



CITY OF NEW BEDFORD

JONATHAN F. MITCHELL, MAYOR

April 12, 2021

New Bedford City Council President Joseph P. Lopes and  
Honorable Members of the City Council  
City of New Bedford  
New Bedford, Massachusetts 02740

Dear Council President Lopes and Honorable Members:

Attached please find a copy of the *Final Fiscal Year 2021 Office of Housing and Community Development Action Plan* which sets forth activities to be funded through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, the Home Investment Partnership (HOME) Program, and the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Program for the period July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022.

I am requesting that you approve and authorize the submission of the *Fiscal Year 2021 Action Plan* to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

No substantive changes have been made to the Fiscal Year 2021 Draft Action Plan which was made available to the public for review on March 19, 2021, for the mandatory 30-Day Public Comment Review Period which expired on April 21, 2021. If you have any questions regarding the contents of the plan, please do not hesitate to contact Patrick J. Sullivan, Director of the Office of Housing and Community Development (OHCD) at (508) 979-1500.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Respectfully,

Jonathan F. Mitchell, Mayor

Attachment

# CITY OF NEW BEDFORD

## IN CITY COUNCIL

April 22, 2021

### RESOLUTION OF THE NEW BEDFORD CITY COUNCIL AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO APPLY FOR FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

**WHEREAS,** The City of New Bedford desires to continue its participation in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) activities under the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) activities under the Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing Act of 2009 (HEARTH Act), as amended, and Home Investment Partnership (HOME) activities under Title II of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act of 1990, as amended, and:

**WHEREAS,** The Housing and Community Development, McKinney-Vento and National Affordable Housing Acts, as amended, and the regulations promulgated there under, require a Resolution of the local Governing Body authorizing the Mayor to apply for and execute the federal entitlement grant as a condition of eligibility for Federal financial assistance for the FY2021 Annual Action Plan, and:

**WHEREAS,** The Mayor of the City of New Bedford must be authorized to submit information to the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development for Federal financial assistance under said Acts:

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** By the New Bedford City Council, as follows:

**SECTION 1.** The Mayor of the City of New Bedford is authorized to do all things necessary, and to execute any and all documents required for the timely application for Federal financial assistance under these Acts, as amended, and to provide any and all necessary documents which are required for the acceptance and use of CDBG, ESG and HOME funds.

**SECTION 2.** The Mayor of the City of New Bedford, as Chief Executive Officer, is authorized and designated as an official representative for the City of New Bedford to act in all matters arising in connection with the application for funds, and in providing the United States of America or any of its subdivisions with any additional information as may be required.

**SECTION 3.** The Mayor of the City of New Bedford is authorized to assume the status of a responsible Federal Officers under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, insofar as the provisions of that Act apply to Community Development Block Grants administered by the City of New Bedford, and receipt of Federal financial assistance from the United States of America under the Housing and Community Development Act, as amended, and the City of New Bedford hereby accepts the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts for the purpose of enforcement of the Mayor's responsibilities as such a responsible Federal Official under the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

IN CITY COUNCIL, April 22, 2021



# Action Plan EXECUTIVE SUMMARY FY 2021

CITY OF NEW BEDFORD

Jonathan F. Mitchell, Mayor



Office of Housing & Community Development

Patrick J. Sullivan, Director



# Executive Summary

## AP-05 Executive Summary - 24 CFR 91.200(c), 91.220(b)

### 1. Introduction

The City of New Bedford is an Entitlement Community that receives funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to invest in local solutions to address housing and community development needs. The funds include the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), the HOME Investment Partnership program (HOME), and the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG).

The primary objective of the CDBG program is to develop viable communities through the provision of decent housing, a suitable living environment, and expanded economic opportunities. HOME funds are dedicated to preserving and creating affordable housing. ESG supports outreach and shelters for homeless persons, as well as programs that prevent or rapidly re-house individuals and families experiencing homelessness.

The City of New Bedford is pleased to present an Executive Summary of its Annual Action Plan for Fiscal Year 2021 running from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. This Action Plan serves several functions:

- Utilizing data and community input, it prioritizes housing and community development needs, delineates a one-year strategy for addressing those needs, and establishes performance measures by which progress can be assessed in response to the City of New Bedford's Consolidated Plan FY 2020-2024.
- It describes recommendations for specific projects and services to address housing, community development, emergency shelter, and homeless needs which were identified through public meetings, needs assessments, coalition meetings, consultations with community groups (e.g. neighborhood associations, linguistic minority organizations, etc.), and proposals solicited through both public meetings and the Request for Proposals (RFP) process.
- It outlines activities that will be funded utilizing Federal Block Grants from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), and HOME Investment Partnership (HOME) Program.

