

Cumberland County Community Development Program

2018 – **Community** CDBG Pre-Application Form

Due – December 13, 2017, 4:00PM

Pre-application may be submitted by e-mail: pistrang@cumberlandcounty.org

Project Title Town of Standish Community Center Planning

Community Contact Information

Lead Community Town of Standish

Contact Information Name Kris Tucker, Town Manager

Address 175 Northeast Rd Standish, ME 04084

Email ktucker@standish.org Tel (207) 642-4659

Sub-Grantee (e.g. non-profit social service agency)

Sub-Grantee N/A

Contact Information Name _____

Address _____

Email _____ Tel _____

Program Type

Public Infrastructure/Facility X Downtown Revitalization X

Public Service X Housing _____ Economic Development X

Estimated Project Cost: \$24,000 Estimated CDBG Request \$16,800

Provide a clear, concise description of the project

The scope of work for the project should be outlined. Depending on the nature of the project/activity include in your response: What will be built? What will be provided? Who will be served? Where will the project occur?

The mission of the Standish Parks & Recreation Department is to improve the quality of life in Standish by providing exceptional community experiences and well-being through diverse recreation programs and parks for people of all ages.

Between 2003-2008, The Town of Standish spent significant time, resources and money to plan and design a community center for its residents. In the final stages of preparation, the property survey revealed endangered species concerns on site. Ultimately, the location was voted down and the plans were shelved until a suitable site could be identified.

The current climate, new management, a strong desire to build economic development and improve quality of life for Standish residents of all ages, makes the timing of this application a crucial catalyst for the process. Continued interest from the community to pursue preliminary plans for a multi-use, multi-generational community recreation facility, as well as recent property availability in an ideal location adjacent to our Municipal Center, has prompted the Town to begin a feasibility study with renewed support.

The new land opportunity will require a survey, engineering, environmental and permitting analysis before we can consider a substantial investment to pursue this endeavor. Although the process is only just beginning, the timing of this application and land availability has accelerated our efforts. Funding for this analysis is not currently in the budget and assistance from CDBG would greatly assist in facilitating the process.

We believe a community center in a central location in Standish will fulfill a growing list of needs for both Standish and surrounding towns. Standish has a proven history of collaborating regionally with neighboring towns for fire/rescue, schools, recreation programs and more. As such, a recreation facility in Standish would service the entire region.

Not only does an indoor facility have potential for recreation programs to build a healthier community, but it can also provide opportunity for a warming/cooling shelter during a crisis, community meeting space for the many organizations in town, adequate space to handle voters during an election, as well as spurring economic growth for businesses in the area and help attract families and workforce to the area. There would also be a strong workforce component related to the staffing needs of such a facility.

Standish has displayed a consistent, decades-long need for viable indoor space to serve many people and organizations of varying interests. With an aging population in a rural, cold-weather climate and a desire to attract young families to come live in our town, we are committed to pursuing this project.

A lack of adequate indoor facilities has limited our ability to offer programs and events for all ages. For example, our annual community events including a Halloween Party, Tree Lighting, and Easter Egg Hunt, has capped the existing space available to us. As a result, we limit our outreach efforts and our ability to attract new community members.

Programming space is virtually non-existent for our adult and senior population because the school facilities are not available to us for this purpose and our municipal center's community room is already over-scheduled with regular meetings and programs. These restrictions stifle additional program opportunities and the current configuration of indoor space is not adequate for all the programs we wish to offer. In particular, the ability to offer exercise and wellness programs for adults and seniors is not currently possible.

At Standish Parks and Recreation, a common slogan we try to uphold is, "Standish Parks and Recreation, where community comes together." In order to stay true to this statement and to fulfill our mission, we seek the resources and funding that are so desperately needed.

Identify which National Objective of the CDBG program the project will meet

- X Low/moderate income: Area-wide benefit
- Low/moderate income: Direct benefit (primarily housing rehabilitation)
- Low/moderate income: Limited clientele (primarily public service projects)
- Prevention or elimination of slum/blight conditions