

CDBG Application Number:

CATEGORY:

For office use only

CITY OF WAUKESHA

PROGRAM YEAR 2027 (January 1 – December 31, 2027)

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM APPLICATION FORM FOR CITY OF WAUKESHA ALLOCATION

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: April 24, 2026, 4:30 pm City Hall – Community Development or email to rgrams@waukesha-wi.gov

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Project Title: Adaptive Education Specialist
2. Project Address (if different from Applicant's address): _____
3. Primary Contact Person/Title: Gala Evers, Recreation Supervisor
4. Telephone: 262-524-3715
5. E-Mail: gevers@waukesha-wi.gov
6. Amount of CDBG 2026 Funds Requested: \$21,000
7. Total Project Costs: \$40,768
8. National Objective (check all that apply):
 - Benefiting low – and moderate – income persons
 - Preventing or eliminating slums or blight
 - Meeting other community development needs having a particular urgency because existing conditions pose a serious and immediate threat to the health or welfare of the community and other financial resources are not available to meet such needs.
9. Check One:
 - New Project
 - Continuing previously funded project
10. Provide a brief description of your experience in managing a similar project.

WPRF has years of experience with Community Development Block Grants, supporting a wide variety of programs funded in part by these grants, such as neighborhood playground and swim and park play programs, adaptive recreation programs, and senior/older adult programs. Over the past 30 years, varied programs have been offered as part of our adaptive recreation programs, including summer recreation programs, special family evening events (including respite), community outings for adults with special needs, interpretive services for all ages, and inclusion practices in our before and after-school and youth development programs. WPRF staff directly lead and assist with adaptive programs and inclusion practices. WPRF has offered youth and enrichment programs, including before- and after-school and summer day camps, to assist working families throughout the community. Over the past 12 years, we have identified a growing need for additional inclusive practices and have made it a goal to provide extra services to meet the ever-increasing demand for adaptive and inclusion services for our youth and families, with a strong focus on our before- and after-school programs.

11. Describe the role specific staff will have in this project. Who will be responsible for managing the project, reporting to Community Development, preparing invoices, etc.?

The Staff involved in this project include a team comprised of Recreation Supervisor, Gala Evers, Recreation Supervisor, Tara Scott, Recreation Programmer, Laura Nagel, Adaptive and Inclusion Specialist, and a team of 100+ staff that complete forty hours of training in the areas of youth development, fun, age-appropriate and engaging curriculum, behavior management, games/activities and CPR/First AID and Inclusion training throughout the year. The direct supervisor of this program, Recreation Supervisor Gala Evers, has over 27 years of experience as a teacher and program operations director. Gala will directly supervise the project's implementation and management. This includes training and managing staff, collecting data on outcomes, and ensuring that all aspects of the program are realized. Tara Scott will directly supervise the programs and staff.

12. Provide a concise description of the proposed project.

In an effort to reduce barriers in youth development recreation programs and serve a tremendous need in our community for adaptive and inclusive practices, this project will provide partial funding for an Adaptive Inclusion Specialist with the City of Waukesha Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department (WPRF). This initiative is crucial in addressing the needs of our community and ensuring that all our youth have equal opportunities for growth and development. Currently, WPRF serves the community by offering various youth development programs to meet community needs, including before- and after-school programs and summer day camps, which provide care for many working families. To better serve all youth throughout our city, we seek a position as an Adaptive Inclusion Specialist to provide additional support. The benefits of this position for youth and families in Waukesha will include positive socialization with peers, improved communication skills and friendships, increased leisure skills, appropriate behavior development, enhanced self-esteem and self-confidence, increased autonomy, and a feeling of community and acceptance for all. This position will provide participants and WPRF staff support in developing, coordinating, and leading the evaluation of current practices and accommodations for individuals of all ages with special needs. The specialist will work closely with WPRF staff to coordinate and implement services. Additional responsibilities include meeting with participants and their families to determine the support needed and resources available throughout the community.

If the proposed project is a rehabilitation / ADA / historic rehabilitation of a facility or business, please answer the following:

13. Address of Facility: _____

14. Year it was built _____

15. Is the property on a local or national list and/or registered as a historic property?

Yes

No

Don't Know

16. Select how your project will serve Low and Moderate Income People (Choose one if applicable):

Benefit to LMI individuals (at least 51% of total beneficiaries of program must be LMI and income information must be gathered from all participants)

Presumed Benefit (all individuals served in the program qualify as low income because of the type of population served, i.e.: Elderly, Severely Disabled Adults, Abused Children, Battered

Spouses, Homeless Persons, Illiterate Adults , Persons with AIDS, Migrant Farm Workers. Income information does not have to be collected.)

