

**Cumberland County Community Development Program
2015 CDBG General Program Application
Community Cover Page**

Project Title Harpswell Community School Backpack Program

Lead Community Town of Harpswell and the Harpswell Community School

Additional Communities _____

Contact Information Name Kristi Eiane, Town Administrator

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Program Category

Public Service X

CDBG "National Objective"

Low/Moderate Income: Area-Wide _____ Limited Clientele X

Direct Benefit: Presumed Group _____ (Identify Group)

Amount of CDBG Funds Requested \$6,000

Total Estimated Project Cost \$7,200

Name of Authorized Official Kristi Eiane, Town Administrator

Signature of Authorized Official 

2014 Public Service Application Questions

Respond to the narrative questions in a maximum of six pages.
Multi-jurisdictional applications complete a seventh page.

1. Provide a **brief summary** (400 words maximum) of the proposed project.
- 10 points.

In August of 2013 MCHPP launched The Backpack Program, providing Backpacks of nonperishable foods for 197 elementary school children in the Mid Coast Maine area to take home over the weekend. At a cost of \$225 per student, MCHPP can provide weekend meals for the student and his/her family for an entire school year.

This program was originally launched due to a growing concern about the food security of children in our service area. Good Shepherd Food Bank has identified that one out of four children in Maine experience food insecurity. Teachers and school administrators were noticing that students were lethargic and distracted on Mondays, and often had stomach aches or headaches. Teachers also noted that many students were not able to bring snacks to school. At first, MCHPP considered launching the Backpack Program only in three elementary schools: Bowdoin, Bowdoinham, and Harpswell. We quickly realized, however, that the need for this program was too great and too pressing, so we launched the program in eight elementary schools in September of 2013.

The feedback after the first year was very positive. One teacher told us: "I have one student who tells me about every meal his family makes from the food in the bag. He hugged me the first time I gave him one. He sometimes brings the fruit cups as a snack and makes sure I notice." An administrator from MSAD75 reported: "I often meet with the students during snack time and see that they are bringing food from the backpack program to school with them. They like the snacks provided, are proud to have food with them, and seem more confident around snack time. They don't have to hide what's in their lunch boxes or ask the teachers for food. Socially? That's a big deal to a second or third grade student."

In the Harpswell Community School there are currently 30 students who benefit from the weekly distribution of food that they receive from a trusted and confidential source- a school administrator or teacher. Transportation is such a barrier to accessing food for many families in Harpswell. The Backpack Program is so successful because it reduces the transportation and stigma barrier that many of the students and their families have.

MCHPP will continue to work closely with the Harpswell Community School Administrators to continue this program and to expand it if and when it is

needed. We also want to ensure long term sustainability of this program in Harpswell.

The grant request is \$6,000. A 20% match will be provided.

2. Provide a response to the questions below defining and justifying the **need for the activity**. - 20 points

Child hunger is a prevalent issue in Maine. Maine currently ranks 19th in the nation and 1st in New England for childhood hunger, with 24% of children experiencing food insecurity. In the Mid Coast Maine area, there are over 2,500 children who qualify for free and reduced price lunch. These children are fed breakfast and lunch at school during the week, but over the weekend many do not have enough to food to provide the nutrition they need. Every Monday morning, these children arrive at school hungry, and this affects their health, their emotional wellbeing, and their ability to excel in school.

According to the American Psychological Association, children who experience chronic food insecurity are at a higher risk of being diagnosed with a conduct disorder or psychiatric problems, are more likely to receive special education services or repeat a grade in school, and have an increased likelihood of chronic physical illness later in life. We know that hunger is only one of the obstacles that children who live in poverty face, but we also know that with something as simple as a backpack of food we can help alleviate that issue. In the Harpswell Community School there are 75 children that are currently eligible for free or reduced lunch. Currently 40% of those children are receiving food from the Backpack program.

All of the children served by the Program are from low income families.

A recent survey of school administrators and teachers told us the following:

"I think it's a wonderful and discreet program - I try to connect families with the food bank and they're often too proud. In this way kids get what they need."

"The three children in my classroom who get the bags do not have to be reminded to leave their backpacks in the classroom. They very much need the food and look forward to it each week like a birthday gift."

"The students have expressed gratitude - there are sometimes conflicts over food at their homes and they've expressed the power of stress reduction of not fighting with parents or guardians when they want more food than is available."

"I've seen kids who are otherwise shy/disengaged about checking in coming regularly to pick up their food bags from me - a big deal."

3. Provide a response to the three questions concerning **management of the proposed activity** – 10 points

Mid Coast Hunger Prevention Program will manage the grant. We have an Operations Manager on staff who manages , tracks and reports out on all grant funding we receive.

In 2014 we have administered a \$40,000 grant from the Wal-Mart Foundation, \$15,000 from the Sam L. Cohen foundation and a \$10,000 grant from the Doree Taylor Charitable Trust.

We will continue to fundraise and write grants for this program. The ultimate goal for the program is to fund an endowment for this program. This is not something that MCHPP will undertake immediately however it is a priority. We want to make sure that the children in Harpswell that are benefiting from this program are not at risk of losing it due to funding.

