

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

November 16, 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. 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.

The City of Rochester was previously allocated \$4,881,038 in Community Development Block Grant-Coronavirus (CDBG-CV) funds, \$5,303,335 in Emergency Solutions Grants-Coronavirus (ESG-CV) funds, and \$142,029 in Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS-Coronavirus (HOPWA-CV) funds. The City of Rochester was allocated \$2,371,177 in the third round of Community Development Block Grant-Coronavirus (CDBG-CV) funds.

This proposed amendment presents a plan to spend \$1,424,700 of \$2,371,177 of funds allocated to the City of Rochester through the third round of CARES Act CDBG-CV funding. An additional amendment will be developed and proposed once the City has determined the most impactful ways in which to leverage the remaining funds.

The CARES Act adds additional flexibility opportunities for the grant funds. The public comment period is shortened from 30 days to no less than 5 days use these funds. Subsequently, the City of Rochester will publish the plan for public comment for 5 days. There is no public service cap for the CDBG-CV funds, grantees may reimburse costs of eligible activities incurred for pandemic response regardless of the date, and the funds from this grant are not to be used to cover expenses that would otherwise be covered by other sources.

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 leverage waivers when deemed necessary to respond to this crisis and to help to mitigate economic impacts caused by COVID19.

At this time, the number of beneficiaries to be served using this funding source is still being developed.

This draft plan is the result of City staff strategically collaborating with partner community agencies to identify the most impactful activities through which to use these funds.

1. The City assessed which programs funded by the first round of CDBG-CV funds successfully met urgent community needs as a result of challenges due to the coronavirus. Each of the proposed programs in this Substantial Amendment were funded through the first round of CARES Act funding.
2. The City worked to gather information from City Departments and our partner agencies to identify needs in the community for which these funds can be used. The funding plan detailed in this Substantial Amendment continues to address needs such as small business assistance, food access and distribution for vulnerable populations, and senior citizen support.
3. The City engaged HUD to receive further guidance on the use of these funds, the method by which we will apply to HUD, and other technical issues.
4. This amendment represents a proposed spending plan for a portion of the third round of the City of Rochester's CDBG-CV funding allocation. A subsequent amendment will be

submitted for review and approval once the City has determined how to best leverage the remaining CDBG-CV funds.

5. The City has strategically coordinated with internal and external partners to ensure that, upon approval of this draft Substantial Amendment by HUD, the allocated funds can be quickly appropriated to identified partners and beneficiaries.

Community Development Block Grant CARES Act Funding (CDBG-CV3): \$1,424,700 of \$2,371,177 in the third round of CDBG-CV funding allocations

Activity	Allocated Funding	Description
Economic Development		
Small Business Emergency Retention Grants	\$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	\$637,600	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grants to incentivize restaurants to prepare meals for residents. The City will contract with Goodwill and their 211/Life Line program to provide coordination support for participants to enroll in the program. If we are unable to fully spend the funds by the end of the program, the remaining funds will be allocated to the Small Business Emergency Retention Grant Program.
Housing		
Aging in Place	\$50,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Food acquisition and distribution for elderly homeowners affected by the pandemic. The City will contract with Lifespan of Greater Rochester to acquire and distribute perishable and non-perishable goods for low income, elderly homeowners as well as distribute the goods to this vulnerable portion of our community.
Admin		
Administrative Charge	\$237,100	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased staffing demand.
Total	\$1,424,700	

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 to 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)	\$2,371,177
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The City was previously allocated \$10,326,402 in CDBG-CV, ESG-CV, and HOPWA-CV funding through the CARES Act.

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, Governor Andrew Cuomo has launched a phased-reopening plan called New York Forward and Mayor Lovely A. Warren has issued Local Emergency Orders in accordance of Section 24 of New York Executive Law. 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 December 4, 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, December 4, 2020.
- (3) The public comment period shall be from December 4, 2020 through 5:00pm on December 9, 2020.
- (4) The City Council Public Hearing on these documents will be held on or after 5pm December 10, 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, December 9, 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 December 9, 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 on December 10.