

Announcement

To: Northfield Township Board of Trustees and the Community

From: Marlene Chockley, Supervisor

RE: Grant Award

Date: April 4, 2019

The Urban County Executive Committee voted unanimously yesterday to award \$91,286 to Northfield Township for improvements that will increase the safety and outreach of the Community Center. The application requested funds to develop a pervious parking lot on the north side of the building with LED light poles and proper curb cuts, new LED lights in the current parking lot, new tile flooring inside the Center and installation of the hand sink we already own so we can provide meals to homebound seniors.

I sincerely want to thank volunteers, Jack Secrist and Marta Larsen, Community Center Director Tami Averill, Assistant to the Manager Jennifer Carlisle, Trustee Janet Chick and Township Manager Steve Aynes for helping me get the grant application completed. Also, many thanks to County Commissioner Sue Shink who supplied a letter of support. It was wonderful team work and it has paid off.

The funds will be awarded after July 1, 2019.

I'm attaching the narrative that was included in the application. The breadth of services that are provided by the Center is truly amazing and appreciated.

Sincerely,

Marlene Chockley

**Washtenaw Urban County
Northfield Township Community Center
CDBG PRIORITY PROJECT PROPOSAL**

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Township of Northfield is submitting a proposal for CDBG Priority Project funding for the Northfield Township Community Center located at 9101 Main Street, Whitmore Lake, MI 48189. This proposal application is for Phase II of a long-range process of improving and expanding capacity for delivering services.

The Center, built in 1995, is a 3,075 square foot building with one large activity space, a kitchen, two bathrooms, an office for the director, and four small meeting/activity rooms.

Phase I of the project consisted of obtaining land for additional parking and potential future building expansion, clearing trees to prevent additional roof damage, obtaining grant funds for purchase of kitchen equipment, and budgeting for hiring an assistant to the Center Director. These activities have already been initiated and mostly completed. Phase III of the project, to be completed at some point in the future, will expand use of the Center to the 3,000 square foot basement, including elevator access, an egress door, windows, parking, and drainage work, at a cost of approximately \$250,000.

The Township is currently finalizing the latest version of their capital improvement plan, including work to be completed at the Center.

Summary of Project:

Northfield Township wishes to improve the Center and provide for expansion of services by replacing popping and broken floor tile, upgrading parking, improving parking lot lighting, replacing damaged roofing, installing a hand-washing sink for the Senior Café Program (formerly known as the Senior Nutrition Program), and purchasing storage cabinets for program supplies. These projects will greatly improve the safety of citizens and allow us to expand nutrition services to include homebound seniors.

More specifically, the Priority Project would include:

- Removing all the old flooring and replacing it with higher quality flooring including reinforcement to support beams if needed. The estimated cost for flooring is \$20,000.
- Upgrading the existing parking options by installing porous pavement and curb cuts for an additional 18 spaces of overflow parking and repurposing part of the main parking lot into more reserved parking for persons with disabilities. Estimated cost is \$81,000.

- Replacing current parking lot lighting with higher quality, more energy efficient, environmentally-conscious LED down-lighting and adding lighting to the overflow parking lot for the safety of our patrons. Lighting installed will meet the township construction code. The estimated cost for lighting is \$19,814.
- Replacing the current, original roofing with higher quality, longer lifetime shingles or metal roofing to extend the lifetime of the building and reduce the need for future frequent repairs or replacement. The estimated cost for roofing is \$16,000.
- Installing a hand-washing sink so that we can extend our Senior Café Program services to provide and deliver meals to home-bound seniors in our region. The estimated cost to install the hand-washing sink is \$900.
- Acquiring storage cabinets for program supplies to improve the organization and visual aesthetics of the Center. The estimated cost for storage cabinets is \$2000 to \$6000.

Need for Project:

These improvements are part of a long-range plan to expand services within our region. This project, which comprises Phase II in the expansion plan, is of high priority.

The existing flooring is well beyond its usable lifetime. It is chipped and eroded and presents major trip hazards. Participants in exercise classes in the main room have expressed concerns about the floor's safety, both in terms of the trip hazards and because the floor bounces when they jump around.

There is insufficient parking in the main parking lot, and the overflow parking lot is unpaved and not illuminated. The main parking lot has only 12 parking spaces. Two of them are handicap spaces. The lighting in the main parking lot is obsolete and presents a hazard to patrons due to rusting of the metal base. One light pole has already fallen and nearly hit a senior citizen. The remaining light poles are likewise in danger of falling.

The existing roof is well beyond its useful lifetime and is leaking in several places.

The Senior Café Program is unable to provide and deliver foods to homebound seniors because there is no hand wash sink available. While grant funds were obtained to purchase a hand wash sink, it must be installed by a professional plumber.

Matching Funds:

Northfield Township has already spent or has budgeted to spend \$107,534 in matching funds on Phase I of this project. The overflow parking area was purchased for \$103,033. Trees have been removed to prevent further roof damage and facilitate roof repair (\$2750). Two easements are being purchased from the railroad for a cost of \$800 to facilitate additional overflow parking

space. A hand wash sink was purchased for \$577 and a steam table for \$2374 using a Washtenaw County Health Department Building Healthy Communities Grant. Additionally, Northfield Township has budgeted \$18,000 annually to hire an assistant to the Center Director so that services can be extended and enhanced.

