



# City of Benbrook

## CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

DATE: 01/05/2023	REFERENCE NUMBER: G-2596	SUBJECT: Consider 49 <sup>th</sup> Year Community Development Block Grant Project	PAGE: 1 of 2
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The City's 49<sup>th</sup> Year Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application to Tarrant County is due January 31, 2023. The City Council is required to hold a public hearing to receive public comment prior to that time and a public hearing has been advertised for the January 5<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting.

The CDBG is a Federal grant program managed by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The program provides formula-based funding to benefit low to moderate income persons.

Locally, Tarrant County administers the program and has divided cities into two groups to provide for greater funding for all cities in alternating years. For 2023, Group A cities, which includes Benbrook, will be eligible for funding. (see Figure 1)

Group A - 2023	Group B - 2024
Bedford	Azle
Benbrook	Blue Mound
Crowley	Burleson
Dalworthington Gardens	Everman
Haslet	Forest Hill
Lake Worth	Haltom City
Lakeside	Hurst
Pantego	Kennedale
River Oaks	Keller
Sansom Park	Richland Hills
Westworth Village	Saginaw
White Settlement	Southlake
	Watauga

*Figure 1*

### Eligible Projects

HUD has adopted stringent regulations regarding eligibility. Projects must benefit low-or-moderate income persons, either by being in a qualifying service area or benefiting a target population, such as the elderly or handicapped. Projects may include:

1. **Public Facilities and Improvements** - Acquisition, construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation or installation of public facilities and improvements that benefit low and moderate-income populations. This may include senior citizen centers/community centers, or reconstruction of streets, water and sewer lines, sidewalks, parks or playgrounds in low and moderate-income areas.
2. **Removal of Architectural Barriers** - Removal of barriers that restrict mobility and accessibility for elderly or disabled persons to publicly owned buildings, facilities, and sidewalks.
3. **Rehabilitation and Preservation Activities** - Rehabilitation of privately-owned low-income residential buildings or houses. Activities related to rehabilitation may include code enforcement, historic preservation, and renovation of closed buildings.

SUBMITTED BY:	DISPOSITION BY COUNCIL: <input type="checkbox"/> APPROVED <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (DESCRIBE)	PROCESSED BY:  CITY SECRETARY
CITY MANAGER		DATE:

### Potential Service Area

For any public works project, Benbrook must demonstrate that the service area's population is predominately low to moderate income persons. Per the U.S. Census, Census Block Group 1054.05 is the only service area in Benbrook that qualifies and is roughly bounded to the north by Bellaire Drive, Southwest Boulevard to the west and south and Crosslands Road to the east. (see Figure 2) Also, the City may only use funds to benefit residential areas, as Tarrant County has rejected proposals that benefit non-residential properties.



Figure 2

The City has completed four CDBG-funded projects in this service area:

- **41<sup>st</sup> Year** – installation of a sidewalk along the south side of 5600 and 5700 blocks of Bellaire Drive
- **43<sup>rd</sup> Year** – installation of streetlights between the 5600 and 5700 blocks of Bellaire Drive
- **45<sup>th</sup> Year** – installation of streetlights along Crosslands and a sidewalk along Crosslands Road between Creekwood Drive and Bellaire Drive
- **47<sup>th</sup> Year** – installation of a sidewalk along the balance of Crosslands Road and a sidewalk on the north side of Bellaire Drive between the trailhead and Crosslands Road

For the 49<sup>th</sup> Year, staff recommends installation of approximately 300 feet of sidewalk along the southside of Bellaire Drive between Crosslands Road and Benbrook's city limit line. (see Figure 3) This project is especially important as it is the last section along Bellaire Drive without a sidewalk that directly abuts existing multi-family apartments. The proposed sidewalk would be approximately five feet wide and of concrete construction. The estimated construction cost (less any utility relocation and easement acquisition costs) is \$30,000 (2022 dollars).

Staff has not identified any additional public works projects in this service area.

In the absence of any additional viable public works projects, Tarrant County is allowing up to \$100,000 of the City's CDBG funds to be used for its Single-Family Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation program. Tarrant County



Figure 3

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manages the program and works directly with individual home owners. There are currently five (5) Benbrook properties on their waiting list. A maximum of \$30,000 may be spent on each qualifying home.

There is no required City match for the Single-Family Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation program.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Following a public hearing, staff recommends City Council approve the Bellaire Drive Sidewalk Installation Project and the Rehabilitation and Preservation Activity as its 49<sup>th</sup> Year CDBG project application.