

PUBLIC SERVICE PROGRAM APPLICATION

COMMUNITY/ORGANIZATION: St. Peter's Episcopal Church

CONTACT PERSON: Father Craig Hacker

**ADDRESS:
PO Box 134
Bridgton, ME. 04009**

E-MAIL: frcraigstpeters@aol.com

PROJECT TITLE: St. Peter's Episcopal Church Community Supper

Select one CDBG "NATIONAL OBJECTIVE":

LOW/MODERATE INCOME:

X Area Benefit (services are available to and benefit all people in a specific geographic area that is low/moderate income)

Service Area Bridgton, Maine

Limited Clientele (serves individual clients/households, the majority of whom are low/moderate income)

Presumed Group – select one (services benefit a group that HUD presumes to be low/moderate income)

- Elderly
- Homeless Persons
- Disabled Adults
- Battered Spouses
- Abused Children
- Illiterate Adults
- Persons with AIDS
- Migrant Farm Workers

AMOUNT OF CDBG FUNDS REQUESTED: \$2,160.00

NAME OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL: Father Craig Hacker

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL:

 7 544 7010

FY 2016 Bridgton CDBG Public Service Program

The CDBG Public Service program provides funding to local public service agencies that provide a direct benefit to the residents of Bridgton.

Proposals submitted to the program must be consistent with the Goals and National Objectives of the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grant Program. Any applications submitted that do not meet these Goals and National Objectives will be excluded from review.

Eligible Use of Funds - The Public Service program can fund operating expenses, equipment, and program materials for public service programs or projects that benefit low-to-moderate income Bridgton residents.

Timetable & Requirements

- Applications are due no later than **3 PM on Monday, January 11, 2016** to the Bridgton Municipal Office, 3 Chase Street, Bridgton 04009 c/o Anne Krieg
- Applicants are required to attend one MANDATORY "workshop" with Community Development staff to review requirements and project eligibility. There will be two opportunities with 2 different time slots to attend a workshop:
 - Tuesday November 24, 2015 at 10 AM or 2 pm
 - Thursday December 10, 2015 at 10 AM or 2 PM
- Applicants are invited to present their application on **January 20, 2016 at 8 am** to the Community Development Committee, which will be reviewing applications and recommending funding to the Select Board. The Select Board will receive the applications and recommendations at their regular meeting February 9, 2016. The Select Board must make their decision for Cumberland County review before April 1, 2016. Funds will be available for disbursement after July 1, 2016.

Rules & Record Keeping Requirements

Funded applicants will be required to sign a contract with the Town of Bridgton that will state all the requirements placed on the applicant, which include but are not limited to:

- You will be required to provide monthly or quarterly reports stating the total number of persons served. These figures are required to be reported to HUD.
- You will be required to obtain written proof of income and ethnic origin for each person or household whom you assist, unless your clients are a Presumed Group or your activity qualifies as Area Benefit. These figures are required to be reported to HUD.
- Grant funds will be disbursed on a reimbursement basis. Written records justifying all expenditures must be maintained for a period no less than four years after the full grant is expended. These records will be subject to review by the Town, Cumberland County, and HUD.

I certify that I have read and understand the above rules and record keeping requirements of the Bridgton CDBG program:

Signature of Authorized Official



Date 9/30/2016

Town of Bridgton and Cumberland County
FY 2016 CDBG
Community Development Grant -CDBG

Program Application
Program Year 2016

Community/Organization: St. Peter's Episcopal Church

Contact Information:

Rev. Craig Hacker
St. Peter's Episcopal Church
PO Box 134
Bridgton, ME 04009

[Email:fcraigstpeters@aol.com](mailto:fcraigstpeters@aol.com)

Project Title: St. Peter's Episcopal Church Free Community Meal

1.) Describe the programs/project - Please describe and quantify specifically the services or products to be provided as a result of the expenditure of CDBG funds. Who will you serve? What activities will you undertake? (30 points).

St Peter's has been offering a once-a-month free community meal for the last 15 months. We are seeking funding to continue this effort at meeting the socialization and nutritional needs of at-risk residents of Bridgton. The primary clientele are the elderly and a group of impoverished families and individuals from the downtown Bridgton area. The offer of a hot, nutritious meal helps to get people in the door. The meals emphasize high quality protein and fresh fruits and vegetables but also provide a space for social interaction, which has proven benefits for both the elderly and the poor, who often suffer from lack of meaningful interaction with others. The ambiance

of the meal is important; the goal is to make an institutional setting feel homey. The church sanctuary is converted to a dining area; tables with tablecloths and real silverware help to provide a welcoming environment. Use of ceramic dishware, not paper plates, not only decreases waste generated but also contributes to a sense of a shared family meal. Groups gather together, blurring lines of social boundaries. Guests share conversations and stories that help build relationships. The Rev. Craig Hacker and Deborah Ripley, coordinator of the St. Peter's Women's Outreach, do informal needs assessments with clients. Leftover food is packaged to send home with the most needy of the clients.

