

CPA PROJECT APPLICATION

Community Preservation Committee
66 Westford Street
Carlisle, MA 01741
TEL: 978-369-6155 (Town Clerk) F A X : 978-371-0594

Please type your responses to the following questions:

1. Project Overview, Contact Information, Signatures

Project Name: Rental Assistance for Carlisle Seniors

Project Applicant: Carol Grueneich

Amount Requested: \$50,000

Sponsoring Board or other organization(s) (as applicable): Carlisle Council on Aging and Human Services (COAHS)

Primary Contact Person:

Name: Carol Grueneich

Address: Town Hall, 66 Westford St.

Phone Number: 978-759-7633

Email Address: cgrueneich@carlislema.gov

Purpose: (please select all that apply)

- Community Housing
Historic Preservation
Open Space
Recreation

Project location or address: n/a

Signature of Applicant: [Handwritten Signature]

Print name: Carol Grueneich

Date: 2-16-24

Signature of Chairman of Sponsoring Board or other organization (as applicable):

Print name:

Date:

2. **Project Summary**

This grant would provide rental assistance for Carlisle seniors with financial need.

3. **Project Description**

This grant would provide for continued rental assistance for seniors whose income is at or below the Area Median Income (AMI) and who pay more than 30 % of their income for rent. The total rent is also limited to the Fair Market Rent (FMR) standard plus \$500, and applicants cannot own any property worth more than \$50,000. The maximum amount of rental assistance per household is \$400.00 per month.

COAHS started this program in September 2022 and has been aiding 10 seniors since then. The February amount was \$2892 paid monthly to assist ten seniors. There is one new applicant who will start receiving assistance in March 2024, bringing the total rental assistance to \$3292.00 and in May, three participants will get an increase in the amount of assistance since their rent will be increased. The total amount of assistance starting in June will be \$3582.00 and there will likely be rent increases during the year for five tenants that could increase the rental assistance amount during the year.

The rental assistance program was originally funded with ARPA funds. The ARPA funds will run out in March 2024.

4. **Responsible Parties**

The rental assistance program will be administered by the Council on Aging and Human Services. Kathleen Bond, the COAHS Transportation Manager, under the direction of the Director, Carol Grueneich. COAHS will determine the amount of rental assistance due for each month.

5. **Timeline**

This grant is to cover rental assistance for 13 months from June 2024 – June 2025. COAHS would like to make this an ongoing program.

Project Purpose

The purpose of the project is to assist renters in Carlisle who are at or below the AMI to be able to afford to stay in Carlisle. Most of the people in this program reside at Benfield farms, where 10 of the 27 households get rental assistance. Although the rent at Benfield Farms is considered affordable, many of these households struggle to pay their rent and other household and medical costs. Even with help from the food pantry, some of these renters at times need to do without medications or medical care because of their high cost of living.

The town of Carlisle is stronger when all residents can afford the basic needs in life. Some people who own houses would like to stay in Carlisle after retirement but prefer or need to downsize to an apartment. Having affordable housing allows people to stay in Carlisle as they age to maintain social contacts that they have built over years. Rental assistance makes it possible for people in retirement to continue living in Carlisle during times of high inflation, especially in the housing market. A rental assistance program allows for diversity as seniors will not be forced to move out of the community if they become unable to cover all the basic costs of living.

What is the nature and level of community support for this project?

Discussion on different efforts to make Carlisle affordable for seniors has demonstrated that there is community support for projects such as rental assistance.

6. Jurisdiction or Ownership of Project Site

Not applicable.

7. Permitting Requirements and Endorsements

None needed.

8. Project Budget

A spread sheet is attached with estimated costs which covers the cost for 13 months, June 2024 – June 2025.

The total amount of rental assistance is expected to rise during the year due to rent increases on participants receiving less than the maximum assistance of \$400. In anticipation of increases, an extra \$150 was added to the total monthly cost starting in October 2024, \$135 in March 2025 and \$150 in May 2025. An additional amount of \$4826 was added to cover a new applicant if one should apply during the year.

There are currently no additional or alternate funding sources for the project.

9. Attachments

Project Budget

Estimated Expenditures for Rental Assistance June 2024 - June 2025 (13 months)

Jun-24	\$ 3,582.00	
Jul-24	\$ 3,582.00	
Aug-24	\$ 3,582.00	
Sep-24	\$ 3,582.00	
Oct-24	\$ 3,732.00	
Nov-24	\$ 3,732.00	
Dec-24	\$ 3,732.00	
Jan-25	\$ 3,732.00	
Feb-25	\$ 3,732.00	
Mar-25	\$ 3,867.00	
Apr-25	\$ 3,867.00	
May-25	\$ 4,017.00	
Jun-25	\$ 4,017.00	
Total	\$ 45,174.00	
		plus extra for potential new applicant
	\$ 4,826.00	
	\$ 50,000.00	