4. Demonstrate that the project is **ready to proceed** – 20 points

This project is on-going and will be on it's third year. The infrastructure is already in place including but not limited to : building (84A Union Street ,Brunswick) for delivery and assembling of BackPacks, volunteers for assembly and delivery of food to Harpswell Community School.

For projects requiring a match:

County sponsored projects do not require a match. Community sponsored applicants require a threshold 20% match in cash, donated land or building materials, or contracted project development services. In-kind contributions are allowed, but need to be documented, quantifiable services for work performed.

The funds for the match have not yet been secured. In the event that the grant is awarded the Executive Director of MCHPP will reach out to the many donors in the Harpswell Community which have communicated a willingness to provide financial support for the children of Harpswell.

5. **Budget for project.** Fill in the attached budget form *and provide the basis for determination of budget amounts (Appendix IV).* - 5 points

- Describe how funds, including match when applicable, will be distributed between project elements.

- Limit the budget and budget description to that portion of your program that is applicable to this application.

Applications will not be accepted without a completed budget.

6. **Implementation schedule** for project: Fill in the attached schedule form (*Appendix III*). - **5 points**

7. Project is ongoing and based on the school calendar.

8. Provide a response to the three questions demonstrating the **need for CDBG program funds** - **15 points**

CDBG funds are critical for the continuation and ultimate success of the Backpack program to ensure funding for the 2015/2016 school year. It will allow the staff at Mid Coast Hunger Prevention Program the time and resources to secure funding for the 2016/2017 school year. If the funds are not received or only partially received we will have to apply for other grants for funding.

9. **Distress Score**

Each community will be **assigned** a score from **0 to 10 points** based upon two factors:

- a. Percent of low/moderate income community residents of the total community population.
- b. Percent of low/moderate income residents in the 25 communities of the Cumberland County Entitlement Jurisdiction that reside in the applicant community.

County sponsored projects serving region-wide initiatives will receive a distress score of **6 points**.

10. **Multi-Jurisdictional Bonus**

5 points will be awarded to projects sponsored by two or more communities demonstrating benefits to low/moderate income residents of all participating communities.

- c. **Multi-community applicants must answer two additional questions in a maximum of one page:**

- i. How will low/moderate income residents in each participating community benefit from the project/activity?
 - ii. What role will each applicant community play in the project/activity?
- d. Application must be endorsed by officials from all communities.
Use form found in *Appendix V*.
- e. Distress score for multi-jurisdictional applicants:
 - i. Factor #1: Combine LMI & population of the communities to create a new "LMI as % of population factor"
 - ii. Factor #2: Average the existing "LMI as % of County LMI" factor for the communities.

Appendix II: 2015 Exception Rule List

City/Town	Census Tract	Block Group	LMI Pop.	Total Pop.	% LMI
Westbrook	002900	1	680	710	95.77%
South Portland	003000	4	1,980	2,470	80.16%
South Portland	003100	3	565	725	77.93%
Freeport	004502	5	495	705	70.21%
Long Island	002400	3	240	360	66.67%
Westbrook	002800	2	955	1,475	64.75%
South Portland	003100	1	360	560	64.29%
South Portland	003000	3	615	990	62.12%
Westbrook	002800	1	760	1,225	62.04%
Westbrook	002900	3	470	765	61.44%
Bridgton	016000	1	700	1,165	60.09%
South Portland	003200	3	415	720	57.64%
South Portland	003500	2	1,040	1,830	56.83%
Harpwell	017102	1	570	1,010	56.44%
Westbrook	002900	2	820	1,455	56.36%
Casco	013000	2	345	625	55.20%
Westbrook	002700	1	885	1,610	54.97%
Gray	004702	2	345	630	54.76%
Casco	013000	3	860	1,580	54.43%
New Gloucester	011500	1	770	1,425	54.04%
Gray	004702	4	885	1,675	52.84%
Freeport	004502	2	340	645	52.71%
Windham	004802	2	505	970	52.06%
Windham	004803	2	1,150	2,240	51.34%
Windham	004802	3	895	1,770	50.56%
Casco	013000	1	380	760	50.00%
Harrison	015000	2	805	1,610	50.00%
Bridgton	016000	3	385	770	50.00%
Harrison	015000	1	525	1,055	49.76%
South Portland	003100	4	390	785	49.68%
Naples	014000	3	535	1,085	49.31%
Standish	017001	1	1,005	2,090	48.09%
Gray	004702	3	800	1,675	47.76%
Bridgton	016000	2	475	1,005	47.26%
Windham	004801	3	705	1,515	46.53%

Based on current enrollment of 30 children. We will have the flexibility to add 1 ½ children to this program based on the above funds.

Appendix IV: Budget

Public Service Programs				
Cost Category	CDBG Funds	Municipal Funds	Other Funds	Total
Equipment				
Materials/Supplies	6000		1200	7200
Operations				
Salaries				
Fringe				
Transportation				
Consultants				
Space/Rent				
Project Management				
Other – 1)				
Other – 2)				
Total Costs	6000		1200	6750
<p>Provide the basis for determination of budget amounts:\$225 per child per school year. All funds go directly to the cost of the food. We will have funds leftover to allow 2 more children in Harpswell the opportunity to receive backpacks</p>				

