

RHODE ISLAND
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT
PY 2016 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 & Economic Development
Phone:	401-727-7400
Email:	pfriedrichs@centralfallsri.us
Fax:	
Mailing Address:	Department of Planning & Economic Development 580 Broad Street Central Falls, RI 02863

<u>2. Total Funding Requested</u>	
Total Funding Requested (Should reconcile with Budget Page)	\$400,000

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, RI at a meeting held on Monday, May 9, 2016.

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 THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY
OF: CENTRAL FALLS, RI

That the filing of this application for the amount of \$ 400,000 to implement the activities proposed herein hereby authorized and that Mayor James A. Diossa (Chief Executive Officer) 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: May 9, 2016

Signature:

Seal:

Title: City Clerk

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

Name & Title: James A. Diossa, Mayor

Signature:

Date: May 13, 2016

5. Certification of Public Hearing

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

1st Hearing Ad:	March 7, 2016	Held:	March 15, 2016
2nd Hearing Ad:	April 11, 2016	Held:	April 19, 2016

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:

May 13, 2016

Signature:

Title: Director, Planning & 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 April 27, 2016 at 6:00PM, 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: April 27, 2016

Signature:

Title: Chair, Central Falls 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	CF Job Center- Workforce Dev.	\$86,820	✓			No
2	After School Program	\$71,805	✓			No
3	Jenks Park	\$56,375	✓			No
4	Water Activities Program	\$20,000	✓			No
5	Closing Cost Assistance	\$45,000	✓			No
6	Home Buyer Education	\$30,000	✓			No
7	Housing Support Specialist	\$45,000	✓			No
8	Grant Homestead Painting	\$45,000	✓			No
12		\$				
11		\$				
12		\$				
13		\$				
14		\$				
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16		\$				
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21		\$				

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	CF Job Center- Workforce Dev.	\$86,820	Insert abstract below:
Abstract >	<p>In the wake of the state's closure of its One-Stop Career Center in Pawtucket, unemployed and underemployed residents of Central Falls have had to make the trip to Providence for walk-in job search and work readiness support. Using CDBG funds, SER Jobs for Progress proposes to offer job search and work readiness support, case management, and host job fairs/recruitment events to Central Falls residents. Funds will also cover the staff to operate the Job Center as well as a proportionate audit expense. As in-kind, SER will equip a modest on-site resource lab/classroom with six (6) computers, tables and chairs for job search, online employment applications and online training modules and supply copier/fax and other office equipment for the staff and for use by those served.</p>		
2	After School Program	\$71,805	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 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 Project GOAL (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 from September to June. Currently there are no public recreation opportunities outside of the summer. The City has a very successful Child and Adult Food Care Program that runs June-August.</p>		
3	Jenks Park	\$56,375	Insert abstract below:
Abstract >	<p>The City of Central Falls is seeking to restore Cogswell Tower in Jenks Park. Jenks Park is one of the most historic amenities the City has, and Cogswell Tower, the park's centerpiece, is in dire need of repairs, particularly to its clock mechanism and copper roof. The iconic Jenks Park and Cogswell Tower contribute to the city's identity and their integrity must be preserved so that the City's nearly 20,000 residents can continue to look upon the tower with pride for generations to come. Without proper maintenance of Cogswell Tower this historic asset to the Central Falls community will remain at risk. CDBG funding will be used for these repairs as a match to an anticipated RIDEM Open Space Grant.</p>		
4	Water Activities Program	\$20,000	Insert abstract below:
Abstract >	<p>Situated along the beautiful Blackstone River, Central Falls residents fail to utilize this incredible asset. CDBG funds are being sought to purchase kayaks and paddles, safety</p>		

	<p>supplies, a trailer for storage and transportation, and coordinate excursions for the City's youth who have not had the opportunity to explore their city or region from the waterway responsible for building these communities during industrialization. CDBG funds will also cover costs associated with hiring an individual or association experienced in leading paddling trips, particularly with youth. The program will be administered by the Blackstone Valley Tourism Council. This program is expected to benefit up to 200 Central Falls children, the majority coming from low/moderate income households. In an incredibly dense urban environment with very little open space, the community must take advantage of the opportunities the river presents to keep children active, curious, safe and healthy.</p>		
5	Closing Cost Assistance	\$45,000	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 second year of this program that will result in homeownership that would not otherwise be possible. In its first year, the Closing Cost Assistance Program issued X loans.</p>		
6	Home Buyer Education	\$30,000	Insert abstract below:
Abstract >	<p>This program will continue to provide counseling for first time homebuyers in both classroom and one-on-one settings. The program places a strong focus on building credit, budgeting, financial education, safe mortgage products and what to look for when choosing your first home. Classes are taught in English and Spanish by a nationally certified counselor at Pawtucket Central Falls Development. This program provides training 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 begins in the spring of 2017 and expects to serve 150 residents in its first year. Additional funding is being provided by the United Way of Rhode Island and by PCF Development's developer fees.</p>		
7	Housing Support Specialist	\$45,000	Insert abstract below:
Abstract >	<p>Family Service of Rhode Island, with the support of the Central Falls school superintendent, is requesting \$45,000 to fund a Housing Support Specialist to work with the families of children in Central Falls' schools to help them eliminate barriers to getting and keeping stable housing. Approximately 25 families will be served with approximately 40 children. During the 2013-2014 school year, 33 children in Central Falls were identified by the school system as being homeless (Rhode Island Kids Count Factbook, 2015); however, this number did not include non-school age children. The primary purpose of this proposal is to ensure suitable, sustainable living environments (reflecting the above Performance Objective and Outcome).</p>		

8	Grant Homestead Painting	\$45,000	Insert abstract below:
Abstract >	YWCA Rhode Island is submitting this funding application to support the costs of exterior painting and repairs to the Sarah Grant Homestead located at 324 Broad Street in Central Falls. The Sarah Frances Grant Homestead is an 8-room Victorian residence providing permanent supportive housing for homeless women in transition. Established in 2004, the 8-female residents receive support and guidance to improve their lives including case management, life skills, budgeting, computer skills, nutrition classes and referrals to a variety of other services.		
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Abstract >			

9. COPY/PASTE OR ATTACH ANNUAL BUDGET (form CDBG_BUDGET2016) HERE

Attached

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 continued to work vigorously to further fair housing in our community. The City has continued its work with the Nuisance Task Force, an interdepartmental collaborative that identifies problem properties, dis-swaps abusive landlords, and encourage the redevelopment of abandoned properties. This continued partnership with the Central Falls Housing Authority, Pawtucket-Central Falls Development Corporation, and other fair housing advocates has furthered the City's capacity to ensure fair housing in Central Falls.

Additionally, the City has reestablished the Central Falls Redevelopment Agency to better address and redevelop "blighted or substandard" areas. Reestablishing the Redevelopment Agency has increased Central Falls' ability to redevelop blighted or substandard properties to provide community members with high-quality, fair affordable housing.

In the past 12 months, the City has developed 1 additional affordable housing unit for home ownership at 95 Washington Street. The Home Repair program (initial funding from PY2014), conducted in partnership with the Blackstone Valley Community Action Program and the Green and Healthy Homes Initiative, is set to commence as agreements have just been signed between the City and subrecipients.

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