Northfield Township will provide an additional \$35,000 in matching cash funds for this Phase II project. Green Oak and Webster Townships have been approached to contribute additional matching funds, but have not yet been able to bring the requests to their boards.

Regional Impact:

The Center is a Regional Center that is home to programs/services for participants from a broad geographical area, encompassing 23 different zip codes, the majority from Washtenaw and Livingston Counties, including Northfield, Ann Arbor, Green Oak, Hamburg, Webster, Pittsfield, Lyon and Putnam Townships, as well as a few individuals from Oakland, Genesee, and Macomb Counties.

Benefit to Very Low Opportunity Area:

The Center is located in a low to moderate income target area and primarily serves low income persons and households. Our Center Director estimates the number at 70%. In addition, Whitmore Lake Public Schools have 35-40% of their students enrolled in the free or reduced lunch program. Census data (2010) show 17% or 234 children living in poverty. As referenced in the Washtenaw Opportunity Index, the surrounding 3 census tracts score a 1 on the Opportunity Index and are labeled a Very Low Opportunity Area. This area is comprised of residents with the least opportunity with regard to health, job access, education, economic vitality, and neighborhood safety and stability according to the Index.

Services and Programs Provided:

Recreation programs and activities, music programs, art, fitness and dance classes, health and wellness services, nutrition programs for seniors, and adult and family resource services are provided to a primarily low income population.

Northfield Township is committed to providing needed services and has subsidized Center services and programs by \$111,854 in 2018 and is budgeting for a \$113,010 subsidy from the Township general fund in 2019, not including the \$35,000 matching funds committed for this grant application. This subsidization allows programs at the Center to be offered for free or at affordable rates. People's Express provides low-cost transportation to and from the Community Center for Northfield Township residents for which the Township contributes \$10,000 annually.

Fitness Programs: Fitness programs including Chair Yoga, Flexagility and Exercise with Becky are geared toward seniors. MAH Fitness is provided through the Washtenaw Community College Community Enrichment Program. Other fitness classes include Cardio Drumming, Tai Chi, Gentle Energy Exercise and Gentle Yoga. We periodically offer Yoga for Kids and Parent & Child Yoga. In 2018, 74 distinct individuals from 15 different zip codes in a variety of municipalities and townships, including Northfield, Hamburg, Green Oak, Genoa, Putnam, Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti, participated in these programs.

Arts & Crafts: Classes, such as primitive rug hooking, acrylic painting, paper crafting, card making, candle making, and knit and crochet, are held at the Center. In 2018, 65 participants from 4 zip codes in Washtenaw County attended these courses. There were 17 participants from zip codes outside of the Whitmore Lake area.

Community Programs & Events: Family programs and special events that are held at the Center include sign language, family bingo, pizza and movie nights, movies under the stars at the lakeshore, an old-fashioned Halloween party, harvest dinner, and dinner with Santa. During 2018, 605 family members from 10 different zip codes participated in these programs, including 125 participants from areas outside of Northfield Township, including the townships of Green Oak, Hamburg, Putnam, Ann Arbor, Lyon, and Webster, and the cities of Brighton, Ann Arbor, Ypsilanti, and Howell.

Special events are offered throughout the year. These events all help to foster a sense of community among Northfield Township residents, but have drawn in participants from throughout Washtenaw, Livingston and Oakland Counties. These special events include 4th of July Root Beer Float Social, Senior Holiday Gala, Cabin Fever Craft Show, and several free concerts. Members from the Center also participate in the Whitmore Lake 4th of July Parade. A total of 1028 participants representing the townships of Northfield, Green Oak, Hamburg, Webster, Oceola, Putnam, Ann Arbor, Pittsfield, and Hartland, and the cities of Novi, Fenton, Wixom, Lansing, Haslett, and Clawson attended these events.

Entertainment: The Center sponsors line dancing, karaoke, Mah Jongg, pinochle, euchre, family game nights, and coloring for grown-ups which served 80 participants last year, including 14 from areas outside of Northfield Township (Townships of Hamburg, Green Oak and Webster, and the cities of Chelsea, Fenton, Howell, Lansing and Clawson).

Nutrition Services: The Senior Café Program, which receives funding from Washtenaw County and Area Agency on Aging 1-B, provided daily meals to 52 distinct seniors from 5 different zip codes including Whitmore Lake, Ann Arbor, Hamburg, Brighton and Clawson. There were 1859 meals served for the program year of October 2017 through September 2018. Meals are provided 150 days a year with an average of 15 participants

per day. The addition of the handwashing station will allow us to expand the Senior Café Program and incorporate home delivered meals for homebound seniors. We estimate this will add 25 to 30 new households to the program's roster.

