

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

The City of Sumter is an Entitlement Community. This Entitlement status affords the City the opportunity of receiving Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds on an annual basis. The purpose of the funds is to improve the neighborhoods and make life more livable for residents; especially those whose income falls within the HUD Income Limits and are considered low-moderate-income citizens. Citizens' participation is a requirement. The City of Sumter will satisfy this requirement by holding public meetings prior to preparing the upcoming Annual Action Plan. The schedule for these meetings is as follows:

- **Tuesday, September 23, 2025, 6:00pm, North Hope Center, 904 N. Main St.**
- **Tuesday, September 30, 2025, 6:00pm, South Hope Center, 1125 S. Lafayette Drive.**
- **Tuesday, October 7, 2025, 6:00pm, Birnie Hope Center, 210 S. Purdy St.**
- **Tuesday, October 14, 2025, 6:00pm, South Sumter Resource Center, 337 Manning Ave**
- **Public Hearing, On Tuesday, November 18, 2025, at 6:00 p.m., the City of Sumter will hold a Public Hearing in the City Council Chambers, located on the Fourth Floor of City Hall, 21 North Main Street, Sumter, SC.**

Citizens are invited to come out and participate in these community meetings in preparation of the City of Sumter, Community Development Department fiscal year budget process for the period April 1, 2026-March 31, 2027. Entry to all meeting places is handicapped accessible. Hearing impaired or deaf persons may call 774-1649 for assistance. People needing an interpreter may call the same number for assistance.

David Merchant
Mayor



The Item September 3, 2025

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

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David Merchant
Mayor





Date: September 23, 2025

Location: North Hope Center

Citizen Attendance: 3

Concerns and comments raised at the meeting were:

- Inquiry regarding funding for demolition projects was addressed.
- A homeowner on VanBuren Drive requested rehabilitation assistance; relevant information was provided.
- Citizens expressed appreciation for ongoing communication regarding available community programs and requested additional information on success stories associated with CDBG initiatives.

Date: September 30, 2025

Location: South Hope Center

Citizen Attendance: 7

Concerns and comments raised at the meeting were:

- Citizens inquired about the process for applying for sewer grants; information was provided.
- Residents reported sewer line blockages occurring during rainfall at the intersections of Bartlette, Washington, Salem, and Oakland Streets, and raised concerns regarding potential sinkhole development in the area.
- Questions were raised about responsibility for trash removal in cases where individuals are evicted or vacate a residence and leave belongings on the curb; the issue was addressed.
- Citizens expressed concerns about vacant and overgrown lots and requested clarification regarding procedures for addressing these properties after extended periods, as well as whether measures exist to hold property lienholders accountable for ongoing maintenance.
- A citizen requested information on available funding opportunities for architectural services, specifically for Union Station Church located at the corner of Manning Avenue.



Date: October 7, 2025

Location: Birnie Hope Center

Citizen Attendance: 12+

Concerns and comments raised at the meeting were:

- Citizens reported complaints regarding a sinkhole located at the intersection of Council and Salem Streets.
- Concerns were raised about inadequate street lighting in poorly illuminated areas along Cook and McCray's Mill Roads. Uneven pavement on Cook St.
- Complaints were received concerning insufficient grass cutting on South Street.
- Drainage issues on Lemon and McCormick streets.

Date: October 14, 2025

Location: South Sumter Resource Center

Citizen Attendance: 17

Concerns and comments raised at the meeting were:

- Citizens asked about the maximum funding amount available for housing rehabilitation.
- Inquiries were made regarding property eligibility for Historic Preservation designation.
- Concerns were noted about overgrown property on Belton Court posing health risks (mosquitoes, snakes, etc.).
- Issues were raised regarding the corner of Gates and Atlantic streets.
- Questions about how funding allocations are determined among community entities (e.g., United Ministries, HYPE, YMCA).
- Inquiry as to whether CDBG funds can support additional outreach programs.
- Request for programs that teach youth basic home repair skills, like the United Ministries Summer Restore Program.
- Citizens asked how communities can directly engage with HUD.
- Citizens requested clarification on allowable uses for Façade Grant funds for downtown businesses, including:
 - a) Installation of additional security cameras
 - b) Increased property rehabilitation funding
 - c) Support for community outreach such as feeding programs for the homeless, seniors, and the disabled
- Clarification sought concerning the definition of public facilities.



Date: October 21, 2025

Location: South Sumter Resource Center - (Southside Neighborhood Meeting)

Citizen Attendance: 15

Concerns and comments raised at the meeting were:

- The lot located opposite South Sumter Gym, which is owned by the City of Sumter, is proposed to be transformed into a community garden.
- Consider reallocating funds from the Façade Grant to support social programs, including initiatives for feeding the homeless, assisting individuals with disabilities, and aiding senior citizens.
- Explore potential solutions or plans to prevent vehicles from damaging residential water meters.
- Address the drainage issue at the airnasium, as rainwater currently has no proper outlet.



SUMTER UNITED MINISTRIES

rebuilding lives

City of Sumter
PO Box 1449
Sumter, SC 29150
Attention: Deron McCormick

October 29, 2025

Dear Deron,

On behalf of Sumter United Ministries, I am writing to request \$44,900 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for the April 2026 – March 2027 grant year.

