

*Welcome! Please sign-in. We will be starting shortly!*



# CDBG & CHIP Grant Program Opportunities

*Funding Opportunities for Wooster's Future  
In Partnership With Fellow Communities*

---

**SECOND ANNUAL PUBLIC COMBINED HEARING 2026**  
**CDBG and CHIP Program**  
**Monday, May 4, 2026 (6:30 PM)**

*We will offer an overview of the Allocation Grant the City is proposing, a recap of CDBG program in general, and welcome comments. Note: Question Comments are **WELCOME** at any time during the presentation*

Presented by: City of Wooster

Wooster City Hall – Council Chambers, 538 N. Market Street, Wooster, Ohio, 44691

# About Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) – Funding



- **ALLOCATION Grant: \$150,000** for Demand-Response Transportation Services for Elderly Residents (including any disabled resident).
  - Continues expanded service and discount for elderly/disabled residents (60% of riders -National objective: limited clientele)



## *Other Opportunities . . .*

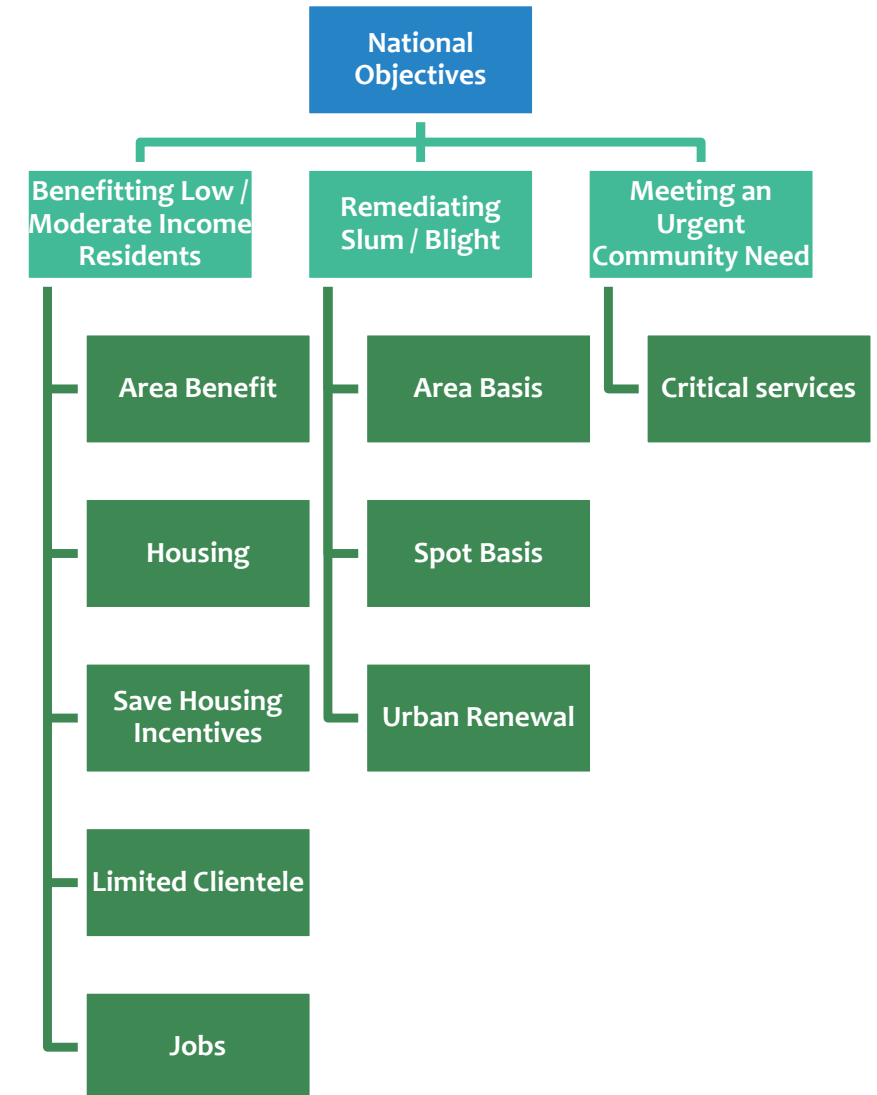
- **FLEX GRANT: \$200,000 to \$250,000** for public services & Downtown Buildings
  - Funds expansion of public services to address a critical need (Homelessness, Mental Health, etc.). May include facility expansion, or launch of a new service where there is a post-grant funding strategy.
- **CRITICAL: \$3000,000 to 500,000** for Vine St. Waterline Replacement
  - Opportunity to fund undersized waterline replacement along Vine Street. Requires an income survey (not presently qualified).

