

THE CDBG-CV SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT

<p>Jurisdiction: Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) Jurisdiction Web Address: www.mass.gov/dhcd</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• https://www.mass.gov/service-details/community-development-block-grant-cdbg	<p>CDBG-CV Contact Person: Mark Southard Community Development Manager Address: 100 Cambridge Street, Suite 300 Boston, MA 02114 Telephone: (617) 573-1436 Email: mark.southard@mass.gov</p>
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INTRODUCTION

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts proposes to amend its FY2019 CDBG One Year Action Plan to make use of its allocation of CDBG funds pursuant to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act). Consistent with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Memorandum (Memo) dated April 9, 2020, the MA CDBG Program (the Program) will make CDBG-CV funds available to non-entitlement communities throughout the Commonwealth in order to prevent, prepare for and respond to coronavirus. The Program will establish the CDBG-CV Fund to facilitate the use of these funds.

CDBG-CV funds will be able to support a variety of activities including but not limited to:

- Rental and mortgage assistance for eligible households
- Small business assistance
- Micro Enterprise assistance
- Public Social Services – particularly those directed to, but not limited to, senior services, homelessness prevention, food provision, emergency assistance and domestic violence services
- Infrastructure/Construction projects that directly contribute to addressing COVID-19 related issues
- Other eligible activities that directly prevent, prepare for and respond to coronavirus

Municipalities should contact DHCD if there are questions as to whether a project is eligible for CDBG-CV and will meet all program requirements. All CDBG-CV funds must meet one of the three CDBG National Objectives as defined in the 2019 One Year Plan and in federal regulations at 24 CFR 570.483.

Consistent with the CARES Act, this amendment waives any limit established on the issuance of funds to support public social services for any funds made available under this amendment and the FY 2019 One Year Plan.

Additionally, the amendment adopts modified citizen participation procedures established by the CARES Act and described in the Memo. In particular, the Commonwealth will adopt a minimum 5 day comment period and the use of virtual public hearings for FFY 2019 and 2020 CDBG Grants as well as for CDBG-CV funds.

This amendment further waives 2019 One Year Plan Applicant/Project thresholds for applicants to the CDBG-CV fund except as established above or described in further guidance.

Allocation of funds:

CDBG-CV Fund	\$ 19,651,876
Administration and Technical Assistance	\$ 710,883
Total Funding	\$ 20,362,759

Availability of CDBG-CV funds:

Pursuant to this amendment, DHCD will issue guidance detailing the method for applying, requirements for applying and the date on which applications will be accepted for CDBG-CV funds. DHCD reserves the right to distribute CDBG-CV funds in any eligible manner that it deems suitable to be the most expeditious and effective to prevent, prepare for and respond to coronavirus. Further DHCD reserves the right to adopt any additional methods of distribution pursuant to additional HUD guidance.

Awarding of Grants:

Details for the awarding of CDBG-CARES funds will be described in the application guidance. DHCD reserves the right to award CDBG-CARES funds as it determines is the best manner to accomplish the goals of the CARES Act in whole or in part, or to reject any and all proposals received.

Opportunity for Public Comment

Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act)
Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG-CV)

Substantial Amendment to the Fiscal Year 2019
CDBG One-Year Action Plan

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts through the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) is proposing a Substantial Amendment to its FY2019 CDBG One-Year Action Plan identifying the addition of CARES Act funding. The Plan is available on the Department's website – www.mass.gov/dhcd/cdbg. DHCD seeks comments regarding the amendment from all interested parties.

The public comment period will run from April 30, 2020 through close of business on May 7, 2020. Interested parties may submit comments, via email, directly to DHCD at any time during the comment period. Comments may be directed to: Mark Southard, Community Development Manager, DHCD, Mark.Southard@mass.gov.