

# **The City Of Morristown**

## **Proposed Revisions to the 2017 CDBG Action Plan**

**The Community Development Block Grant Entitlement  
Cities Grant Program**



**2017 Community Development Block Grant Action Plan - Proposed  
Amendment Summaries 7-1-17 to 6-30-18**

The Consolidated Plan for Housing and Community Development is a requirement of the 1990 National Affordable Housing Act and the Community Development Plan, for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). A local Consolidated Plan is required of Entitlement Communities receiving Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funds under HUD's housing and service programs related to the needs of low to moderate income persons. The City of Morristown's third five year Consolidated Plan was developed in 2014.

Each year Entitlement Communities, as designated by HUD, must submit an Annual Action Plan to HUD at least 45 days prior to the beginning of the new fiscal year. The Citizen's Participation Plan assures that citizens have adequate time to review and comment upon funding proposals within the Action Plan. Any information received during the comment periods or the public hearings will be attached to the Action plan prior to submittal to HUD.

The Annual Action Plan is a document that describes the City of Morristown's HUD funded projects and community development related activities that are planned to be conducted within the community in the upcoming fiscal year. These activities must be consistent with the City's 5 year Consolidated Plan. Each year the CDBG program and the proposed allocation of funds are presented during public meetings to allow community members input prior to completion, approval, and submission of the Action Plan.

Since the proposed amendment is a substantial change from the original plan, the City wishes to allow for as much citizen participation as possible (The City is moving more than 20% of the annual funds from one project to another). A public notice announcing the proposed amendment was posted on Feb. 21, 2018 to solicit public comment. A Public hearing was held on Feb. 23, 2018 to further allow for comment. Interested parties are encouraged to review and comment on the planned revisions at the public hearing or within 30 days following the public meeting. The proposed revisions are outlined below. The revision plan for the 2017 funds will be available at Morristown-Hamblen Library, the Chamber of Commerce, City Center Planning Department, and online at [mymorristown.com](http://mymorristown.com). The completed plan revisions, with public input and comment, will be submitted to HUD for approval no later than March 28, 2018.

All programs funded by the City of Morristown with CDBG entitlement funds must be in accordance with HUD regulations. The City of Morristown's FY 2017 funding represents the 14th year of receiving entitlement grant funds. The amount of funding for FY 2017 was \$261,485.00.

Below is a brief synopsis of the City's proposed amendment;

The original 2017 Action Plan funded non-emergency minor maintenance and repair at the Rose Community Center in the amount of \$65,530.40. Only \$6,000.00 of those funds are needed this year. The proposed amendment will reallocate the rest of those project funds (\$59,530.40) to the City's new Heritage Park. The Funds are necessary in order to fund the purchase and installation of a

pre-fabricated concrete restroom facility. The Rose Center project will be reconsidered for funding in next year's grant cycle.

Citizens are encouraged to submit written or oral comments to the City of Morristown Community Development department, Tracy Stroud, 100 West First North Street, Morristown, TN 37816-1499 (423-585-1834) or by submitting comments to [tstroud@mymorristown.com](mailto:tstroud@mymorristown.com). Anyone needing special assistance or interpretation may make special arrangements by contacting the Community Development Department. . It is the policy of the City of Morristown not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex, or disability in operation of its programs, services, and activities.

Each project is briefly described below.

### **Heritage Park Restroom**

Building out Heritage Park – the former Morristown College site – according to a consultant's proposal will take \$1 million per year over six or seven years. City council allocated \$1 million for the budget that began on July 1, 2018 but in order to begin work on Heritage Park and accomplish other spending objectives, councilmembers plan to decrease reserves by about \$2.4 million.

After the savings drawdown, city government will still have reserves equal to one year's budget, which still meets the council's savings policy. After the first year, a functional amphitheater on the west end of the campus – an area called the Grove – will be constructed.

There isn't enough money allocated in the coming year's budget to build restrooms, so concerts and other public gatherings would have to be staged using portable toilets. The transfer of CDBG funds will remedy this issue. This project will allow the installation of prefabricated ADA compliant restrooms at the new Heritage Park. The need for better community facilities was identified as a high level priority in the Morristown 2014 Consolidated Plan.

Heritage Park will be open 365 days per year and continues to be improved and expanded. The park will be used extensively by the community for many special events and activities throughout the year and the need for restrooms is paramount. Currently, the park has no restroom facilities at all.

This projects' National Objective will be 'low/mod area benefit'. It will meet the needs of an area with at least 51% low/mod income population. The primary service area is the four census tracts that comprise the center of Morristown where the majority of our citizens live (Tracts 1001, 1003, and 1004).

The eligible activity category/accomplishment type for this project will be 'Public Parks/ Recreational Facilities'. It constitutes infrastructure and recreational facilities/parks improvements.

The Performance Measure Objective for the program will be 'Suitable Living Environment' and the Outcome will be 'Availability / Accessibility' as it provides for restroom facilities that will be accessible to all park visitors.

## **Rose Center**

Rose Center is Morristown and Hamblen County's community cultural center. Located in Morristown's first coeducational public high school built in 1892, the facility is named after *Judge James G. Rose*, Civil War Hero and Chairman of the School Board at the time when plans for construction of the school were initiated. The building operated as a school until 1975, at which time a group of local citizens organized, raised funds to replace the vintage roof, and re-opened the building as a museum and cultural center. This effort was part of the community's celebration of the nation's bicentennial.

Thirty years later, the "castle" - as it is referred to by many of the thousands of school children who visit the Center on field trips and other occasions - is a busy place. The Center offers classes for children and adults, meeting space for community groups including the attractively renovated Jean Keener Community Room, rotating exhibits of artwork in the Edith Davis Gallery, historical displays in the Hal Noe Gallery, a look at early schooling in the Historic Classroom, concerts, summer programs for young people, and produces major annual events such as the *Mountain Makins Festival*, *From Africa To Appalachia Celebration*, and the *International Festival*.

A major fundraising drive resulted in the complete renovation of the former gym/auditorium area of Rose School. This area has been named Perk Prater Hall in honor of Perk Prater, arts educator and artist. This space is both attractive and functional for community use.

The repair necessary this year is a ceiling in one of the classrooms that has water damage. The estimate for these repairs is \$6,000.00.