# CDBG Recap - *The PURPOSE of the CDBG Grants*



CDBG Grants are provided to achieve special goals, called “**national objectives**”. In summary, these are:

- 1. Activities that benefit low-moderate income persons**
- 2. Actions to remediate slum and blight**
- 3. Funding other urgent community needs**





# Low-to-Moderate Income: $\leq 80\%$ of Area Median Income

- Most CDBG projects focus on benefitting Low-to-Moderate Income, or **LMI**, households
  - May include services, such as healthcare, for *income-qualified* persons
  - May include new waterlines in an LMI-majority neighborhood
- What does LMI mean in 2026/27?: Households earning  $<80\%$  of Wayne County's median income of \$89,100 (a 1% drop from the year prior).

## Wayne County 2026 Low-to-Moderate Income Definition:

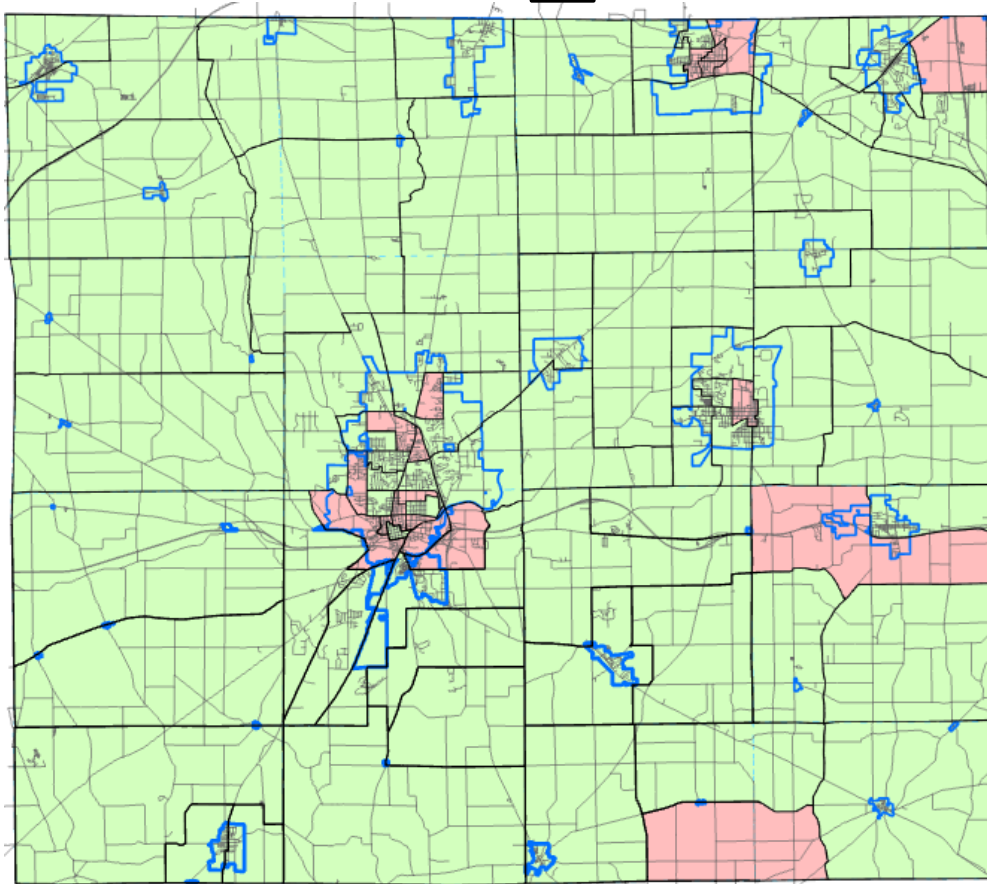
Household Size:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Very Low (50%) Income Limits	31,200	35,650	40,100	<b>44,550</b>	48,150	51,700	55,250	58,850
Extremely Low Income Limits	18,750	21,640	27,320	<b>33,000</b>	38,680	44,360	50,040	55,720
Low (80%) Income Limits	49,950	57,050	64,200	<b>71,300</b>	77,050	82,750	88,450	94,150

