

Summary

Notice is given by the City of Springfield that is amending its 2019 Annual Action Plan to allocate the remainder of the CDBG COVID-19 supplemental funding. The City's Office of Planning and Economic Development (OPED) intends to submit this amendment for \$776,510.00 in Community Development Block Grant CV (CDBG-CV3 Part A) funds after June 15th, 2021. As part of the planning process, the City is seeking public input on the proposed use of these funds. The following is a summary and draft language that amends the 2019 Annual Action Plan.

Background:

On March 27, 2020, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), Public Law 116-136, was signed, providing additional CDBG funds to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19 and the economic and housing impacts caused by this unprecedented crisis.

The City of Springfield's 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan details the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding strategy and HOME Investment Partnership program for the period between program years 2015 and 2019. The Annual Action Plan details each year within the 5-year Consolidated Plan and outlines the implementation of annual funding. Each plan is developed through public input, analyses, and planning.

Due to COVID-19, the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) issued guidance waving the Citizen Participation Plan requirements for entitlement recipients, provided (1) no fewer than five days are provided for public comment and (2) reasonable notice, and the opportunity to comment is given.

Additionally, HUD awarded supplemental funding through the CARES Act that requires programming in the 2019-2020 Annual Action Plan. Substantial amendments are necessary to program the supplemental appropriation and reallocate FY 2019-2020 CDBG funds for additional opportunities to respond to COVID-19. The City previously amended its Annual Action Plan to allocate \$799,156 of COVID-19 funding (summarized below). This amendment will make a small revision to the original budget and allocate the remainder of the funds.

The City is seeking comments on the proposed use of CDBG funds for COVID-19 mitigation purposes. The City will consider all comments received **before 5:30 PM on June 15, 2021**, before submitting the proposal to HUD. The City will continue to accept comments from the public after its submittal and use public comments to guide and inform possible future amendments. **The preferred method for submitting comments is to send them via email to:** info.OPED@springfield.il.us

The City will hold a number of two public hearings to gather comments on the proposed use of funds, including: The City will hold a number of public hearings to gather comments on the proposed use of funds, including:

Thursday, June 10, 2021 at 3:00 - 4:30 P.M.

In-Person @ Municipal Center West City Council Chambers 300 S. 7th Street, 3rd Floor

Or Register to Join Virtually

- <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEtd2urzloG9QifO7zT7nt4BWgsiZvwnef>

Tuesday June 15, 2021 at 5:30 P.M. City Council Meeting

In-Person @ Municipal Center West, City Council Chambers 300 S. 7th Street, 3rd Floor

Sign-up to speak at any of the above meetings by emailing

Feedback@Springfield.il.us one hour before the start of each meeting or call 217.789.2377. Written comments may also be accepted via email to feedback@springfield.il.us.

Narrative

The outbreak of COVID-19 and the resulting response has had an unprecedented effect on the City's economy and employment. In order to utilize additional funding provided by HUD to respond to the coronavirus pandemic, the City will make the following changes to its 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan and 2019 Annual Action Plan.

Adding COVID-19 Emergency as a Priority Need

Given the broad range of needs and the limited amount of resources available, the City can only meet a portion of the needs within the community. For the purpose the Consolidated Plan, the needs identified as "high priority" are those that the City plans on addressing with available federal funds. The City of Springfield will add "COVID Emergency" as a High Priority Need.

Adding COVID Response as a Goal

The City of Springfield added "COVID Response" as a goal to its current Consolidated Plan and PY2019 Annual Action Plan. All of the proposed projects described below address this new goal.

COVID Funding Allocations

These projects were determined in consultation with City staff, departments, and stakeholders serving low- and moderate-income residents of Springfield to identify critical needs resulting from COVID-19 within the City. The City of Springfield will allocate the \$776,510.00 CDBG-CV Award and \$50,000 of the 2019 Annual Plan CDBG Funding to the following uses more fully described in the following pages.

