

**CITY OF WORCESTER
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT**

**FIFTH YEAR ACTION PLAN / PROGRAM YEAR 45
SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT #4
July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020**



September 3, 2021

BACKGROUND AND OVERVIEW

Pursuant to recent US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) guidance, *The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act* (CARES Act) Public Law makes available a total of \$5 billion in supplemental Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) and Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) funding to be allocated across federal entitlement communities in the United States for the prevention, preparation, and response to, coronavirus impacts (CDBG-CV, ESG-CV and HOPWA-CV grants). Additionally, the CARES Act provides CDBG, ESG and HOPWA grantees with flexibilities that make it easier to use CDBG-CV, ESG-CV and HOPWA-CV grants for coronavirus response and authorizes HUD to grant waivers and alternative requirements, including streamlining the public comment period for public input related to Consolidated Plan Substantial Amendments. Grantees, such as the City of Worcester, have been advised to amend or prepare their plans as soon as feasibly possible. The Department is also waiving 24 CFR 91.505 to facilitate the use of the CDBG-CV, ESG-CV and HOPWA-CV funds to the extent necessary to require submission of the substantial amendment to HUD for review in accordance with 24 CFR 91.500.

The City of Worcester has received the following entitlement funds from HUD with the following allocation/award amounts:

- **Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG): \$1,327,821 (ESG-CV-1)**
- **Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG): \$2,715,383 (ESG-CV-2)**

The City of Worcester is therefore proposing to substantially amend its Consolidated Submission for Community Planning & Development (2015-2020), Fifth Year Action Plan, July 1st, 2019 – June 30th, 2020, in order to additionally fund the following activities and programs through the above supplemental allocations as itemized and further described in this amendment document on the following pages:

ESG-CV-1 (Supplemental funds Round 1)

- 1. Emergency Shelter Cleaning, Sanitation and Operation: \$56,583**
 - City of Worcester, Executive Office of Economic Development, Housing Development Division
- 2. COVID-19 Rapid Re-Housing Recovery Fund \$250,000**
 - City of Worcester, Executive Office of Economic Development, Housing Development Division
- 3. ESG COVID Response Fund for COVID-19 Impact Response and Recovery \$409,789.63**
 - City of Worcester, Executive Office of Economic Development, Housing Development Division

ESG-CV-2 (Supplemental funds Round 2)

- 1. Temporary Emergency Shelter- Homeless Shelter Operations: \$764,333.60**
 - City of Worcester Executive Office of Economic Development, Housing Development Division
- 2. ESG COVID Response Fund for COVID-19 Impact Response and Recovery \$795,115.12**
 - City of Worcester, Executive Office of Economic Development, Housing Development Division

Please Note: The allocation amounts provided above are based upon estimates and are subject to change. Final allocation amounts will be subject to 2 CFR 200.00 et. seq. (entitled “Uniform Administrative Requirements for Federal Awards”) for requirements formerly set forth in O.M.B. Circular A-122 and satisfaction of additional

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program eligibility criteria, as well as any other guidance or regulations as they may relate to The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) Public Law.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT ACTIVITY DESCRIPTIONS

The proposed amendment will allow the City of Worcester to fund the following activities and programs utilizing new and supplemental funds and guidance from the U.S. Department of Housing HUD related to the *The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act* (CARES Act) Public Law. The following, as generally described herein, will be funded by amending the approved Fifth Year (2019-2020) Action Plan. The proposed projects, programs and activities are as follows:

ESG-CV 1: (ESG-CV Round 1 supplemental funds)

1. Emergency Shelter Cleaning, Sanitation and Operation: \$56,583

City of Worcester, Executive Office of Economic Development, Housing Development Division

The City's Office of Economic Development, Housing Development Division will contract with various contractors and agencies to provide sanitary facilities for homeless individuals throughout the city. This includes but is not limited to access and operation of shower facilities, and cleaning and disinfecting all surfaces in the shelter including bedding, furniture and laundry. The funding will ensure shelter environments have sanitary facilities for homeless individuals to bath themselves and facilities are clean and disinfected on a daily basis to reduce the spread of COVID-19 infections.