# About Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) – LMI Areas

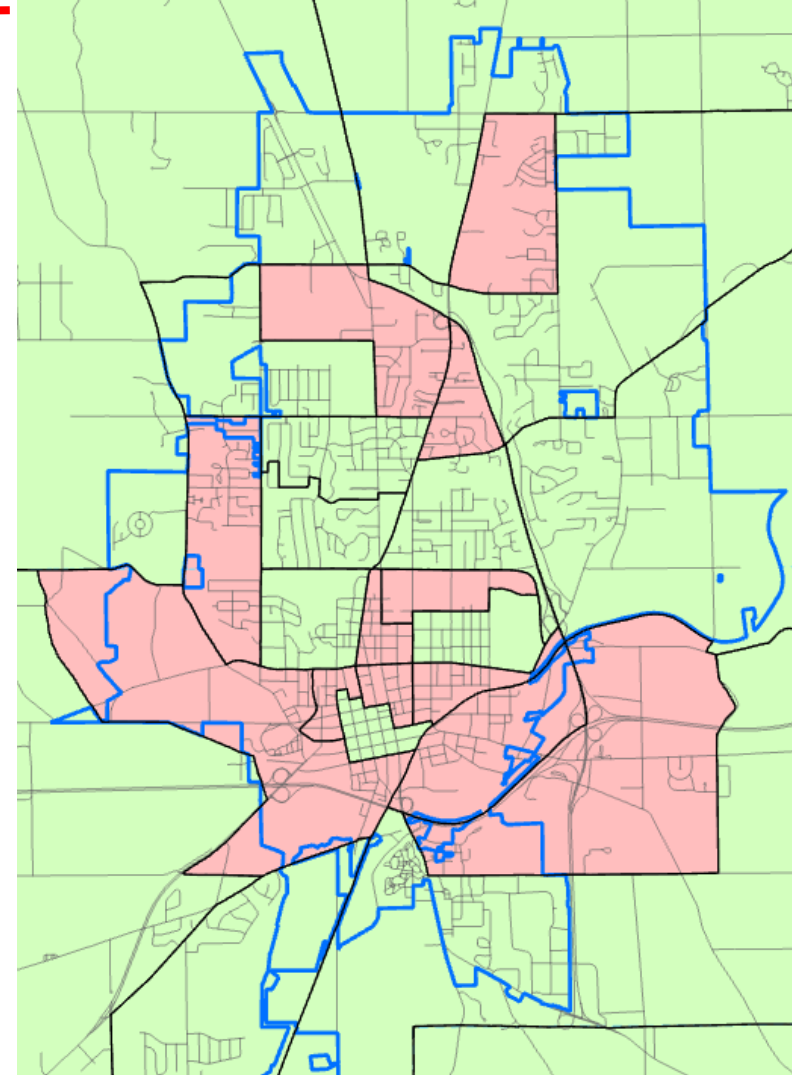


Last Study, Wooster's overall LMI percentage increased from **45.30%** to **47.50%**.

**Map Key:** = LMI 



*LMI areas are defined by Census Block Groups. Beyond this, the City may also survey specific project areas (this requires a door-to-door income survey)*



# Allocation Grant Proposal

## Continue Funding Elderly/Disabled Transit



- Wooster utilized CDBG Allocation funds to launch a new public transportation system in 2025. The project replaced an antiquated reimbursement-based taxi service with a true accessible public transportation program. **Continuing this for the 2026 Program Year will help ensure continued access.**



*CDBG funds a PORTION of the system's cost to provide point-to-point services for elderly and disabled clients, enabling the City to provide more service hours. The system is boosted with support from transportation funds and user fees. The City will **MATCH** funding for this project.*