The city's Action Plan has been prepared in accordance with guidance provided by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

### 2. Summarize the objectives and outcomes identified in the Plan

The FY2021 Action Plan includes the goals and objectives outlined in this section, all targeting community needs related to affordable housing, economic development and employment and strengthening neighborhoods.

Priority	Objectives
1	Increase the inventory of safe, Affordable Housing
2	Improve the condition of Housing through Rehabilitation
3	Increase rate of homeownership through the provision of Homebuyer Assistance
4	Expand Economic Development opportunities through business assistance
5	Provide essential Public Services
6	Improve availability and access to Public Facilities and Parks
7	Improve Public Infrastructure
8	Increase the quality of life through Neighborhood Stabilization efforts
9	Decrease the incidence of Homelessness
10	Planning and Administration

**Funding Disbursement.** The 2021 Action Plan represents a single application for federal funding that incorporates three (3) HUD formula programs, for a total allocation of \$3,827,665 in FY2021 funds. The three (3) HUD programs are as follows:

- Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) at \$2,716,070
- Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) at \$235,458
- HOME Investment Partnership, at \$876,137

### 3. Evaluation of past performance

This is an evaluation of past performance that helped lead the grantee to choose its goals or projects.

The City of New Bedford has demonstrated progress in meeting the goals and objectives identified in the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan and its Year One Action Plan. The city's successful efforts focused on activities that have positively impacted the quality of life for low- and moderate-income residents. These efforts have included increasing the amount of decent, safe and affordable housing; expanding homeownership opportunities; promoting neighborhood-based business revitalization efforts; investment in public infrastructure, facilities, and parks; and providing essential public services.

An inclusive public process, community input, careful planning and a significant commitment of financial resources enabled the city to achieve strong performance across all programs and objectives despite funding constraints from HUD grants.

The City of New Bedford remains confident that the high level of performance it has demonstrated will be replicated during the period covered by this Action Plan.

### 4. Summary of Citizen Participation Process and consultation process

The City's Office of Housing and Community Development (OHCD) developed the 2021 Action Plan and the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan with consultation from a diverse group of individuals and organizations. In order to ensure maximum participation from citizens of New Bedford, the Action Plan process included public meetings, technical assistance workshops and distribution of information in multiple-language formats in a variety of media formats. In addition to these traditional notices, the

OHCD also sent out written and electronic notices to a diverse cross-section of neighborhood leaders, private interests, citizens and community stakeholders. The OHCD then conducted two (2) public meetings in January of 2021, both of which were conducted virtually using the Zoom platform because of the Covid-19 pandemic. Over thirty-six, (36) community leaders, residents and representatives of local non-profits attended the public meetings, focus groups and forums. Attached in Appendix I is the FY21 Action Plan Calendar/Citizen Participation Process, Public Meeting Notices, Public Meeting Minutes, and Letters of Support / Comment.

A draft of this 2021 *Action Plan* was available for public review from March 19, 2021 through April 21, 2021 in City Hall, the Office of Housing & Community Development, and the New Bedford Housing Authority. A notice of the draft Action Plan's availability was posted on the City of New Bedford website and posted on the Office of Housing and Community Development's Facebook page.

All meetings were accessible to persons with disabilities and all meeting notices included information about how to request accommodation such as a translator or signing assistance and were translated in Spanish and Portuguese.

## **5. Summary of public comments**

The Draft Annual Action Plan was available for review and public comment between March 19 and April 21, 2021. All comments received during that time are included in the Final Action Plan.

## **6. Summary of comments or views not accepted and the reasons for not accepting them**

All comments were accepted.

## **7. Summary**

The following activities listed in the Final Action Plan have been proposed to receive Consolidated Plan program funds during the FY21 program year running from July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022. Maps illustrating the locations of Consolidated Plan- funded programs will be included here for the Final Action Plan. More details about projects tentatively selected for funding are included in section AP-35 of this document.

