional costs will be covered by PCF's developer fees.</p>		
5	Youth Enrichment Program	\$ 99,166.66	Insert abstract below:
Abstract >	<p>Youth are the future of Central Falls. This program will take advantage of existing school facilities, in effect, extending the school day and keeping kids off the streets to provide after school</p>		

	<p>opportunities to expand the horizons of our youth. Saturday activities are planned as well. Funding will support a staff member to coordinate the program and activities with the Center for Dynamic Learning and the Urban Debate League (including a match from the school system). This will be matched by federal meals program funding, city funds for renovations to control building access and expanded janitorial services. We anticipate this program will serve approximately 200 students six days a week September-June. Currently there are no public reaction opportunities outside of the summer. We have a very successful Child and Adult Food Care Program June-August.</p>		
6	Bicycle Master Plan	\$ 10,000.00	Insert abstract below:
Abstract >	<p>As a community of nearly 20,000 within 1.4 square miles and one in which over ¼ of households do not have access to a car, bicycling provides an attractive (and sometimes necessary) mode of transportation to our residents. This planning activity will create a Bicycle Master Plan for the city, detailing the best streets for upgraded bicycle infrastructure and an understanding of associated costs. This complements existing efforts within the city, including recently installed bicycle repair centers, the Recycle-A-Bike program, and a \$10,000 grant from Citizens Bank's Growing Community Initiative for a protected bike lane. The City has limited capacity to assist the recipient of the grant without undergoing a Bicycle Master Plan to understand the idea location and feasibility of a protected bike lane.</p>		
7	Neighborhood Health Station	\$ 40,000.00	Insert abstract below:
Abstract >	<p>The City has partnered with former Director of the Rhode Island Department of Health, Dr. Michael Fine, to create a first-of-its-kind innovation in healthcare. The nation's first Neighborhood Health Station, which will be housed in Rhode Island's most socioeconomically challenged community, Central Falls, will address two pressing healthcare issues facing thousands of Rhode Islanders in communities throughout the state: 1) Lack of access to quality healthcare, wellness and physical fitness options in a centralized, community-minded setting; and, 2) Escalating healthcare costs and delivery inefficiencies. CDBG monies will provide seed funding for a community health worker to expand the critical partnerships necessary to implement this community resource. The City is actively pursuing additional funding from the public and private sectors, as well as key stakeholders, to supplement this application.</p>		
8	Workforce Training Equipment	\$ 10,000.00	Insert abstract below:
Abstract >	<p>Blackstone Valley Community Action Program is launching a workforce training initiative to train un-and under-employed adults in fields in need of workers. This funding would provide for the purchase of fixtures for a commercial kitchen to provide a location for training for culinary skills. Hospitality and Tourism has been identified as a growing job sector by the State of Rhode Island. This field has multiple factors that provide a pathway to the middle class, including a low need for English fluency, low need for education level, and forgiveness for previous criminal activity. This program is targeting students in the Central Falls School District who are in danger of not graduating. Community Service Block Grant funds, Pawtucket CDBG funds, and Individual Training Accounts are being used to supplement Central Falls CDBG funds. The program expects to serve at least 60 trainees in its first year.</p>		
9	Workplace ESOL Classes	\$ 10,000.00	Insert abstract below:
Abstract >	<p>Progreso Latino (PL) will provide workplace-centered English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) classes to Central Falls' residents throughout the grant period. There is an extremely high demand for adult English language education. PL maintains a waiting list of 200 students year-round. PL will place 40 students into the appropriate level of English language instruction and</p>		