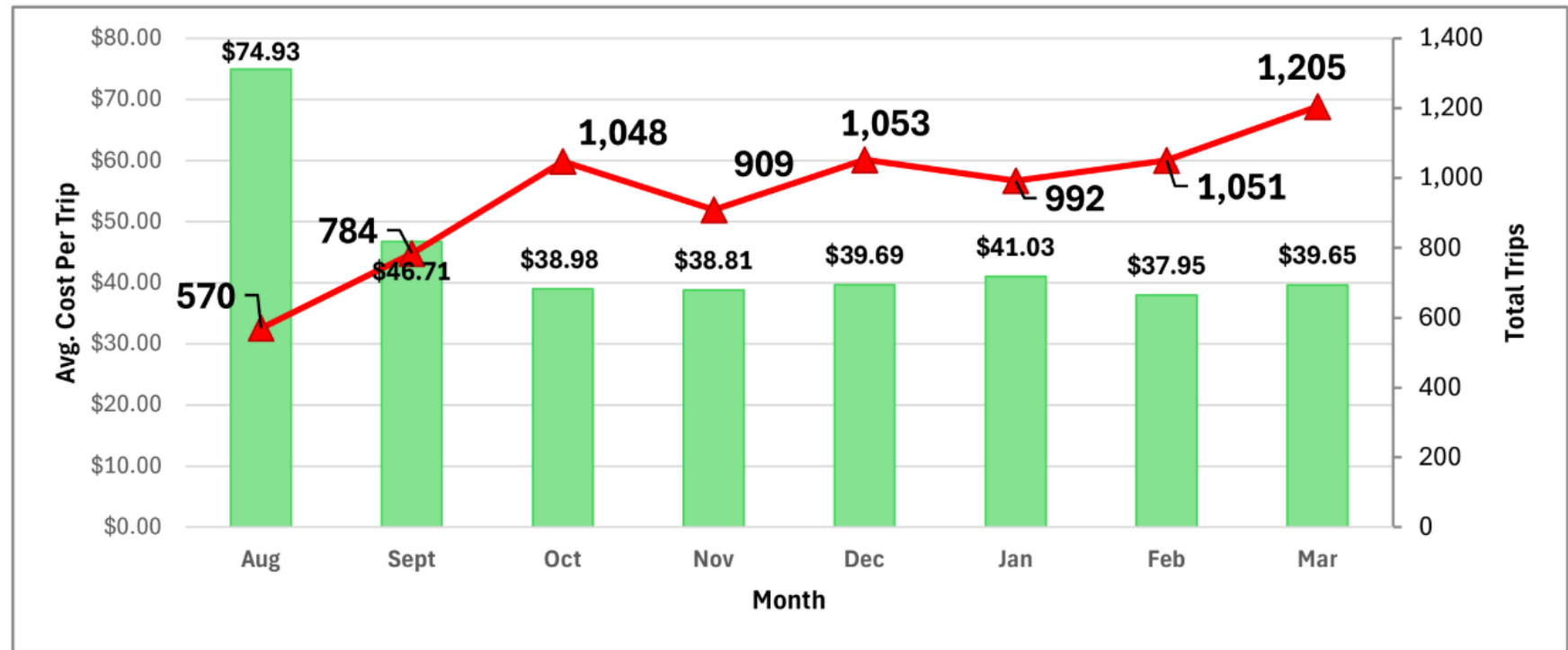
# How WAYGO Is Improving Access

## *Increasing efficiency and ridership*



DEMAND-RESPONSE is the portion of Wooster Transit's point-to-point service, picking residents up at their Wooster residence and taking them to a destination within 3-miles of City limits or the Wayne County Schools Career Center, and vice-versa:  
 \$5 per ride one-way  
 \$3 per ride if senior or disabled.