2. COVID-19 Rapid Re-Housing Recovery Fund: \$250,000

City of Worcester Executive Office of Economic Development, Housing Development Division

A fund in the amount of \$250,000 administered by the Housing Development Division of the Executive Office of Economic Development will be used for but not limited to the reintegration of the homeless population to permanent housing solutions by providing housing stability case management, and rapid rehousing assistance, eviction legal assistance, and technology to homeless households in the City of Worcester.

3. ESG COVID Response Fund for COVID-19 Impact Response and Recovery \$409,789.63

City of Worcester Executive Office of Economic Development, Housing Development Division

The Pandemic has placed considerable strain on the city's homeless population. Funds will be used for the eligible activities including but not limited to Emergency Shelter and Outreach, Temporarily Emergency Shelters, Housing Stability Case Management, Rapid Rehousing, Training, Hazard Pay, Handwashing Stations and Portable Bathrooms, Landlord Incentives, Volunteer Incentives, Short-Term and Medium Term Rental Assistance, Hotel/Motel Costs, helping current ESG program participants maintain housing, HMIS Lead Activities and Legal Services as outlined in CPD-20-08 Waiver and Alternative Requirements for Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) Program under the CARES Act. The funding will be used for costs deemed eligible, necessary, and cost reasonable by the City and its partners and subcontractors in tandem with guidance provided by HUD and the CARES ACT Public Law.

ESG-CV 2: (ESG-CV Round 2 supplemental funds)

1. Temporary Emergency Shelter- Homeless Shelter Operations: \$764,333.60

City of Worcester Executive Office of Economic Development, Housing Development Division

Temporary emergency shelters will be activated as needed to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The pandemic has placed considerable strain on the city's homeless population. Existing shelter operations do not allow for the physical distancing necessary to prevent the spread of the disease. As needed, the City may open multiple temporary shelter operations at schools, hotels and churches, which allow for social distancing. This approach has allowed for physical separation of this vulnerable population. Some of the shelters may be designated for occupants that have tested positive for the virus. Funds will be used for the staffing, supplies, and operations of these temporary shelters including but not limited to city health and medical staffing, shelter sub-recipient operations, staffing, meals, equipment, communication devices, cleaning and other eligible items. The funding will be used for the direct operation of this shelter and other costs deemed eligible, necessary, and cost reasonable by the City and its partners and subcontractors in tandem with guidance provided by HUD and the CARES ACT Public Law.

2. ESG COVID Response Fund for COVID-19 Impact Response and Recovery \$795,115.12

City of Worcester Executive Office of Economic Development, Housing Development Division

The Pandemic has placed considerable strain on the city's homeless population. Funds will be used for the eligible activities including but not limited to Emergency Shelter and Outreach, Temporarily Emergency Shelters, Housing Stability Case Management, Rapid Rehousing, Training, Hazard Pay, Handwashing Stations and Portable Bathrooms, landlord incentives, Volunteer Incentives, Short-Term and Medium Term Rental Assistance, Hotel/Motel Costs, helping current ESG program participants maintain housing, HMIS Lead Activities and Legal Services as outlined in CPD-20-08 Waiver and Alternative Requirements for Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) Program under the CARES Act. The funding will be used for costs deemed eligible, necessary, and cost reasonable by the City and its partners and subcontractors in tandem with guidance provided by HUD and the CARES ACT Public Law.

Contracts, or contract amendments, for all above activities will be executed once formal scopes of work have been reviewed and determined to be cost reasonable per 2 CFR 200.00 et. seq. (entitled "Uniform Administrative Requirements for Federal Awards") for requirements formerly set forth in O.M.B. Circular A-122 as well as full satisfaction of additional program eligibility criteria, including completion of Environmental Reviews per 24 CFR Part 58.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

In accordance with HUD's waiver of 24 CFR 91.105(c)(2) and (k), 91.115(c)(2) and (i), the proposed amendment contained herein was provided for public comment for no less than 5 days. The proposed amendment was posted on Friday, September 3, 2021 at the following locations:

- The City of Worcester's Community Development website, Policies & Procedures Page: <http://www.worcesterma.gov/housing-neighborhood-development/community-development-block-grants/policies-procedures>

Public input, comments, and inquiries were directed to the City of Worcester's Executive Office of Economic Development as follows:

- By E-mail: Development@worcesterma.gov
- By Phone: (508) 799-1400

Anyone wishing to provide comments were asked to provide their full name and contact information. The final day for accepting public comments was Thursday, September 9, 2021.