



THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

MAYOR DOMENIC J. SARNO

HOME OF THE BASKETBALL HALL OF FAME



PRESS RELEASE, CONTACT: Jim Leydon, (413) 886-5166, JLeydon@springfieldcityhall.com,

SPRINGFIELD NOTIFIED OF ELIGIBILITY FOR ADDITIONAL DISASTER FUNDING

December 2, 2014 –Springfield, MA- The City of Springfield has been notified by the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) of its eligibility to apply for additional disaster recovery funding to address unmet needs and to address resiliency issues from the City's six federally declared disasters between 2011-2013 as part of its \$1 billion federal program.

The National Disaster Resilience Competition (NDRC) funding package, developed by HUD, identified 67 potential applicants throughout the country who were impacted by federally declared disasters in 2011-2013. The eligible applicants include all 50 states, eight counties/parishes and nine municipalities, including Springfield.

Mayor Domenic J. Sarno stated, "The City of Springfield has sustained more than its fair share of disasters in recent years. In anticipation of significant money being made available; the City of Springfield will be putting together a comprehensive application that will seek to address infrastructure needs throughout the City that will assist in mitigating the impacts future events."

The program initiated by HUD, is a two phased competition, that includes a significant public participation process, that the City intends on scheduling in January of 2015, including 4-5 public meetings throughout the City to present the program to residents, and to begin to develop lists of potential projects that could be submitted to HUD as part of the City's application package.

Springfield DPW Director Christopher M. Cignoli, stated that "this is a very unique opportunity for the City to obtain significant funding not just to address outstanding items that have not been rejected by

FEMA and other federal agencies following our disasters, but to also develop strategies and projects that will help the City minimize the impact of future disasters.” Mr. Cignoli said that the City will focus on numerous issues and projects, including improved citywide first-responder communications equipment, flood control projects, dam stabilization projects, utility / infrastructure upgrade projects, and various resident support projects.

The overall schedule developed by HUD includes a first phase submission by the City in March of 2015 and a Phase 2 submission in September of 2015. The City will receive a minimum of \$500,000 as part of the program, however, if a larger amount is awarded, it will be available in December of 2015.

Based upon the lists provided by HUD, the City of Springfield sustained the most federally declared disasters of any eligible applicant during the period from 2011 – 2013 which included:

- January 2011 blizzard
- June 1, 2011 tornado
- August 2011 Hurricane Irene
- October 2011 Snowstorm
- September 2012 Hurricane Sandy
- February 2013 Super Storm Nemo

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