

Cover Sheet – Non-Social Service Activity

AGENCY NAME: Town of Amherst
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2012 CDBG REQUEST: \$60,000

1. Project Name: *Update to the Town's ADA Self-evaluation Surveys and Transition Plan*
2. Project Description (1-2 sentences): *The Town proposes to hire a professional consultant to complete an update to the Town's ADA Transition Plan, including the local public schools. This involves self-evaluations by Town Departments to determine areas that need to make accessibility improvements, and a plan with a timeline and funding opportunities to implement the necessary upgrades.*
3. Project Location: *Town of Amherst*
4. Budget Request: *\$60,000*
5. Type of Activity (check one):
 - Rehabilitation
 - Acquisition
 - Demolition/clearance
 - Infrastructure
 - Public Facility
 - Architectural Barrier Removal
 - Other – please explain *Planning Activity to help identify areas and priorities for barrier removal.*
6. National Objective:
 - Total number of beneficiaries (individuals served): 6,000 (US Census)
 - Total Low/Mod beneficiaries (individuals served): 6,000 (US Census)

Project Name: Update to Transition Plan

Project Location: Town-wide

Census Block Group: N/A

National Objective Description

Demonstrate Consistency with Sustainable Development Principles

Hiring a consultant to complete an update to the Town's 2006 ADA Transition Plan would help satisfy the following Sustainable Development Principles.

- **Advance Equity:** Provide technical and strategic support for inclusive community planning and decision making to ensure social, economic, and environmental justice.
- **Provide Transportation Choice:** Maintain and expand transportation options that maximize mobility, reduce congestion, conserve fuel and improve air quality.

Demonstrate Consistency with Target Area requirements

Ultimately, the plan will provide strategies and identify priorities for accessibility improvements in the Town Center, outlying village centers, in the schools, and along the sidewalks.

A. Demonstrate Consistency with Community Development Strategy

The Community Development Strategy emphasizes the Town's commitment to increase the accessibility of public facilities, including parks and sidewalks, and its increased effort to coordinate barrier removal with other Town activities. The strategy also specifically mentions the importance of having an updated Transition Plan

B. Agency Information

The Town offers high level government services, quality education, support for open space and agriculture, promotion of economic development, and respect for its history. Town government has been in existence for decades, with numerous departments and citizen boards and committees all working toward common goals that benefit its citizens and the community. Currently, Amherst has professional staff in all of its departments, in particular its Accounting, Conservation, Planning, and Public Works Departments who commonly work with consultants and property owners to manage and develop such projects as land acquisition, feasibility studies and assessments, development of engineering specifications, and construction projects ranging from public infrastructure to affordable housing. Town staff is competent with procurement regulations, balancing budgets, and efficiently managing contracts so that deliverables are received on time. The Office of Conservation and Development and the Human Resources Department will be working closely with the consultant(s) to develop the update to the Transition Plan Study.

C. Project Budget Information

The budget consists only of the consultant costs, \$60,000, to complete the update to the ADA Transition Plan.

At this time there are no matching funds available for this project.

D. Project Description

The Town proposes to hire a professional consultant to complete an update to the Town's ADA Transition Plan, including the public schools. This involves self-evaluations by Town Departments and the local public schools to determine areas that need to make accessibility improvements, and a plan with a timeline and funding opportunities to implement the necessary upgrades.

Through the plan's identification of necessary accessible improvements, the Town will be able to prioritize and coordinate barrier removal projects throughout Amherst—to the benefit of the disabled, elderly, young parents with strollers, school-aged children, and those who use the schools and public facilities.

The Self-Evaluation Plan would include an evaluation of Town policies and practices; technical evaluation and surveying of town facilities; and public participation. The Transition Plan will take the information collected from the self-evaluation to develop a long term, prioritized plan for structural changes to existing facilities to make them accessible. An advisory committee composed of key internal town staff and external stakeholders will collaborate with the consultant in this process. The Consultant and advisory committee will hold public forums as part of this process.

E. Project Need

Although the Town completed an update to the Transition Plan in 2006, it did not include an assessment of the local public schools, and the plan has not been fully integrated into the financial and capital planning process, which would help direct funding toward the barrier removal projects. The project is particularly important as Amherst moves forward with its efforts to implement its Master Plan and Complete Streets Policy and as the population ages—more and more people will be need to be able to use the facilities (sidewalks, parks, bike lines) and services (libraries, Town Hall, LSSE) offered by Town.

The Town has made accessibility improvements to many sidewalks and street crossings, to programs and services; however, a fully accessible community is a benefit to all individuals as it allows for a more inclusive, participatory society. Furthermore, the local public schools have not completed a Transition Plan.

F. Community Involvement and Support

The Disability Access Advisory Committee, working with Town staff in the Planning and Human Resources Departments, identified that updating the Transition Plan is a community priority as well as a project eligible to receive CDBG funding. To maintain involvement with the beneficiaries, the consultant will meet regularly with staff and selected boards/committees, and hold a series of public workshops to engage the public.

