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Planning Progress

July - September 2020

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2020 Census

Have you responded to the 2020 Census yet? If not, do so now! It's important to Ohio and Stark County. The distribution of more than \$675 billion in federal funds, grants, and support to states, counties, and communities is based on census data. That money is spent on schools, hospitals, roads, public works, and other vital programs.

The state of Ohio receives roughly \$33.5 billion, with over \$1 billion of that going to Stark County. This means that with every uncounted person, Stark County loses approximately \$2,900 in funding.

As of June 10th, the response rate for Ohio was 65.9% and Stark County was 70.7%. In the last census, Stark County was at 81.0%. It's safe and easy to respond. See how below. Everyone counts!

Stuck at Home?



It has never been easier to respond to the census on your own. You can respond:



Online



By phone



Or by mail

...all without having to meet a census taker.

**Respond today at 2020census.gov
or call **844-330-2020****

Shape
your future
START HERE >

United States
**Census
2020**

Adopted FY 2020 Stark County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Programs

On April 22nd, the Board of Stark County Commissioners adopted the FY 2020 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME programs, July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. This adoption took place after the 30-day comment period for both programs expired on April 11th. Both the FY 2020 CDBG and HOME programs were previously adopted by the CDBG Citizens' Advisory Council and the Stark County Regional Planning Commission in early March, prior to the March 18th public hearing. Below is the breakdown of the FY 2020 CDBG and HOME programs.

FY 2020 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM

The Board of Stark County Commissioners will undertake the following housing and community development activities during FY 2020.

<u>PROJECTS</u>	<u>FY 2020</u>
CDBG Administration	\$ 183,076.00
Comprehensive Planning	\$ 90,000.00
Housing Rehab - Full/Emergency Rehab	\$ 255,230.00
Housing Rehab - Direct/Program Operation	\$ 240,000.00
Fair Housing	\$ 80,000.00
Stark Co. Mental Health Board - Coordinated Entry System	\$ 30,000.00
CommQuest Services, Inc. - Family Living Center	\$ 18,000.00
Alliance for Children & Families - Alliance Emergency Residence	\$ 16,640.00
Beacon Charitable Pharmacy - Prescription Medication Access	\$ 25,000.00
Habitat for Humanity - Hope ReStored	\$ 15,000.00
Kent State Stark - KSU Micro Enterprise Development Program	\$ 31,420.00
Village of Brewster - Jefferson Ave Sanitary Sewer Replacement	\$ 121,415.61
City of North Canton - Pittsburg/Milton/Carosel Waterline Replacement	\$ 249,950.00
Contingencies	\$ 9,648.39
TOTAL AVAILABLE FY '20 FUNDING	\$1,365,380.00
Reallocation of unspent FY '17, '18, & '19 CDBG funding to Village of Brewster - Jefferson Ave. Sanitary Sewer Replacement project:	
(1) Contingencies - FY '17 - \$61,500.66	
(2) Contingencies - FY '18 - \$9,542.73	
(3) North Canton - 7th St. NE Storm Sewer Replacement - FY '19 - \$249,500.00	
	<u>\$ 320,543.39</u>
GRAND TOTAL - FY '20	\$1,685,923.39

It is anticipated that the County will receive an additional \$115,000 in program income from the current housing rehab revolving loan fund program. This program income will revolve back into this program.

FY '20 is the first year of a three-year funding plan for future infrastructure projects. The "Pittsburg/Batton Waterline Replacement" project, located in the City of North Canton, and the "Lincoln Street North Sanitary Sewer" project, located in Canton Township (to be undertaken & completed by the Stark County Metropolitan Sewer District), are expected to receive \$249,950 and \$249,999, respectively, in CDBG funding during FY '21. As the balance of FY '21 funding remains to be allocated outside of these infrastructure projects, the Board will accept applications later this year to complete the FY 2021 funding plan.

FY 2020 HOME PROGRAM

The Board of Stark County Commissioners, as the lead agency for the HOME Consortium, has approved the following expenditure of funds for the HOME program, which follows the same program year as the CDBG program.

<u>PROJECTS</u>	<u>FY 2020</u>
Future CHDO Set-aside Project	\$ 128,009
Testa Co. & HOPE, Inc.- Development of HOPE Village Senior Rental Project	\$ 300,000
Stark County Housing Rehabilitation	\$ 90,427
City of Massillon - Homebuyer and Housing Rehab Activities	\$ 128,009
City of Alliance - Housing Rehabilitation	\$ 121,608
Administration	\$ 85,339
TOTAL FY '20 FUNDING	\$ 853,392

In addition, HOME program income earned, estimated at approximately \$60,000, will be utilized under the Stark County Housing Rehabilitation project.

