As part of the development of the FY 2021 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application, the City, acting through its Department of Community Development and Planning, will conduct a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, October 14th at 2:00 PM**. The hearing will be held remotely via a Zoom virtual teleconference web meeting. The purpose of the hearing is to solicit public input regarding unmet needs in the City by updating the Community Development Strategy (CDS) and the use of CDBG funding for the period of July 1, 2021 to December 31, 2022. The CDS is a planning document that serves as a road map for what needs to be done in the City and how the City proposes to meet those needs. Some of those needs may be met through the CDBG allocation. In general, CDBG eligible projects must benefit low- to moderate-income individuals or address slum and blight. The City will be applying for an amount currently estimated to be $825,000.

Eligible uses of CDBG funding include, but are not limited to:
- Land and building acquisition and disposition
- Public facility improvements such as parks and streets
- Clearance and demolition activities
- Public services
- Removal of architectural barriers (handicapped accessibility)
- Code enforcement
- Historic preservation
- Planning and program administration
- Building and housing rehabilitation

A review of previously funded or proposed CDBG projects (FY18, FY19, and FY20) will also take place.

Questions or comments regarding the use of CDBG funding may be sent by e-mail to jelgros@gardner-ma.gov or mailed to Jeff Legros, Assistant Director, Manca Annex, 115 Pleasant Street, Room 202, Gardner, MA 01440. All comments received by the close of the public hearing will be considered by the City of Gardner.

To request an access link or dial-in number to the Zoom Meeting please call or email the Assistant Director, at: 978-630-4011, ext. 1; jelgros@gardner-ma.gov. Instructions on how to access the meeting using the Zoom application, a web browser, or telephone will be provided to all those who request it.

For more information or further assistance, or for persons who may require other accommodations such as, translation into other languages, or speech translation for persons with impaired hearing please contact Jeff Legros, Assistant Director at 978-630-4011, ext. 1. Every effort will be made to provide reasonable accommodations with prior notice of at least 3-days.