**SUMMARY OF DEMAND RESPONSE SERVICE IMPACTS WITH CDBG**



**NOTE: Performance for full Demand-Response Program since start >>>**

	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	8-mo. Total
<b>All PTrips:</b>	570	784	1,048	909	1,053	992	1,051	1,205	7,612
<b>All PTrip Miles:</b>	1,650	2,183	2,961	2,432	2,670	2,644	2,708	3,230	20,478
<b>All PTrip Mile Avg:</b>	2.894	2.785	2.825	2.675	2.536	2.665	2.577	2.680	2.690
<b>All PTrip Avg. Cost:</b>	\$74.93	\$46.71	\$38.98	\$38.81	\$39.69	\$41.03	\$37.95	\$39.65	<b>\$42.78</b>

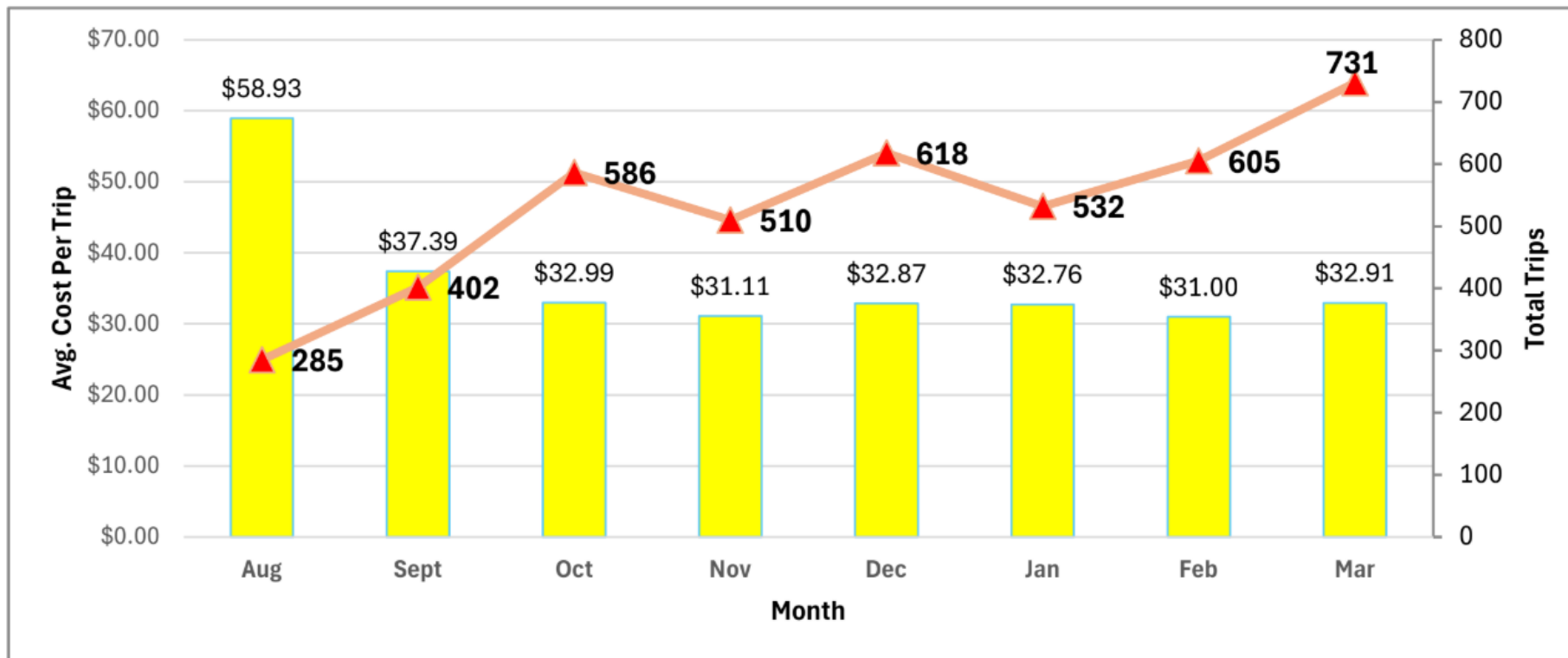
# How WAYGO Is Improving Access

## *Increasing efficiency and ridership*



<b>CDBG PTrips:</b>	285	402	586	510	618	532	605	731	4,269
<b>CDBG PTrip Miles:</b>	684	1,053	1,577	1,244	1,449	1,278	1,441	1,839	10,565
<b>CDBG PTrip Mile Avg:</b>	2.400	2.619	2.691	2.440	2.344	2.403	2.382	2.516	2.475
<b>CDBG PTrip Avg Cost:</b>	\$58.93	\$37.39	\$32.99	\$31.11	\$32.87	\$32.76	\$31.00	\$32.91	<b>\$34.57</b>
<b>CDBG Share of Total:</b>	50.0%	51.3%	55.9%	56.1%	58.7%	53.6%	57.6%	60.7%	56.1%