During FY2021, the City of New Bedford will make significant progress in implementing its Housing and Community Development goals and priorities as set forth in its Consolidated Plan 2020-2024 and FY2021 Action Plan. Many of these activities stand out as having the potential for positively impacting the quality of life for the city's low- and moderate-income residents. All of these activities have come to fruition as the result of an active public process, community input, careful planning and a significant commitment of financial resources. The three entitlement programs are described as follows:

**A. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM**

Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (Public Law 93-383) created the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. Re-authorized in 1990 as part of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act, local communities are encouraged to use the resources of the CDBG Program to develop flexible, locally designed community development strategies to address the program's primary objective, that being the "...development of viable urban communities, by providing decent housing and suitable living environments and expanding economic development opportunities principally for persons of low and moderate income."

**B. EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT PROGRAM**

The Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing Act of 2009 (HEARTH Act) enacted into law in May 2009, amends and reauthorizes the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act and creates the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Program. ESG is designed to broaden existing emergency shelter and homelessness prevention activities, emphasize rapid re-housing, and help people quickly regain stability in permanent housing after experiencing a housing crisis and/or homelessness. ESG funds may be used for street outreach, emergency shelter services, homelessness prevention, rapid re-housing assistance and the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS).

**C. HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM**

The HOME Program was created to develop safe, decent and affordable housing through a variety of mechanisms including, home rehabilitation, assistance to first time homebuyers, affordable rental housing development, and assistance to community housing development organizations.

The City of New Bedford remains confident that its high level of performance in the past years can be maintained as it continues exploring innovative opportunities to improve the quality of life for its low and moderate-income citizenry.

*See funding allocation charts on the following page.*



In addition to the actual allocations, the following amounts reflect prior year reprogrammed funding that will be included in FY2021 budgets as follows: for CDBG \$451,027 and ESG \$465.

The pie charts provided in this summary also incorporate existing and anticipated program income for FY2021 from the following:

**CDBG**

Revolving Loan Fund 1

Loan repayments from CDBG Funded Housing Loans

Current Balance - \$100,000

Anticipated Program Income for FY21- \$50,000

Revolving Loan Fund 2

Loan Repayments from CDBG Funded Economic Development Loans

Current Balance - \$0

Anticipated Program Income for FY18 - \$100,000

*In the event anticipated CDBG program income is not received, the Housing & Rehabilitation budget will be reduced.*

**HOME**

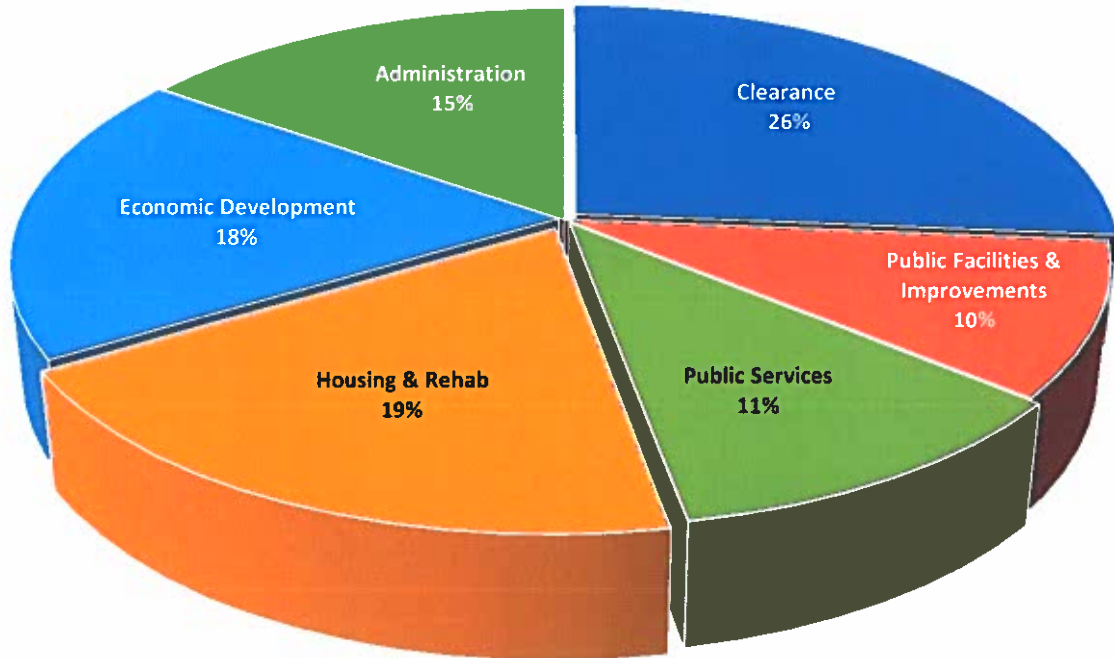
Loan repayments from the HOME Funded Housing Loans

