

SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT TO THE CITY OF ROCHESTER'S CONSOLIDATED COMMUNITY/2019-20
ANNUAL ACTION PLAN FOR RECEIPT AND USE OF FEDERAL CARES ACT FUNDING

MAY 1, 2020

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act was passed by Congress and signed into law on March 27, 2020. The purpose of this over \$2 trillion economic relief package is to protect people from the public health and economic impacts of COVID-19.

The CARES Act provides fast and direct economic assistance for American workers, families, and small businesses, and preserves jobs for our American industries.

The City of Rochester was allocated \$4,881,038 in Community Development Block Grant-Coronavirus (CDBG-CV) funds, \$2,444,707 in Emergency Solutions Grants-Coronavirus (ESG-CV) funds, and \$142,029 in Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS-Coronavirus (HOPWA-CV) funds. Funds may be used for activities that prevent, prepare for, and respond to the spread of infectious diseases such as coronavirus. Funds may be used to mitigate economic impacts caused by COVID19.

There is a shortened public comment period for the plan to use these funds. We may publish a plan for public comment for 5 days instead of the usual 30 day public comment period.

There is no public service cap for the CDBG-CV funds and the funds from this grant are not to be used to cover expenses that would otherwise be covered by other sources.

At this time, the number to be served using these funding sources is still being developed.

According to the CARES Act, funds are made available for expenses regardless of the date on which costs were incurred.

HUD has granted the ability to utilize waivers to allow for greater flexibility of use for CARES Act funding as well as 2019-20 and 2020-21 funding. The City of Rochester will utilize waivers as appropriate to best use funds to respond to this crisis and to help to mitigate economic impacts caused by COVID19.

This draft plan is the result of City staff working with our partner community agencies to identify the most impactful activities and best use of these funds.

1. We worked to gather information from City Departments and our partner agencies to identify needs in the community for which these funds can be used. We are looking at needs such as small business assistance, eviction prevention through rent and legal assistance, digital divide, emergency housing repairs, and potential public infrastructure expenses. We also identified with these partners, the needs for best use of ESG-CV and HOPWA-CV funds. We compared these to allowable activities to finalize the draft plan.
2. We engaged HUD to gather further guidance on the use of these funds, the method by which we will apply to HUD and other technical issues. We are also awaiting the publishing of the Federal Register that will give more details on the above.

The City worked to have all plans ready to go so that once we have HUD approval for spending, funds are out in the community as soon as possible.

Community Development Block Grant CARES Act Funding (CDBG-CV): \$4,881,038

Activity	Allocated Funding	Description
Economic Development		
Small Business Emergency Retention Grants	\$1,500,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funds for daily operations (rent, payroll, utilities, insurance and similar uses). • Grant funds provided upfront following application/review to business owners who provide unpaid bills (certify funding will be utilized for related expenses) and not having sufficient revenue to pay due to the COVID 19 Crisis and poor economic conditions. • Retention only requirement with no job creation. • Funding to focus on low mod areas or seek waiver.
Assistance for Food Establishments	\$300,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grants to incentivize restaurants to prepare meals for residents. • If we are unable to develop a program that meets the CDBG requirements these funds will be added to the Small Business Emergency Retention Grant Program.
Housing		
Eviction Prevention	\$900,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rent assistance to residents up to 80% AMI.
Eviction Prevention	\$125,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal Assistance.
Homeless Prevention	\$60,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing Council (intake, referrals).
Aging in Place	\$20,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food acquisition and distribution for elderly homeowners affected by the pandemic. Lifespan will acquire perishable and non-perishable goods for low income, elderly homeowners as well as distribute the goods to this vulnerable portion of our community.
Foreclosure Prevention	\$75,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Counseling, negotiation, and advocacy for households affected by the pandemic. The Housing Council's services include the review of households' financial circumstances and negotiation with lenders to resolve mortgage arrears. The Empire Justice Center will provide legal advice and litigation services when required by analysis of clients' circumstances.
Landlord Rehab Grant Program	\$300,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funds will be used to prepare vacant units for affordable housing rental
EARP	\$100,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To address anticipated increased need for emergency assistance grants.
DRYS		
Digital Divide	\$721,038	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It has long been identified that there is an equity issue regarding access to technology that disproportionately impacts City residents. The COVID-19 crisis has compounded that problem. • There is an opportunity to create a public-private partnership to reduce this issue for as many families as possible. Any public dollars made available will help leverage private dollars. • Through this city-wide initiative, between 2,000 and 3,000 Rochester City School District students grade 5 and under will be provided required technology to access distance learning curriculum.

DES		
COVID-19 Contingency Infrastructure	\$300,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contingency funds to support the necessary buildout of additional space for Covid-19 needs. If not needed within 30 days of plan adoption it would be added to the digital divide effort.
Admin		
Administrative Charge	\$480,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased staffing demand.
Total	\$4,881,038	