The mission of our Construction Ministry is to ensure that homes in our community are safe, dry, secure, and accessible. Since 2010, we have been honored to partner with the City of Sumter, leveraging CDBG resources to improve living conditions and restore dignity and stability to our neighbors in need.

These funds are critical to our ability to coordinate volunteers and, when necessary, hire local contractors to complete essential home repairs. Our primary areas of focus include roof replacements, accessibility modifications (such as wheelchair ramps), and emergency home stabilization projects.

Currently, the cost of materials and labor continues to rise. A modest roof replacement now averages \$4,500, while a typical wheelchair ramp costs around \$1,500.

The impact of these funds extends far beyond the cost of materials—it represents hope, safety, and renewed independence for those we serve. For example:

- During our Summer Restore project, we built a wheelchair ramp for a 56-year-old woman who had recently undergone a leg amputation. Before the ramp was built, the only way for her to enter or leave her home was with the assistance of EMS. Now, she can come and go freely and safely on her own.
- We also replaced the roof of a 50-year-old woman's home during Summer Restore, ensuring she has a dry, secure place to live and protecting her home from further damage. When she first applied for assistance, she had recently been laid off, but by the time her roof was replaced, she had found part-time employment and was beginning to get back on her feet.

Each of these projects—and many others—are made possible through the continued support of the City of Sumter's CDBG funding. We are deeply grateful for the City's ongoing partnership and commitment to improving housing conditions for low-income residents. With the requested \$44,900, we will continue serving our neighbors with excellence, compassion, and accountability—transforming homes and lives throughout Sumter.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Please let me know if additional information or documentation is needed.

Mark Champagne
Executive Director

NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

10/23/2025

On or about November 15, 2025 the City of Sumter will submit a request to the HUD/Columbia Field Office for the release of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program funds under Title 1 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended. Activities being conducted as part of the Demolition, Economic Development/Historic Preservation, Housing Rehabilitation and Public Facilities/Drainage, Paving and Parks and Recreation projects for which the funds are being requested are described below.

The Housing Demolition Project is intended to demolish unsightly single family housing on scattered sites which have been condemned and deemed substandard for human occupancy. The Housing Rehabilitation Project is intended to provide grants to LMI citizens for housing repair on scattered sites. These projects will involve the rehabilitation of units and the demolition of single family housing units over the next year (2025–2026) on scattered sites throughout the City of Sumter, SC. Following the criteria of the Tiered Environmental Review Monitoring Strategy developed for these projects, activities covered under this Notice will be limited to activities on scattered sites. Project activities meeting the aforementioned criteria will be reviewed for compliance with applicable laws and authorities in accordance with the Strategy prior to committing funds (federal or non-federal) for the proposed activity. Project activities that do not meet Strategy criteria and receive HUD assistance will be reviewed separately. The total estimated cost for these projects is \$218,000: (Housing Rehabilitation - \$188,000, Housing Demolition - \$30,000.)

The activities proposed are categorically excluded under HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58 from National Environmental Policy Act requirements. An Environmental Review Record (ERR) that documents the environmental determinations for this project is on file at the office of Clarence Gaines, Community Development Director, 12 West Liberty Street (Suite 4), Sumter, SC. The ERR may be examined or copied weekdays from 8:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to the City Manager. All comments received by November 15, 2025 will be considered by City of Sumter prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds.

RELEASE OF FUNDS

City of Sumter certifies to HUD that Deron McCormick in his capacity as City Manager consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. HUD's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities, and allows the City of Sumter to use program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

HUD will accept objections to its release of funds and the City of Sumter's certification for a period of fifteen (15) days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the City of Sumter; (b) the City has omitted a step or failed to make a decision of finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58I (c) the grant recipient has committed funds or incurred costs not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by HUD; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality.

Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58) and shall be addressed to:

Mr. Bradley S. Evatt, Director
Community Planning and Development
US Department of Housing and Urban Development
Columbia Field Office
Strom Thurmond Federal Building
1835 Assembly Street
Columbia, SC 29201-2480
www.hud.gov
bradley_s.evatt@hud.gov

Potential objectors should contact HUD/Columbia Field Office at 803.765.5344 to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Deron McCormick, City Manager
Certifying Officer

The Sumter Item – November 4, 2025

NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS 10/30/2025

On or about November 15, 2025 the City of Sumter will submit a request to the HUD/Columbia Field Office for the release of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended. Activities being conducted as part of the Demolition, Economic Development/Historic Preservation, Housing Rehabilitation and Public Facilities/Drainage, Paving and Parks and Recreation projects for which the funds are being requested are described below.

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PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to the City Manager. All comments received by November 15, 2025 will be considered by City of Sumter prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds.

RELEASE OF FUNDS

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US Department of Housing and Urban Development Columbia Field Office
Strom Thurmond Federal Building 1835 Assembly Street
Columbia, SC 29201-2480 www.hud.gov bradley_s_evatt@hud.gov

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