Benefit to an **area** that is primarily residential and is located in an eligible census tract (at least 30.34% of residents are LMI). See instructions for a list of eligible census tracts.) Provide list of census tracts:

[Click here to enter text.](#)

Housing units created to benefit LMI individuals or households (every CDBG funded unit must be occupied by and LMI individual or household)

Jobs created to benefit LMI individuals (1 job must be created for every \$35,000 of CDBG funds invested in project; 51% of all jobs created must be for LMI individuals)

Project serves residents of a **NRSA** and agency is a certified CBDO. Provide name of NRSA:

[Click here to enter text.](#)

Project addresses conditions of **Slum and Blight** on an Area or Spot Basis. Must provide designation of Slum and Blighted area from jurisdiction when contract is signed, and addresses of affected properties.

ADA Rehabilitation of a public facility or public improvement

Historic Preservation of residential or commercial properties. Must be designated on a spot slum and blight basis or homeowner or business must qualify as low income.

17. Describe the need filled for your program or project.

Currently, an average of 80 youth with identified special needs attends our before and after-school programs. Additionally, there are about 125 students who have unidentified needs, including learning disabilities and behavioral challenges. These needs often hinder successful transitions into our programs.

To address this growing demand and to maintain inclusive practices, WPRF is seeking to hire an Adaptive Inclusion Specialist. The challenges our students face include Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorder, Oppositional Defiance Disorder, diabetes, hearing impairments, Prader-Willi syndrome, anxiety, and trauma.

To meet the diverse needs of our students, WPRF has hired a trained Adaptive Inclusion Specialist with expertise in Special Education and Adaptive Inclusion. The field of special education continues to evolve, and accessing the necessary tools, research, and knowledge to support students effectively requires time and dedication. We seek the support of dedicated, trained staff to bridge gaps and provide greater inclusion, ensuring more successful experiences for students with special needs in our programs.

18. Describe two anticipated measurable outcomes for your proposed project and activities.

a. By the Fall of 2027, the Adaptive Specialist will hold at least one all-staff training session to support staff working with participants with identified special needs, as measured by attendance records.

b. By the Fall of 2027, at least 75 students with identified special needs will be successfully enrolled in and actively participating in youth programs, as measured by attendance records.

19. Select the appropriate activity category below for your project.

Public Services	
	Homeless shelter and services
	Meals / Nutrition
	Youth / Childcare / Abused and neglected children
	Seniors and Disabled
	Substance Abuse / Mental Health / Healthcare
	Transportation
	Domestic abuse
X	Education
	Employment training
	HIV / AIDS
X	Other (list) Recreation Programs for students with disabilities.

NRSA	
	Employment Training/Job readiness education
	Job creation
	Neighborhood revitalization housing efforts (rehab or new construction)
	Job retention programs
	Transportation to jobs
	Crime prevention
	Public Services
	Neighborhood revitalization non-housing efforts (beautification, parks, streets, etc.)
	Other (list)

Housing	
	Homeowner rehabilitation program loans
	Rental rehabilitation (special needs/transitional or permanent housing for very low income / supportive services and case management attached to units)
	Rental rehabilitation (multi-family projects, general low income population)
	Downpayment assistance
	Housing counseling
	Acquisition / site preparation of land for housing purposes (not construction)
	Residential historic preservation
	Other (list)

Public Facilities and Improvements (Rehab/construction costs--not operating costs) *the rehab may be for ADA compliance OR to benefit low-moderate income people for each activity	
	Homeless facilities
	Youth / Abused children facilities
	Senior / Disabled facilities
	Facilities for AIDS patients
	Neighborhood / Community centers
	Parks / Playgrounds / Recreational facilities
	Streets / Sidewalk improvements
	Water / Sewer improvements
	Flood drainage improvements
	Parking lots
	Other (list)

Economic Development	
	Loans to small/medium businesses for low-moderate income job creation or retention
	Commercial / Industrial infrastructure development or improvements
	Façade improvement loans to businesses
	Non-residential historic preservation
	Other (list)

Administration and Planning	
	Housing rehab program administration
	Revolving Loan Fund administration
	Fair housing activities
	Planning for communities or NRSAs
	Other (list)

Appendix A: Results of Prior Year Projects

20. Was your department able to spend the CDBG allocation awarded within the calendar year? (Provide explanation for any extensions into the next year for 2024-25)

Yes, our department spent the CDBG allocation in 2024-2025.

21. Has your department had any CDBG funds reprogrammed (taken back) by the CDBG Board? (Explain for 2025)

No