Senior/Disabled Ridership continues to grow on the system. By far, the majority of eligible riders are seniors. **Because of this**, the grant is to provide for a SERVICE TO SENIORS, even though it is **also** a service to those with **disabilities**, and also a **transportation service**.



*<<< Note cost per mile. **60%** of all trips are for CDBG-eligible riders.*



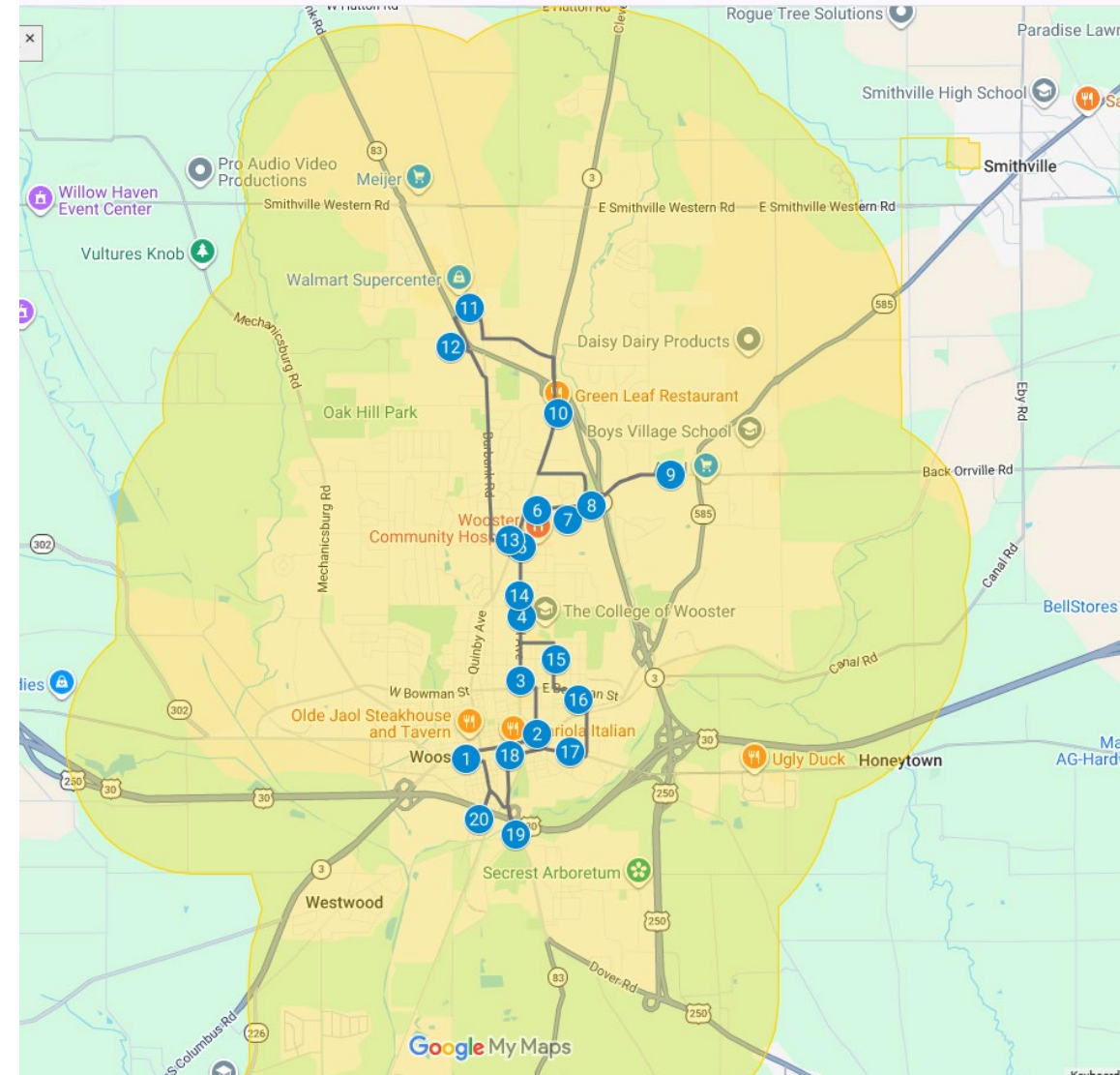
# More on WAYGO and CDBG's Impact

## An effective program supporting residents

The Demand-Response allows users to access rides via online, an app, or a phone call. Scheduling rides 24 hours in advance is recommended.

- Demand-Response offers pick-up from Wooster resident's address to any destination highlighted in yellow.
  - \$3 per ride, one-way. (\$6 roundtrip)
- Demand-Response elderly/disabled riders also have free unlimited access to the Wooster Fixed-Route service.
- Learn More: [www.woosteroh.com/waygo](http://www.woosteroh.com/waygo)

*Demand-Response Service Area >>>*



# Other Opportunities

## *Flex & Competitive Grants*

---



- **CHIP GRANT:** \$1,050,000 to provide **home repair and rehabilitation grants** for Wayne County households has been FUNDED. Grants to homeowners typically range from **\$7,000** to **\$55,000** depending on the project.
  - Learn more at: [www.woosteroh.com/chip](http://www.woosteroh.com/chip) (See Brochure)
- **Critical Infrastructure:** Up to \$500,000
  - Staff explored an opportunity to fund a waterline replacement along Vine Street and Grant Street. A door-to-door income survey that ran from April 9<sup>th</sup> through the 28<sup>th</sup> did **not** provide the results required to *qualify* the project.
- **Flex Grant:** Up to \$250,000
  - Funds expansion of public services to address a critical need (Homelessness, Mental Health, etc.). May include facility expansion, or launch of a new service where there is a post-grant funding strategy.

