



## Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Community Improvement Grant (CIG) 2021 Application City of Buena Vista – 3/2/2021

### Grant Application Fact Sheet

#### What is the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program?

- National program that provides funding to eligible local governments to address critical community development needs
- In Virginia, the program is administered by the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD)
- Projects seeking CDBG funding must meet at least one of the following:
  1. Give maximum feasibility priority to activities which will benefit low- and moderate-income (LMI) families,
  2. Aid in the prevention or elimination of slums and blight, and
  3. May also include activities which are designed to meet other community development needs having a particular urgency because existing conditions pose a serious and immediate threat to the community.

#### Buena Vista Project Background

In late 2019, the City was awarded a CDBG Business District Revitalization (BDR) Planning Grant of \$35,000 to study economic restructuring strategies and physical redevelopment opportunities for downtown. This plan was completed in January 2021 and is available from the Planning office and on the City website.

#### Next Step: Community Improvement Grant (CIG) application

The City is preparing a CIG application for submission by April 1 2021. The CIG subprogram of CDBG primarily funds physical improvements to downtowns, and is intended to follow a BDR planning grant. The maximum award is \$1,000,000. The City is pursuing funding for the following projects:

- Streetscape and related improvements in the downtown area, particularly on the 21<sup>st</sup> Street corridor, to potentially include sidewalk improvements, street trees, street lamps, street paving, and underground utility repairs.
- Façade grants for privately-owned buildings in the project area
- Wayfinding signage program throughout the City to install directional signage to downtown and significant attractions.
- Administration costs for the Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission

No project activities are anticipated to displace existing residents or businesses. If awarded, project activities would begin late 2021/early 2022 and be complete within two years.

#### Future Steps

Following the CIG, the City will pursue CDBG Economic Development subprogram grant funds to accomplish other business development-related recommendations of the downtown plan. The City may apply as soon as late 2021 for these funds. Additionally, the City will pursue funding through other state and federal programs to complement CDBG projects and accomplish recommendations from the plan.

#### Past use of CDBG Funds

In late 2019 the City was awarded a CDBG Opportunity Zone Marketing grant of \$15,000. This was successfully implemented in 2020 and resulted in a prospectus highlighting eligible properties in the City, as well as multiple calls with developers and contractors about development opportunities in the City. The City has successfully managed CDBG funds in the past. In the early 2010's, the City built a new water filtration plant at Dickinson Well using \$1,000,000 of CDBG CIG competitive subprogram funds.