



Board of Commissioners

PRESS RELEASE

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Lake County Commissioners Approve Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funds for the City of Willowick

PAINESVILLE, Ohio, April 18, 2024— Lake County Commissioners approved the use of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for the installation of a generator for the Willowick Senior Center and ADA Curb Ramp replacements for the Vine Street Corridor, both projects totaling \$249,500.00.

The purpose for the generator installation at the Willowick Senior Center is to support the seniors of the City of Willowick and adjacent areas with a safe space to congregate in the event of severe weather that would cause power losses to the surrounding grid. A generator would ensure the senior center would be able to maintain critical services as well as large space for congregation during severe weather or as a warming center during extreme cold. The center uses the kitchen daily to prepare approximately 150 meals for delivery and provides in-house lunches.

"This generator represents our commitment to the safety and well-being of our seniors. Utilizing funds for a generator at the senior center is more than a choice; it's a responsibility. We are ensuring that the center remains a beacon of community and care, even in periods of heightened vulnerability," said Commission President John T. Plecnik.

"The senior center is a vibrant core of a local community. By installing an essential generator, we're significantly enhancing the protection of our valued seniors. This project represents more than emergency preparedness; it embodies respect, security, and the dignity of our senior demographic," said Commissioner Richard J. Regovich.

The purpose of the Vine Street ADA Curb Ramp Project is to replace all curb ramps within the Vine Street Corridor so that they meet all requirements set forth by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) to ensure all individuals with a disability will have equal and fair access within this corridor.

"By dedicating funds to replace curbs and make them ADA compliant, we're not just improving our infrastructure; we're enhancing the quality of life for people with disabilities. It's about creating a shared community that everyone can call home, with pride and without barriers," said Commissioner John R. Hamercheck.

The CDBG program provides federal funding to help local communities address priority projects and lay the groundwork for stronger, more resilient neighborhoods. Michael J. Vanni, Mayor of the City of Willowick added, "Both of these important projects will allow for an upgrade and improvement of the City's existing infrastructure, which will greatly benefit our residents. Again, we are truly grateful for the generous funding and continued support to the City of Willowick."

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