# CDBG Fair Housing *City Program:*

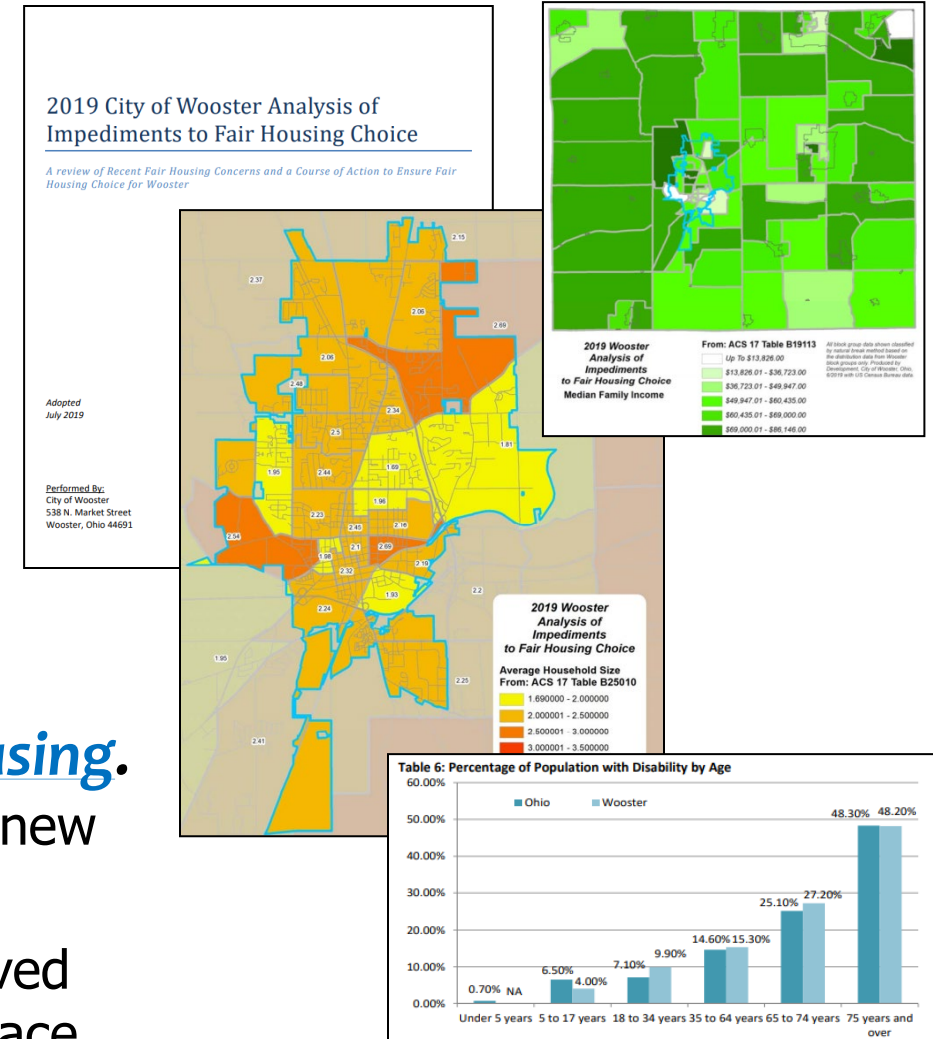


Laws protecting people from discrimination against **race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status, disability, ancestry, or military status** is an essential consumer protection.

Wooster Receives around **30 calls** annually, vast majority are not fair-housing related, but our office attempts to share applicable housing resources.

See our local AI online at: [www.woosteroh.com/fair-housing](http://www.woosteroh.com/fair-housing).

- **Good News - Many fair-housing related calls** are from new landlords seeking best practices to be compliant.
- **1 to 2** complaints annually - Most common complaints involved **Disabled** persons, then familial status (children), sex, and race.



# When a Problem Arises

## Being Prepared



- Those who feel they are being treated unfairly should take the following steps to protect themselves:
  - Keep a record of any meetings and phone calls with landlords, property managers, real estate agents, loan officers, or insurance agents.
  - Write down what happened and what was said by all participants. Save all receipts, applications, leases, business cards, brochures, or other documents that were given.
  - Call the City of Wooster Fair Housing Program at:

**330.263.5200 Ext. 300**

*If calling about a housing concern outside of City Limits, please call 1.800.581.3247 for the Wayne County Fair Housing Program to receive information on specific help available in your community*

*Contact us at:  
330.263.5200 Ext. 300  
Heather Sipple  
Fair Housing Specialist*