After adoption by the Board of Stark County Commissioners, the Stark County CDBG program submitted the fully-approved "Stark County FY 2020 CDBG and HOME Programs - One-Year Action Plan" to the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for their acceptance on May 15th.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Application Process to Begin

Now is the time to start thinking about future Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) projects in your community. CDBG staff is currently available to discuss with your municipality, township, or non-profit, potential projects in your area. An application workshop has been scheduled for Wednesday, August 26th for the next three fiscal years 2021, 2022, and 2023, but now is the time to begin the ground work on your application.

The workshop will be offered to municipalities, townships, and non-profit agencies & organizations interested in receiving CDBG funding for public facility or infrastructure projects between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2024. Applications for economic development and public service projects will only be accepted for the FY '21 funding cycle.

Applications for this three-year funding round will be due in early November. Invitations will be mailed this summer to all Stark County CDBG eligible municipalities, townships, and previously funded non-profit organizations. Persons wanting an application packet, but unable to attend the workshop, may contact either Katie Puleo, Community Development Planner at 330-451-7031 or Lynn Carlone, Chief of Community Development at 330-451-7774 to receive the needed application information. The packets will be sent out after the workshop has been held. Additional ranking points will be awarded to all applications in which the applicant attended the workshop.

Stark County is Working on Requalification for Community Development Block Grant

The Stark County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program is in the process of requalifying as an urban county for the next three years. With this requalification, Stark County will be guaranteed to receive CDBG funding during Fiscal Years 2021, 2022, and 2023 (July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2024).

The US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires that entitlement counties requalify every three years as an urban county in order to receive a direct formula allocation of CDBG funding. An entitlement urban county is a county that automatically receives CDBG funding for use in the community; an entitlement urban county does not need to submit a yearly application to HUD to receive this funding.

In order to qualify as an urban county for CDBG funding, HUD regulations state a county must meet certain population thresholds. Stark County qualifies as an urban county because the county has a total combined population of 200,000 or more excluding the metropolitan cities of Canton, Massillon, and Alliance.

If Stark County would not requalify as an urban county, local municipalities, non-profits, etc. would be forced to submit applications to the Ohio Development Services Agency (ODSA) in order to receive State of Ohio CDBG funding. The ODSA receives hundreds of CDBG applications each year and only has enough available funding to provide monies to just a portion of the applications received; thus many Stark County projects may not receive the CDBG dollars needed in order to undertake worthy endeavors.

It is anticipated all of the municipalities in Stark County (excluding *Canton, *Massillon, *Alliance, and **Hills & Dales) will be part of the urban county. Over these next three years, Stark County is expected to receive over \$3 million of CDBG funds to be utilized to benefit the citizens of the county.

*receives CDBG funding from HUD, independent of Stark County's CDBG program

**community has not participated in Stark County's CDBG program in the past

SCATS to Begin Transportation Plan with a 2050 Year Horizon

It's never too early to begin planning, especially when it's a long-range plan. In May of next year, SCATS will be approving a new long-range transportation plan, extending the plan horizon year to 2050 (from our current 2040).

That's ten years of new projects to think of, budget for, and describe that we have never included before! Roads, trails, public transit, bridges- the plan is a description of how Stark County residents envision how we will get to work, school, play, etc. and what we need to get there.

The newly adopted FY 2021-2024 TIP describes the next few years; now it's time to begin filling in the 26 years after that. So, think of where you go, how you would like to get there, and let us know!

If you have ideas, concerns, or to be placed on a contact list to be kept informed, please call or email Karl Lucas at 330-451-7386 and kblucas@starkcountyohio.gov. Watch for more opportunities to submit your input on the SCRPC website!



SCATS Policy Committee Approves FY 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program

At its April 27th meeting, the SCATS Policy Committee approved the FY 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The TIP is the document that lists planned highway, transit, and bicycle/pedestrian projects in Stark County for the next four years.

Several major projects that received funding include:

- US 62 realignment and access changes from Market Avenue to the Middle Branch Creek Bridge. This project is a significant safety project, limiting some of the current access to US 62 from local roads. These changes will improve safety as well as travel time. The \$15.17M project is supported with \$11.5M in SCATS funds;
- Wales Road Reconstruction in the city of Massillon between Lincoln Way and Hills and Dales Road with \$3.3M in SCATS funds. This project also includes safety improvements, such as turn lanes and increased lane widths;
- 11th Street SE reconstruction in the city of Canton between Market and Cherry Avenues. This includes \$6.1M in SCATS dedicated funds.