Seasonally appropriate celebrations including Christmas with caroling, a Halloween party with costumes, and seasonal foods also help to foster a sense of togetherness and fun.

There has been a specific outreach to the subsidized housing units in downtown, with fliers delivered the day before the meal and specific outreach made to known families in need in the area, and we intend to increase our outreach to this specific section of the community. We are hoping to be able to offer rides as many of these residents lack transportation.

2). Identify the community needs to be addressed: (30 points).

Helping to meet nutritional needs is the primary focus of this service. However, social isolation and food insecurity often go hand in hand, so the social aspects of community formation are equally important. The US Census Central Data Point area of Bridgton has been identified in the recent study of hunger in our community as an area particularly at risk for food insufficiency, hence our focus on encouraging participation from those who live in this area of Bridgton. For those on fixed incomes, and those reliant on food stamps and other assistance, the last week of the month is known to be a difficult time. Therefore, we schedule the meals for this perilous time

of the month.

Social isolation, poverty, and old age tend to weaken community ties, which often then increases mental health issues within the target community, adding to the other issues caused by insufficient diet. Loneliness and isolation are as serious an issue as an empty stomach. A inviting and friendly setting and a good meal can often help increase a sense of belonging and improve mental health. The meals also bring together people of moderate income with the targeted impoverished segment of our community and the informal process of conversation can be highly useful for the poorest and most underserved of the community. We have a number of volunteers with understanding of local resources such as the food pantries, recovery services, and counseling, who help to encourage participation in existing community programs.

3). Convey your organization's readiness to proceed - Is this a new program/project? How will the services be managed and staffed? What is your agency's experience providing these services and reaching your target population? (20 points)

The organization and volunteer base is already in place, as the project has been operating for the past 15 months. The project is managed by two co-chairs from the church congregation and meals are staffed by volunteers (10-12 per meal), who are not necessarily church affiliated. The team has developed a clear understanding about how much food to prepare and how to get it served both safely and in a timely manner. The "staff" draws from a diverse base. Our oldest consistent volunteer recently turned 84 and our youngest is not yet sixteen; some volunteers come from upper-middle class households, but a number of people who began as recipients of the meals have become regular volunteers, helping with food preparation, dishwashing, and other tasks. Meals are cooked on-site, using the kitchen at St. Peter's, ensuring that food safety is maintained. Desserts are generally donated by church bakers and are a popular part of the meal.

We have been able to provide a variety of nutritious meals, costing an average of about \$2 per person. Menus have included meatloaf and mashed

potatoes, pulled pork, ham and homemade scalloped potatoes, roast chicken, chili, stew, baked beans, lasagna, and chicken pot pie. We provide coffee, milk, and a cold beverage such as lemonade or iced tea, with each meal.

St. Peter's received some funding through June of 2015, from the CDBG fund, and since July has been relying on small individual donations and money from the St. Peter's outreach budget. St. Peter's church, like many churches, is both small and aging, and its financial resources are limited. Over the last fifteen months we have increased participation from both those who provide the meals and those who consume them. We are successfully reaching people in the Central Data Point area of town, but we need help in continuing the project. We know we can do better, however, and would like to increase the amount of flyer distribution in the most impoverished areas, as well as adding some paid advertising in the Bridgton News. We have recently reached an agreement with the Bridgton Community Center for the use of their van. Winter weather can sometimes hamper participation, but we are hoping that the ability to provide rides might help more people who might have transportation difficulties make it to the meals.

We believe we are poised to consistently serve between 75 and 100 individuals per month but will need help with the financial resources to continuing providing healthy meals.

4). Identify the measurable impacts of the activities: (10 Points)

This is fairly new project that has built up participation over the last fifteen months, from our first meeting of twelve individuals to 78 at the post-Thanksgiving meal in early December. There is a core group of 20 to 25 people who come every month. This group often keeps track of who is missing, provides transportation for those who need it, and are adept at helping to alert Fr. Hacker about possible needs of specific individuals. Most importantly, this self-monitoring activity is a strong indication that a community is developing.