Substantial Amendment 2 for COVID Response

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1	Project Name	COVID-19 Business Assistance
	Target Area	Downtown Central Business District - LMI Census Tract 14
	Goals Supported	COVID Response
	Needs Addressed	COVID Impact
	Funding	CDBG CARES Act Round I: \$200,000 CDBG CARES Act Round II: \$200,000
	Description	Due to the impacts on businesses due to social distancing requirements caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, it has become apparent that a return to “business as usual” for businesses cannot happen at this time and residents are less able to enjoy downtown urban areas. In order to encourage Springfield residents to be downtown in a safe manner in accordance with Federal and state guidance, CDBG funds will be used to support the Downtown Central Business District impacted by the COVID emergency through economic assistance that can be used for Parklets and other amenities to increase social distance capacities. Financing will be provided through forgivable grants to small businesses in order to stay in operation and address the economic impacts caused by the COVID-19 outbreak. A maximum of up to \$10,000 will be provided as a forgivable grant to businesses. Each assisted business must demonstrate compliance with a CDBG LMI national objective.
	Target Date	August 30, 2022
	Goal	Up to \$10,000 per business, the City will be able to assist 20 businesses through the Round II forgivable grant.
	Location	Downtown Central Business District – LMI Census Tracts
	Planned Activities	Eligible Activities: ED Direct Financial Assistance (570.203(b)); ED Technical Assistance (570.203(c)) and Microenterprise (570.201(o)) National Objectives will be dependent on each specific business assisted: Low Mod Clientele (for microenterprises only); Low Mod Jobs; and Low Mod Area

5	Project Name	COVID-19 Public Services/Facilities
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	COVID Response
	Needs Addressed	COVID Emergency
	Funding	CDBG-CV Round I: \$49,156 CDBG-CV Round II: \$76,000
	Description	CDBG-CV funds will be used to expand and improve public services for youth in a manner that reduces the risk of COVID 19. Outdoor opportunities will be provided in public parks in low mod areas. It is expected funds will be used for public services. If necessary, some of these funds may be used to make small improvements to existing facilities to reduce the risk of COVID.
	Target Date	June 30, 2022
	Goal	200 Persons
	Location	Low-Mod Census Tract(s)
	Planned Activities	Youth Services (05D) – 570.201(e) Low-Mod Clientele (LMC) 570.208(a)(2)

6	Project Name	COVID-19 Compass for Kids Program
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	COVID Response
	Needs Addressed	COVID Emergency
	Funding	CDBG- CV Round 1: \$ 50,000 (reallocation) CDBG-CV Round II: \$510
	Description	CDBG-CV funds will be used to support the Compass for Kids Program to bolster their program designed for low income children and families recovering from the COVID-19.
	Target Date	August 30, 2021
	Goal	500 Persons
	Location	Citywide
	Planned Activities	Low-Mod Clientele (LMC) 570.208(a)(2)

7	Project Name	COVID-19 Job Training
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	COVID Response
	Needs Addressed	COVID Emergency
	Funding	CDBG-CV Round II: \$75,000
	Description	As an MC3 certified entity, the funds will support BONE Training Institute to provide Multi-Craft Core (MC3) training to those that are unemployed or underemployed. This project will be undertaken as part of the Housing Redevelopment project described above.
	Target Date	October 31, 2022
	Goal	The 5 month training program will provide 20 individuals classroom and onsite job skills training through renovating houses.
	Location	BONE Training Institute 1122 South Grand Ave east Springfield, IL 62701
	Planned Activities	Job Training (05H) – 570.201(e) Low-Mod Clientele (LMC) 570.208(a)(2)

8	Project Name	COVID-19 Housing Redevelopment
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	COVID Response
	Needs Addressed	COVID Emergency
	Funding	CDBG-CV: \$325,000
	Description	CDBG-CV funds will be provided to purchase and rehabilitate dilapidated housing to convert to affordable housing opportunities for rental or homeownership. Rental properties must be part of a supportive housing initiative.
	Target Date	October 31, 2022
	Goal	2-4 Housing Units.
	Location	To Be Determined
		Housing Rehabilitation (14A) – 570.202 Low-Mod Housing (LMH) 570.208 (a)(3)

9	Project Name	COVID-19 Homeless Outreach
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	COVID Response
	Needs Addressed	COVID Emergency
	Funding	CDBG-CV Round II: \$100,000
	Description	CDBG-CV – funds will be used to conduct street outreach and provide supportive services to homeless populations adversely affected by COVID-19.
	Target Date	December 31, 2022
	Goal	125  Persons
	Location	Citywide
	Planned Activities	Homeless Services (03T) – 570.201(e) Low-Mod Clientele (LMC) 570.208(a)(2)