Current Balance - \$900,000

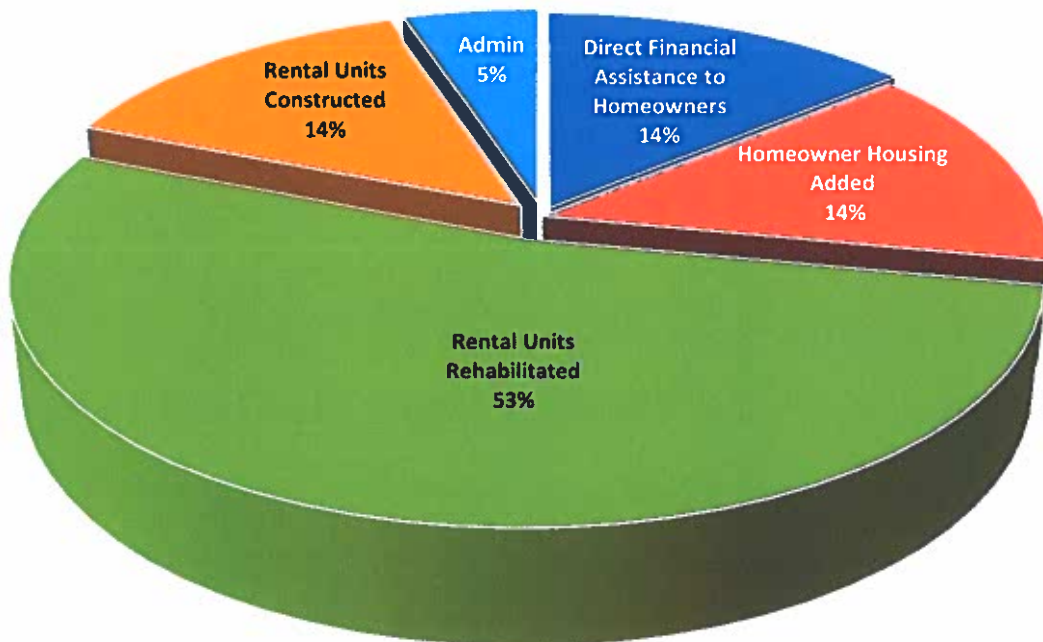
Anticipated Program Income for FY21 - \$100,000

*In the event anticipated HOME program income is not received, the Rental/Affordable Housing budget will be reduced.*

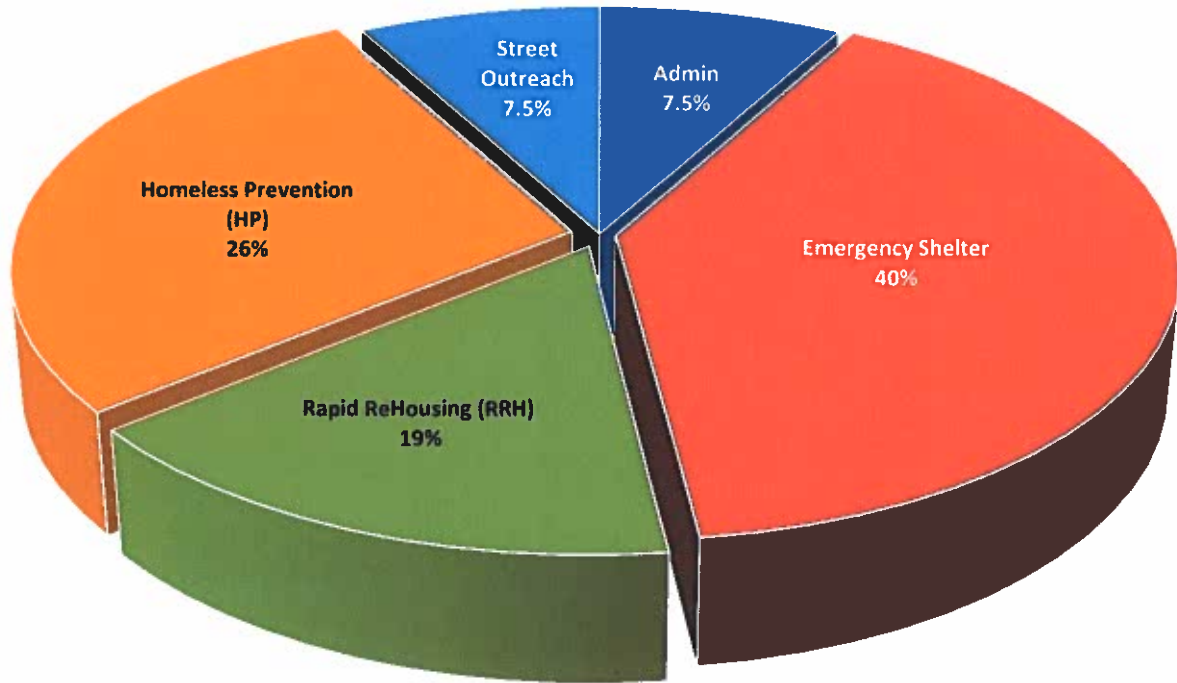
**CDBG FUNDING AVAILABLE FY21 \$3,417,097**



