



Tuesday, March 30, 2021

Malden City Council  
215 Pleasant Street  
Malden, MA 02148

Dear Members of the City Council:

For the past year, we have been engaged in a battle against COVID-19. Although we see hope on the horizon, we know that serious challenges remain and will require significant and sustained action on the part of our City. As part of our efforts to meet this challenge, I submit for your review our proposed Fiscal Year 2022 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) budget.

As you know, CDBG is a federal program administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) that provides funding for communities to meet the needs of their low- and moderate-income residents. Our public services budget sustains many of the investments we made at the pandemic's outset while adding funding for two additional programs: the Malden Warming Center and Chinese Culture Connection. The Malden Warming Center will receive funds to help support their program which has been essential in responding to our homelessness crisis. The Chinese Culture Connection will receive funds to provide English language classes to Malden residents who speak Mandarin and Cantonese, helping to strengthen the fabric that binds our diverse community together.

Additionally, this past year we realized more than ever the importance of accessible parks and infrastructure. As a result, our proposal allocates funding for improvements at Devir Park, the Linden Community Rink, and a crossing at Fellsmere Pond to ensure everyone has safe access to our recreational areas. We also continue our commitment toward accessibility by increasing funding for ADA improvements to City sidewalks and intersections.

The deadline for submitting the approved annual FY22 CDBG budget to HUD is May 15th. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions about the proposal. In the meantime, thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

**GARY CHRISTENSON**  
Mayor of Malden