G. Project Feasibility

An updated Transition Plan will be used by various Town Departments (Planning, DPW, LSSE, and Conservation) and the schools as they undertake projects involving improvements to infrastructure and facilities (i.e. playgrounds, sidewalks, the Town Common), and the plan will be instrumental with helping to determine how the Town can make its services and programs more accessible. Currently, the existing plan is used to support barrier removal projects funded through the CDBG program, and is a reference guide when the Town implements construction projects. A newly updated plan would help coordinate the efforts of the many Town departments, making it easier to develop a unified approach to accessibility improvements.

The Town will follow the procurement regulations and sign a contract after successful bidding and consultant selection. The terms of the contract will include a scope of work that details project deliverables, and a timeline stating that the project will be completed prior to the 18 month deadline. It is expected that the update to the Transition Plan will take 12-15 months to complete.

Town staff from the Office of Conservation & Development, including conservation and planning, will be responsible for implementing this activity.

H. Project Impact

Completing the update to the Transition Plan will provide the Town invaluable guidance as it moves forward implementing the Master Plan, as the schools make improvements to their facilities, and as DPW continues with street and sidewalk repaving. With an updated, thorough plan, the Town will have accurate descriptions and estimates of the need and type of accessibility barriers—critical information when rehabilitating existing parks and buildings, when determining which sidewalks to resurface, when trying to make Amherst a livable, vibrant community.

One of the Town's short and long-term goals, as identified in the Master Plan and Community Development Strategy, is to continue making improvements to become a barrier-free community, with accessible connections between the Town Center and village centers, and integration with public infrastructure. As a barrier-free community, one could potentially travel within Amherst for all their daily needs. Also, with a plan in place, the Town will be able to efficiently coordinate the many efforts of staff, boards, committees, and the schools.



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IMPUTATION OF AMBULATORY DIFFICULTY FOR THE CIVILIAN NONINSTITUTIONALIZED POPULATION 5 YEARS AND OVER

Universe: Civilian noninstitutionalized population 5 years and over
2010-2014 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Supporting documentation on code lists, subject definitions, data accuracy, and statistical testing can be found on the American Community Survey website in the Data and Documentation section.

Sample size and data quality measures (including coverage rates, allocation rates, and response rates) can be found on the American Community Survey website in the Methodology section.

Although the American Community Survey (ACS) produces population, demographic and housing unit estimates, it is the Census Bureau's Population Estimates Program that produces and disseminates the official estimates of the population for the nation, states, counties, cities and towns and estimates of housing units for states and counties.

	Amherst town, Hampshire County, Massachusetts
	Estimate
Total:	38,310
Imputed	6,220
Not imputed	32,090

Data are based on a sample and are subject to sampling variability. The degree of uncertainty for an estimate arising from sampling variability is represented through the use of a margin of error. The value shown here is the 90 percent margin of error. The margin of error can be interpreted roughly as providing a 90 percent probability that the interval defined by the estimate minus the margin of error and the estimate plus the margin of error (the lower and upper confidence bounds) contains the true value. In addition to sampling variability, the ACS estimates are subject to nonsampling error (for a discussion of nonsampling variability, see Accuracy of the Data). The effect of nonsampling error is not represented in these tables.

The Census Bureau introduced a new set of disability questions in the 2008 ACS questionnaire. Accordingly, comparisons of disability data from 2008 or later with data from prior years are not recommended. For more information on these questions and their evaluation in the 2006 ACS Content Test, see the Evaluation Report Covering Disability.

While the 2010-2014 American Community Survey (ACS) data generally reflect the February 2013 Office of Management and Budget (OMB) definitions of metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas; in certain instances the names, codes, and boundaries of the principal cities shown in ACS tables may differ from the OMB definitions due to differences in the effective dates of the geographic entities.

Estimates of urban and rural population, housing units, and characteristics reflect boundaries of urban areas defined based on Census 2010 data. As a result, data for urban and rural areas from the ACS do not necessarily reflect the results of ongoing urbanization.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2014 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Explanation of Symbols:

1. An "****" entry in the margin of error column indicates that either no sample observations or too few sample observations were available to compute a standard error and thus the margin of error. A statistical test is not appropriate.
2. An "L" entry in the estimate column indicates that either no sample observations or too few sample observations were available to compute an estimate, or a ratio of medians cannot be calculated because one or both of the median estimates falls in the lowest interval or upper interval of an open-ended distribution.
3. An "L" following a median estimate means the median falls in the lowest interval of an open-ended distribution.
4. An "U" following a median estimate means the median falls in the upper interval of an open-ended distribution.
5. An "*****" entry in the margin of error column indicates that the median falls in the lowest interval or upper interval of an open-ended distribution. A statistical test is not appropriate.
6. An "*****" entry in the margin of error column indicates that the estimate is controlled. A statistical test for sampling variability is

not appropriate.

7. An 'N' entry in the estimate and margin of error columns indicates that data for this geographic area cannot be displayed because the number of sample cases is too small.

8. An '(X)' means that the estimate is not applicable or not available.