**HOME FUNDNG AVAILABLE FY21 - \$1,876,137**



**ESG FUNDING AVAILABLE FY21 \$235,923**





## **FY21 Detailed Budget**

**BUDGET:** The following budget charts provide a breakdown of the CDBG, ESG and HOME programs and projects for FY21.

FY2021 CDBG FUNDING: BUDGET		FY2021 Amount Awarded
<b>1. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDING' \$3,417.097</b>		
<b>INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS</b>	<b>PROJECT NAME</b>	
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>CLEARANCE &amp; DEMOLITION</b>	<b>PROJECT NAME</b>	
Shoreline Resources, LLC	Development of New Bedford Shipyard	\$150,000
Department of Inspectional Services	Demolition of 1 R Coffin Ave	\$750,000
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>		<b>\$900,000</b>
<b>PUBLIC FACILITIES &amp; IMPROVEMENTS</b>	<b>PROJECT NAME</b>	
Cape Verdean Association in New Bedford	Island Park	\$50,000
New Bedford Women's Center, Inc.	Building Compliance Renovations	\$197,547
Office of Housing & Community Development	Project Management	\$85,000
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>		<b>\$332,547</b>
<b>PUBLIC SERVICES</b>	<b>PROJECT NAME</b>	
Boys and Girls Club of Greater New Bedford	Youth Transportation	\$7,500
Buzzards Bay Coalition	Discover Buzzards Bay	\$7,500
Coastal Foodshed	Local Food Delivery to SNAP Customers	\$5,000
Coastline Elderly Services, Inc.	Community Mainstream Program	\$15,000
Community Boating Center of New Bedford	Junior Instructor Program	\$7,500
Dennison Memorial	Academic Excellence	\$26,000
Department of Community Services	Senior Programs and Services	\$93,000
Dream Out Loud Center, Inc.	The Creative Careers Program	\$7,500
Groundwork Southcoast	Green Team's Sow & Grow and Adventure Walk	\$7,000
Immigrants' Assistance Center, Inc.	Social Services Non-English Speaking Residents	\$9,000
NeighborWorks Housing Solutions	Homeownership & Financial Ed/Counseling	\$6,000
New Bedford Art Museum / ArtWorks!	ArtMOBILE	\$7,500
New Bedford Parks, Recreation & Beaches	Kennedy Summer Day Program	\$25,000
New Bedford Parks, Recreation & Beaches	Seasonal Training and Employment Program	\$20,000
New Bedford Parks, Recreation & Beaches	Supportive Recreation	\$15,000
New Bedford Police Department	Domestic Violence Intern Coordinator	\$26,000
New Bedford Whaling Museum	Apprenticeship Program	\$10,000
New Bedford YMCA	Summer Learning Enrichment Program	\$15,000
People Acting in Community Endeavors (PACE)	Health Access Senior Center	\$9,000
Sea Lab Marine Science Education Center, NBPS	Community Development – Sea lab Scholarship	\$6,000
South Coastal Counties Legal Services	Housing Law Project	\$10,000
SouthCoast Fair Housing, Inc (SCFH)	Fair Housing Counseling, Advocacy & Enforcement	\$2,500
The Marion Institute	Grow Education – Farm to School Initiative 2	\$10,000
United Way of Greater New Bedford	New Bedford SSI Works	\$15,000
Youth Opportunities Unlimited	Explore Your Environment & Winter Bike Shop	\$10,000
YWCA Southeastern Massachusetts	YWCA Youth Without Limits	\$5,000
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>		<b>\$376,500</b>