A weekly food program has evolved at the Center with local churches, stores and residents donating excess baked goods, produce, and eggs. Approximately 50 to 60 people per week stop in to pick up food to help supplement their grocery supplies. Many of the people who stop in for food are just over the income maximum for food pantries but are struggling to make ends meet. There are no income or residency restrictions, so the food is available to anyone who needs it. Participants are mainly from Northfield Township, but include Hamburg, Green Oak, Lyon, Webster and Ann Arbor Townships.

Health Care Services: Health care related services offered include acupuncture, reflexology, massage therapy, flu shot clinics, podiatrist visits, meditation and mindfulness classes, a diabetes prevention class, drug take-back events, counseling services, an Alzheimer's support group, health and wellness fairs, and a natural pain solutions class. The Center also operates a medical loan closet program offering short and long-term loans of durable medical equipment to those without insurance, or whose insurance does not cover the costs. In 2018, a total of 201 people from the Townships of Northfield, Webster, Ann Arbor, Hamburg, Green Oak, Hartland, Genoa, Putnam and Lyon participated in these services and classes. The Center also serves as a community resource hub with patrons coming in daily seeking help with a variety of issues and concerns.

Trips: Twelve trips were offered to a variety of venues during 2018. The Purple Rose Theatre, Turkeyville, The Dio, The 650 Players, Frankenmuth's Ragtime Festival, Holland's Tulip Festival, and Detroit's Eastern Market were among the popular destinations. A total of 128 patrons from Northfield, Webster, Hamburg, and Green Oak Townships participated, with several attending multiple trips. Due to parking lot limitations, trip participants must currently park at the Whitmore Lake Middle School, two-thirds of a mile down Main Street. Improving our parking areas and the lighting will create more useable parking and a much safer, more accessible, and more secure parking area for those attending trips.

Community Outreach: Community Service and Outreach Projects include the following:

- Project Bunny – 52 spring gift baskets were created and delivered to seniors, families and children in Northfield, Hamburg, Webster and Green Oak Townships.
- Sleeping Mats for the Homeless – 15 people from Northfield, Webster, Green Oak, Hamburg, Ann Arbor and Lyon Townships meet weekly to create crocheted sleeping mats from strips of plastic grocery bags. In 2018, seven mats were donated to Covenant Community Care and distributed to the homeless in Washtenaw County.

- The Mitten Tree – In 2018, 256 items (hats, scarves, mittens, socks, etc.) were donated and divided between the Northfield’s Human Services’ Adopt a Family Program and Covenant Community Care to be distributed to the homeless in Washtenaw County and other counties in southeast Michigan.
- The Peyton Heart Project – This new project includes 15 people from Northfield, Webster, Green Oak, Hamburg, and Ann Arbor Townships who are creating knitted and crocheted hearts tagged with inspirational quotes to help raise awareness of teenage suicide and depression. This group will be meeting once a month and the hearts created will be donated to The Peyton Heart Project.
- SPEAK! – Sixteen Community Center Seniors are participating in a University of Michigan research project that matches seniors with students in Mexico City who are learning to speak English. They will meet via Skype to talk on a weekly basis to give the students practice with their conversational English. The seniors will be surveyed as to the effects that these conversations have on them – relief of boredom and loneliness, a sense of purpose, etc.

Meeting Space: A variety of organizations meet at the Center on a regular basis. These organizations include the Kiwanis Club of Whitmore Lake, the Whitmore Lake Health Equity Team, People’s Express Quarterly Drivers’ Meetings, Daisy Scout Troop 40111, Whitmore Lake Brownie and Junior Troops, Village at Eagle Gardens Condo Association Board of Directors, and the Whitmore Lake Condo Association. The Center also hosts coffee hours with state, county and local officials, community meetings, and a variety of informational and educational presentations and programs. Center staff also teams with local charitable groups including Northfield’s Human Services, Be The Blessing, Dragonfly Pet Rescue and the local Girl Scout Troops to host rummage sales, charitable collections and programs. Most of the meeting participants reside in Northfield Township, but Green Oak, Hamburg, Webster and Lyon Townships are also represented. A total of 293 people participated in these meetings, presentations and projects during 2018.

In summary, over 23 zip codes are represented in services and programs offered at the Center. There were 9,284 visits by Washtenaw and Livingston County residents participating on an annual basis at the Center and most are from census tracts that are either very low or low-to-moderate income.

The proposed project will enable the Center to continue to provide programs and services as described above, and to expand to provide additional programs and services.

Summary of Project Costs

Roofing	\$ 16,000
Tile floor replacement 272SY	\$ 20,000
Parking area expansion	\$ 81,000
Parking lighting	\$ 19,814
Sink installation	\$ 900
Storage cabinets	\$ 2,000
Total Project Costs	\$ 139,714

In-Kind Match

Steam table and accessories	\$ 2,374
Hand sink and side splashes	\$ 577
Tree removal	\$ 2,750
Railroad easement	\$ 800
<u>Additional land for parking lot</u>	<u>\$ 103,033</u>
Total In-kind Match	\$ 107,534

Total Project Cost \$ 247,248

Matching Cash and In-kind \$ 143,534 58.1% of the total project costs

Matching Cash Funds \$ 35,000 25.1% of application request