



**Mayor Joshua A. Garcia**  
**City of Holyoke**

**Alicia M. Zoeller, Administrator**  
**Office for Community Development**

Date: January 27, 2022  
To: Holyoke City Council  
Cc: Mayor Joshua Garcia; City Messenger (*memo only*)  
From: Alicia M. Zoeller, Administrator  
Re: Activities of the Office for Community Development

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JAN 27 2022

Holyoke City Clerk's  
Holyoke, MA

I am pleased to introduce (and re-introduce) you to the Office for Community Development (OCD). OCD is responsible for the administration and management of federal funds from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development and the US Treasury. Federal funds are used to provide opportunities in housing and economic development, to provide funding for infrastructure and public facilities and to support public services like job training, food access, child care, health care, Fair Housing, homeownership, and neighborhood initiatives. Each year, OCD touches the lives of thousands of Holyoke residents. OCD has four full time professional staff members with over 75 years of municipal and management experience.

In light of COVID-19, OCD has also been working with internal and external partners to respond to, to prevent, and to recover from the public health and economic impacts of the pandemic. The Hampshire Gazette recently highlighted the Small Business Grant Program which provides grants to small businesses to overcome the effects of COVID-19. A total of \$800,000. is available to small businesses.

Housing is a department priority- *healthy, safe and sanitary housing for all*. OCD supports homeownership through first time homebuyer education, down payment assistance and development of homeowner opportunities with partners like Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity and OneHolyoke CDC. Funding is available on a rolling basis for owner occupied and small-scale rental housing rehab. Large scale rental housing rehab and new construction is funded on an annual basis and typically supports large redevelopments like Library Commons, Chestnut Park, and Holyoke Farms.

Enclosed please find materials that outline the responsibilities and activities of this office, the opportunities for you to be involved in the federal funds allocation processes, and resources for your constituents. Prior year spreadsheets of how federal funds were reviewed and allocated are enclosed. The FY2022 Annual Plan schedule outlines the key dates for July 1<sup>st</sup> funding. The City Council will be asked to review FY2022 CDBG applications during the weeks of March 7<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at 413-322-5610 or [zoellera@holyoke.org](mailto:zoellera@holyoke.org) if you have any questions or have a constituent need. OCD is able to make referrals to partner agencies for most basic needs like legal services, housing, rental assistance, food access, child care and more.

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*Birthplace of Volleyball*