FY2021 CDBG FUNDING: BUDGET		FY2021 Amount Awarded
<b>1. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDING<sup>1</sup> \$3,417,097</b>		
<b>HOUSING REHABILITATION</b>	<b>PROJECT NAME</b>	
Office of Housing & Community Development	Deleading Program	\$50,000
Office of Housing & Community Development	Emergency Repair Program (Funded from RLF)	\$150,000
Office of Housing & Community Development	Financial Assistance (Funded from RLF)	\$50,000
Office of Housing & Community Development	Housing Accessibility	\$75,000
Office of Housing & Community Development	Service Delivery	\$300,000
YWCA Southeastern Massachusetts	YWCA Residential Services	\$33,350
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>		<b>\$658,350</b>
<b>ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT</b>	<b>PROJECT NAME</b>	
Office of Housing & Community Development	Storefronts Reimbursement Program	\$50,000
New Bedford Economic Development Council, Inc.	Economic Development Program	\$479,700
New Bedford Economic Development Council, Inc.	E.D. Revolving Loan Fund Account (RLF)	\$100,000
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>		<b>\$629,700</b>
<b>COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION</b>	<b>PROJECT NAME</b>	
CDBG Planning and Administration	Entitlement Management & Project Monitoring	\$520,000
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>		<b>\$520,000</b>
<b>TOTAL CDBG ENTITLEMENT EXPENDITURES</b>		<b>\$3,417,097</b>

*Budget continued on following page*

<sup>1</sup> This total reflects the FY21 CDBG entitlement (\$2,716,070), revolving loan fund accounts [\$250,000], and carry over funds [\$451,027].

FY2021 ESG FUNDING: BUDGET		FY2021 Amount Awarded
<b>2. EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT FUNDING<sup>3</sup></b>		<b>\$235,458</b>
<b>ESG ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>PROJECT NAME</b>	
Catholic Social Services of Fall River, Inc.	Emergency Solutions Dept.	\$65,000
Catholic Social Services of Fall River, Inc.	Sr Rose House-Shelter Operations	\$16,150
New Bedford Women's Center, Inc.	Domestic Violence Shelter	\$20,000
PACE, Inc.	PACE Housing Services	\$40,968
SE Massachusetts Veterans Housing Program, Inc	Veterans Transition House	\$16,000
Southeast Family Services	Harbour House	\$28,796
Steppingstone, Inc.	New Bedford Women's Therapeutic Community	\$13,500
Steppingstone, Inc.	FAIHR Street Outreach Project	\$17,850
Administration	Administration 7.5%	\$17,659
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$235,923</b>
<b>ESG CATEGORY</b>		
Street Outreach		\$17,850
Emergency Shelter		\$94,446
Rapid Re-Housing		\$45,000
Homeless Prevention		\$60,968
Administration		\$17,659
<b>TOTAL ESG ENTITLEMENT EXPENDITURES</b>		<b>\$235,923</b>

FY2021 HOME FUNDING: BUDGET		FY2021 Amount Awarded
<b>3. HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP FUNDING<sup>4</sup></b>		<b>\$1,876,137</b>
<b>HOME ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>PROJECT NAME</b>	
Office of Housing & Community Development	Neighborhoods First Program	\$257,102
Office of Housing & Community Development	Rental Housing Program	\$1,400,000
Office of Housing & Community Development	CHDO Set Aside (min. 15%)	\$131,421
Office of Housing & Community Development	Administration (10%)	\$87,614
<b>TOTAL HOME ENTITLEMENT EXPENDITURES</b>		<b>\$1,876,137</b>

<sup>2</sup> This total reflects the FY21 ESG entitlement [\$235,458] and carry over funds [\$465].

<sup>3</sup> This total reflects the FY21 HOME entitlement [\$876,137] and program income funds [\$1,000,000].