	<p>help them develop individualized education plans to reach their career and life goals. ESOL students will benefit from a system of personalized academic supports, including one-on-one tutoring, interactive educational software programs in PL's computer laboratory and access to PL's job club and work supports programming. The ESOL courses will offer 80-90 hours of instruction per trimester, 75% of participants will complete their module, and that 55-60% will pass from one level to the next.</p>		
10	Tenant Education Curriculum	\$ 55,000.00	Insert abstract below:
Abstract >	<p>The Housing Network of Rhode Island proposes to develop and implement a statewide Tenant Education curriculum to be targeted at low income renters at or below 80% of Area Median Income. In addition to offering this program to "fair market" tenants, it is our intent to leverage a number of our partnerships to target specific populations such as persons transitioning out of the homeless system into transitional and permanent affordable housing as well as folks who are currently on affordable housing waitlists across the state. Over a series of 8-10 classes, topics covered will include life skill development, resource development, how to select a rental unit, the rental process, fair housing, Landlord Tenant Act, and the eviction process. The Housing Network of Rhode Island's \$55,000 PY15 CDBG request seeks to leverage a NeighborWorks America grant for \$120,000 that was recently awarded. The Housing Network of Rhode Island plans to serve at least 300 low income renters within the CDBG program year through this program.</p>		
11	Housing Rehabilitation	\$ 0.00	Insert abstract below:
Abstract >	<p>The City has an aging housing stock of affordable housing units, owned by Central Falls Housing Authority, Central Falls Affordable Housing Corporation, Pawtucket-Central Falls Development Corporation, and private organizations. In order to maintain their eligibility as affordable units and for the safety and security of their occupants, many are in need of updating. The City received \$200,000 for the rehabilitation of affordable housing units in PY2014. The City requests to hold this item in its PY2015 award and request funding for individual projects as they are identified and PY2014 funds are exhausted.</p>		
12	Our Safe Home	\$ 6,666.67	Insert abstract below:
Abstract >	<p>Our Safe Home is designed to provide safety for families while providing comprehensive case management services in order to help families secure and maintain permanent housing. We provide a homelike setting in a sensitive and caring environment. Services are provided 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to ensure staff availability to families. Families are provided with basic needs such as: a safe home, food, clothing, linens and personal items. Our agency is currently the only agency in the Blackstone Valley area of Rhode Island that provides specialized shelter services to victims of domestic violence. In 2014, emergency shelter was provided to 101 women and their children. Additionally, 5,189 shelter nights were provided. If funding is received, it will be utilized to support the expenses associated with our Safe Home..</p>		
13	Project RENEW	\$ 10,000.00	Insert abstract below:
Abstract >	<p>Project RENEW has helped create dramatic decreases in prostitution arrests in the cities of Central Falls and Pawtucket over the past nine years, and has enabled the Central Falls Police, along with Pawtucket Central Falls Development Corporation (PCFDC), to win the national Metlife Community Police Partnership award twice in a six year span (2006, 2011). In 2013 the project expanded to include a site in Providence, at Amos House, to serve a greater number of high risk women. However, this request strictly funds a portion of the case manager position based at PCFDC, who provides intensive case management, basic needs, referrals, and HIV prevention and testing services for over 100 high-risk Central Falls/Pawtucket women every year.</p>		

	Her position is a critical resource for the Central Falls police, who have testified many times on the impact of the project on not only the women themselves, but for the community safety and quality of life of the city as a whole.		
14	Pawtucket Soup Kitchen	\$ 5,000.00	Insert abstract below:
Abstract >	The Pawtucket Soup Kitchen serves hungry residents of Pawtucket and Central Falls. This funding will support food and program supply costs. In 2014, Pawtucket Soup Kitchen provided 30,500 unduplicated meals.		
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30		\$	Insert abstract below:
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9. COPY/PASTE OR ATTACH ANNUAL BUDGET (form CDBG_BUDGET2015) HERE

10. Describe activity(ies) undertaken to affirmatively further fair housing in your community during the previous grant year. (APPLICATIONS NOT DETAILING FAIR HOUSING ACTIVITIES WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED).

In the past year, the City of Central Falls has worked tirelessly to further fair housing in our community. This work includes extensive interdepartmental collaboration through the Nuisance Task Force to identify problem properties, dis-sway abusive landlords, and redevelop abandoned properties for affordable home ownership. This includes partnering with the Central Falls Housing Authority, Pawtucket – Central Falls Development, and other fair housing advocates. In the past 12 months, we have developed 6 additional affordable housing units. We are in the midst of finalizing a program for our Home Repair Program (initial funding was part of the 2014 Program Year) in partnership with the Blackstone Community Action Program and the Green and Healthy Homes Initiative.

11. Attach copies of correspondence notifying RIHPHC and the Narragansett Indian Tribe of activities included within this application.

**CDBG Application
Balances Sheet (as of 9/30/15)**

Please detail all remaining funds (funds not drawn down from the State) for any activity in any open grant year. Do not list activities with a zero (0) balance. List activities individually; do not aggregate. Note that this information will be used in assessing past performance in the evaluation of applications/activities.

GRANT YEAR:	ACTIVITY:	BALANCE Not Yet Drawn:
2014	PCDC/Reach Inc.	\$ 200,000.00
2014	Home Repair Program	\$ 100,000.00
2014	Administration	\$ 60,000.00
2014	Consolidated Homeless Fund	\$ 4,034.43
2013	REACH Wash & Mowry Sts	\$ 72,728.74
2013	Sidewalk Improvements	\$ 59,865.84
2012	Roosevelt Ave Street Improvements	\$ 39,675.00
2012	REACH Housing Dev't Beacon St/Lincoln Av	\$ 8,484.25

2010	741 Dexter St. Furniture and Signage	\$ 4.94