Emergency Solutions Grants CARES Act Funding (ESG-CV): \$2,444,707

Activity	Allocated Funding	Description
Homelessness Prevention	\$1,125,036	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support persons at risk of homelessness through the provision of rental assistance, rental arrears, and cash security deposits, and provide support to agencies coordinating those efforts to expand capacity to meet large increase in demand.
Emergency Shelter Operations	\$611,177	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Help keep homeless persons and staff safe, and provide case management to homeless persons moved to hotels. Funding; staff, hazard pay, training, cleaning supplies and PPE, operations.
Coordinated Entry	\$122,236	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide funding to support CE as needed, and to help expand housing navigation services. CE staff and navigators recruit landlords and educate public about population and resources, and provide households with housing search support. Funding; staff, hazard pay, training, landlord outreach and recruitment, housing navigation.
Rapid Re-housing	\$171,129	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same provisions as HP but for homeless persons (HP for “at-risk” population) RRH program requirement that participants meet with case manager not less than once per month – not required for two months (until June 2, 2020); RRH requirement that tenant based rental assistance be capped at Fair Market Rent (FMR) – cap removed for family/individual that executes lease for a unit during 6-month period starting April 2, 2020.
Street Outreach	\$171,129	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fund outreach to street homeless and to provide support for homeless persons moved from shelters to off-site temporary locations. Funding; staff, hazard pay, support services, training, supplies.
Administrative Charge	\$244,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased staffing demand.

Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS CARES Act Funding (HOPWA-CV): \$142,029

Activity	Allocated Funding Total	Description
Long Term Tenant Based Rental Assistance	\$28,410	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct assistance to eligible households who need help paying their rent. These activities are designed to assist households with financial assistance under this category of program support. Longer term support (6-18 months).
Short Term Rent, Mortgage, Utilities	\$92,314	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct Payments for Housing Assistance. Help prevent homelessness for households at severe risk of displacement, through short-term assistance. These activities are designed to assist households with financial assistance under this category of Program support. This time-limited housing subsidy provides short-term payment of rental costs, mortgage payments, or utilities; designed to prevent homelessness and increase housing stability. • Provide lodging at hotels, motels, or other locations to quarantine HOPWA-eligible persons or their household members;
Permanent Housing	\$21,305	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supportive Services. Provides stable housing and services to help households with long-term housing support through tenant-based rental assistance. These activities are designed to assist households with financial assistance under this category of Program support. This may include: security deposits/first month rent, credit checks, one time utility hook ups, and eligibility screenings for tenancy, housing case management/ advocacy/coordination of benefits, outreach and transportation • Educate assisted households on ways to reduce the risk of getting sick or spreading infectious diseases such as COVID-19 to others; • Provide transportation services for eligible households, including costs for privately owned vehicle transportation when needed, to access medical care, supplies, and food or to commute to places of employment; • Provide nutrition services for eligible households in the form of food banks, groceries, and meal deliveries; • Assist household in accessing essential services and supplies such as food, water, medications, medical care, and information

2019-20 Citizen Participation Plan Amendment

The City is amending the 2019-20 Participation Plan to ensure adequate engagement and involvement of the public in making decisions related to the 2019-20 Annual Action Plan and associated HUD funding and programs. The Citizen Participation Plan (CP Plan) is amended as a result of changes due to the CARES Act and to reflect recent HUD guidance. This document details how the City will engage residents and stakeholders in the development of planning documents required by HUD for its programs.

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act was signed into law on March 27th, 2020. As a result of the CARES Act, the City of Rochester has been approved for apply for the funds from for HUD community development formula grant programs for the 2019-20 program year, necessitating a Substantial Amendment to the 2019-20 Consolidated Community Plan/Annual Action Plan, as follows:

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG-CV)	\$4,881,038
Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG-CV)	\$2,444,707
Housing Opportunities for Persons with Aids (HOPWA-CV)	\$ 142,029

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, Mayor Lovely A. Warren has declared a State of Emergency for the City of Rochester and Governor Andrew M. Cuomo has issued a stay-at-home order for New York State residents. Therefore, the public's participation in the Public Hearing on the Substantial Amendment to the 2019-20 Consolidated Community Plan/Annual Action Plan will be conducted as follows:

- (1) On Friday May 1, 2020, the draft of the Substantial Amendment to the 2019-20 Consolidated Community Plan/Annual Action Plan proposed for Council approval will be posted on-line through the project webpage: <https://www.cityofrochester.gov/conplan>
- (2) A link to the Public Notice and Amended Annual Action Plan documents will be emailed to a list of over 400 local stakeholders, including staff of community organizations and agencies, neighborhood and business association leaders, and Rochester residents on Friday, May 1, 2020.
- (3) The public comment period shall be from May 1, 2020 through 5:00pm on May 6, 2020.
- (4) The City Council Public Hearing on these documents will be held on or after 5pm May 7, 2020, and can be streamed live on the Council's Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/RochesterCityCouncil/> or YouTube Page https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_U7nbtS5kEz4bjEM8AGXIQ?view_as=subscriber .
- (5) Individuals who would like to submit comments for the Public Hearing should email them directly to Amy Ventura, CDBG Coordinator, at Amy.Ventura@CityofRochester.gov or via U.S. Postal Service to her attention at c/o CARES Act Action Plan Amendment, City Hall Room 224B, 30 Church Street, Rochester, NY 14614. In order for a comment to be presented at the on-line public hearing, it must be received no later than 5:00pm on Wednesday, May 6, 2020 and be prefaced by the name and address of the commenting individual or organization. Each email

comment shall also be prefaced with the topic "2019-20 Amended Annual Action Plan" in the subject line.

- (6) Each comment submitted in the above manner and received by Amy Ventura no later than 5:00pm on May 6, 2020 will be read into the record for up to 3 minutes of time on the live cast of the Public Hearing. In addition, the full text of the comment will be shared with the Council in advance of the Public Hearing.