Two projects that are unique because they either include elements not typically seen in road projects or because they aren't road projects but improve our transportation system are:

- The expansion of the hydrogen fueling station at SARTA to enable the fueling of paratransit fuel cell vehicles. The smaller paratransit vehicles use different connections than those currently used with full-size, fixed-route buses. This project includes slightly more than \$3M of SCATS Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) funds and includes purchasing four Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) buses;
- Colonial Boulevard Complete Streets Project in the city of Canton from Market Avenue to Gibbs Avenue with almost \$1.4M in SCATS funds. This will reconstruct and improve the boulevard, adding ADA accessible pedestrian facilities and a multipurpose trail. This is especially significant because Colonial Boulevard is on the designated route of US Bicycle Route System 44, which travels through Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Iowa.

In total, the TIP includes 23 projects over four years receiving more than \$41 million in SCATS funds. This includes \$22 million in surface transportation block grant funds, \$17 million in CMAQ funds, and \$2 million in transportation alternatives set-aside funds. It should be noted that \$11 million of the CMAQ funds will be converted to Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funds for the US 62 project in 2022.

There are nine safety projects, one transit project (which includes the hydrogen station improvements as well as bus purchase), five projects to improve travel time/lessen congestion, six projects to improve air quality, eleven projects that include paving, and three bridge projects. Overall, when including local, state, and federal funds, these projects will total \$110,752,184 in spending.

Stormwater Education Billboard Contest

As part of the Stormwater Education Program, middle and high school students had the opportunity to enter a Billboard Contest. There were only 21 entries this year because of Covid-19. Thank you to St. Paul's School for still participating. The four winning entries had their original artwork displayed on actual billboards throughout Stark County. This year's theme is "Don't Let Stormwater Runoff" and the general message is **"Only Rain Down the Drain!"**



Ethan Pitcher
St. Paul's School



Sarah Cook
St. Paul's School



Addie Haupt
St. Paul's School



Josh Renner
St. Paul's School

2020 Federal Transit Administration 5310 Transportation Grant Awards

At its May 26, 2020 meeting, the SCATS Policy Committee approved funding of \$303,682 for eight projects using Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5310 Funds from the Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program. This program assists with meeting the transportation needs of seniors and those with disabilities beyond those provided by local public transportation and is managed jointly in Stark County by SCATS and the Stark Area Regional Transit Authority (SARTA).

The Association for Better Community Development, Inc. (ABCD) received funding to assist in the purchase of two ADA accessible vans for various ADA and senior transportation services, as well as funding to assist with operating costs for transporting them to adult daycare, Medicaid and Social Security appointments.

First Christian Church received partial funding to assist in operating costs for the transportation of adult daycare clients.

JR Coleman Adult Day Care received funding to assist in operating costs for transporting adult daycare clients.

SARTA received funding to purchase an ADA accessible vehicle for programs that exceed their ADA requirements as well as funds to assist with their Travel Training Program, which has instructed more than 15,000 residents of Stark County on how to ride a bus. The Travel Training class is a 45-minute presentation which teaches you how to read bus schedules, plan bus trips, locate and transfer to other buses, purchase tickets and pay fares, and use SARTA's PinPoint system to track buses in real time.

The Workshops Inc. received funding to assist in the purchase of two Dodge Caravan wheelchair accessible vehicles as well as operating funds for the use in Medicaid and ADA/senior employment transportation services.

This completed the 2020 round of FTA 5310 program funding. The next round of funding is expected to be in early 2021. Please contact Karl Lucas at 330-451-7386 or at kblucas@starkcountyohio.gov for additional information or to be placed on a contact list.

As the summer breeze fills the air, let us help with home repair!

The Stark County Housing Rehabilitation Department is looking for new applicants to utilize our grant/deferred loan Housing Rehabilitation Program, which is funded by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

We can help with:

Wall Repair

Windows

Flooring

Electric

Plumbing

Siding

Applicants must own and occupy their home for a minimum of one year, live within Stark County and meet income guidelines.

CALL US TODAY! 330-451-7399

Or visit us online at <https://www.starkcountyohio.gov/regional-planning>





Stark County Regional Planning Commission
201- 3rd St. N.E.
Canton, Ohio 44702

Upcoming Events

July

6	Subdivision Review	1:30 PM
7	SCRPC	7:30 PM
27	SCATS	1:30 PM

August

3	Subdivision Review	1:30 PM
4	SCRPC	7:30 PM
24	SCATS	1:30 PM

September

8	Subdivision Review	1:30 PM
8	SCRPC	7:30 PM
28	SCATS	1:30 PM

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