*The City of Wooster has teamed up with the fair housing experts at Community Action Wayne/Medina to help answer your questions!*

# Path Forward

## Next Steps

---



- *Pending public comment: **May 18, 2026 7:00pm**: Council Mtg. for Allocation Grant approval, Application Filing May 22<sup>nd</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup>, or later. (Deadline is June 10<sup>th</sup>).*
- *Additional Opportunities: Should the opportunity arise, the City would hold a **second public hearing** and also **formal Council meeting** if making an additional application, such as a Critical Infrastructure Grant for Vine Street or a Flex Grant (at any time of the year) for a new public service.*
- Environmental Review Certifications
- September - December: Grants authorized
- January 2027 through Aug 2029: Grant Period
- For Additional Information, please visit: [www.development.ohio.gov](http://www.development.ohio.gov) or Call: 330.263.5250



# Final Comments:

## Thoughts, Questions, Feedback?

---



- We welcome Public Feedback on our proposed application to renew CDBG funding for **elderly services** to provide continued **WAYGO Demand-Response service hours and discounts.**

*Public Comment allows the City to direct its time and resources toward the most impactful programs supporting the needs of our residents.*

# Thank you!



- Questions / Comments on ...
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Public Hearing for all projects
    - **CHIP Hearing for all partners**
    - **Additional?**
  - Past CDBG Application(s)
  - Future Opportunities

## ***THANK YOU!***

Presented by: The City of Wooster

CDBG Contact: Jonathan Millea – 330.263.5250

*A past CDBG Project - Repairing Broken Sidewalks>>*

