



REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION

City of Greenville, South Carolina

Agenda Item No.

15g

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of City Council
FROM: John McDonough, City Manager

Ordinance/First Reading Ordinance/Second & Final Reading Resolution/First & Final Reading Information Only

AGENDA DATE REQUESTED: October 26, 2020

ORDINANCE/RESOLUTION CAPTION:

ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE 2019–2020 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN TO INCLUDE THE PROVISION OF ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATED WITH RESPONDING TO THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 AND THE APPROPRIATION OF FUNDING RECEIVED FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT THROUGH THE CARES ACT

SUMMARY BACKGROUND:

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has awarded the city of Greenville additional funding in the amount of \$603,405 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds through a provision in the CARES Act. In order to appropriate and expend funds, an amendment must be made to the 2019-2020 Annual Action Plan. This revision will align with federal guidelines on eligible activities and will align with needs of residents affected by the pandemic. In working with our community partners, we recommend using the CDBG funding for the following activities: Administration, Rental Assistance, Emergency Assistance, Mortgage Assistance, Housing Counseling/Eviction Prevention, Food Assistance, and Homeless Services Assistance. This allocation is in addition to the \$463,903 CDBG funds for COVID-19 relief awarded in April 2020.

IMPACT IF DENIED:

Funds will not be appropriated and may be recaptured by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The City will receive \$603,405 in CDBG funds.

REQUIRED SIGNATURES

Department Director DocuSigned by:

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City Attorney DocuSigned by:

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OMB Director _____

City Manager DocuSigned by:

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AN ORDINANCE

TO AMEND THE 2019–2020 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN TO INCLUDE THE PROVISION OF ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATED WITH RESPONDING TO THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 AND THE APPROPRIATION OF FUNDING RECEIVED FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT THROUGH THE CARES ACT.

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has made funding available to the city of Greenville through the CARES Act to locally prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19 in the amount of \$603,405 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding as more fully set forth in Exhibit A attached hereto and incorporated herein; and

WHEREAS, the grant funding will be used to support and give relief to residents affected by the COVID-19 pandemic in alignment with federal guidelines; and

WHEREAS, in working with our community partners, staff recommends using the CDBG funding for the following activities: Administration, Rental Assistance, Emergency Assistance, Mortgage Assistance, Housing Counseling/Eviction Prevention, Food Assistance, and Homeless Services Assistance as more fully set forth in Exhibit B attached hereto and incorporated herein; and

WHEREAS, in order to expend funds HUD funding, amendments must be made to the 2019-2020 Annual Action Plan; and

WHEREAS, the aforementioned amendments will align with federal guidelines on eligible activities and will align with the needs of residents affected by the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the Community Development Advisory Committee (CDAC) has been notified of the available funding and revisions to the objectives detailed in the 2019–2020 Annual Action Plan which will be accomplished through the amendment to same;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA, the City Manager is authorized to amend the 2019–2020 Annual Action Plan to include the provision of the eligible activities associated with responding to the impact of COVID-19 and the appropriation of funding received from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development through the CARES Act.

DONE, RATIFIED AND PASSED THIS THE ____ DAY OF _____, 2020.

MAYOR

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

CITY ATTORNEY

REVIEWED:

CITY MANAGER

EXHIBIT A



ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR
COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
WASHINGTON, DC 20410-7000

September 11, 2020

The Honorable Knox White
Mayor of Greenville
P.O. Box 2207
Greenville, SC 29602

Dear Mayor White:

I am pleased to inform you of a special allocation to your jurisdiction of Community Development Block Grant funds to be used to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus (COVID-19). This allocation was authorized by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), Public Law 116-136, which was signed by President Trump on March 27, 2020, to respond to the growing effects of this historic public health crisis.

The CARES Act made available \$5 billion in Community Development Block Grant Coronavirus (CDBG-CV) funds. Of this amount, the Department immediately allocated \$2 billion on March 27, 2020, the same day President Trump signed the Act, based on the fiscal year 2020 CDBG formula; this constituted the first round of CDBG-CV funds. Next, \$1 billion was required by the Act to be allocated to States and insular areas within 45 days of enactment of the Act; HUD accomplished this on May 11, 2020, and this constituted the second round of CDBG-CV funds. Finally, the remaining \$2 billion in CDBG-CV funds was required by the Act to be allocated to states and local governments at the discretion of the Secretary on a rolling basis; HUD accomplished this on September 11, 2020, and this constituted the third round of CDBG-CV funds. Additionally, up to \$10 million will be set aside for technical assistance.

Accordingly, this letter informs you that your jurisdiction's allocation for the third round is \$603,405. Your cumulative amount for all allocation rounds is \$1,067,308.

The CARES Act adds additional flexibility for both the CDBG-CV grant and, in some cases, for the annual FY2019 and FY2020 CDBG grants in these unprecedented times. The public comment period is reduced to not less than 5 days, grantees may use virtual public hearings when necessary for public health reasons, the public services cap is suspended during the emergency, and States and local governments may reimburse costs of eligible activities incurred for pandemic response regardless of the date.

In addition, the CARES Act authorizes the HUD Secretary to grant waivers and alternative requirements of statutes and regulations the HUD Secretary administers in connection with the use of CDBG-CV funds and fiscal year 2019 and 2020 CDBG funds (except for requirements related to fair housing, nondiscrimination, labor standards, and the environment). Waivers and alternative requirements can be granted when necessary to expedite and facilitate the use of funds to prevent,

prepare for, and respond to coronavirus.

The CDBG CARES Act Federal Register Notice (FR-6218-N-01) was released on August 10, 2020. The notice describes the allocations and grant procedures applicable to the CDBG-CV grants. It also describes the program flexibilities, waivers, and alternative requirements that apply to the CDBG-CV grants as well as the fiscal year 2019 and 2020 CDBG grants. As further such flexibilities become available, they will be posted on HUD's website and distributed to grantees. The Department will also support grantees with technical assistance.

As you develop your plan for the use of these grant funds, we encourage you to consider approaches that prioritize the unique needs of low- and moderate-income persons and the development of partnerships between all levels of government and the private for-profit and non-profit sectors. You should coordinate with state and local health authorities before undertaking any activity to support state or local pandemic response. CDBG-CV grants will be subject to oversight, reporting, and the requirement that each grantee have adequate procedures to prevent the duplication of benefits (DOB). HUD will provide guidance and technical assistance on DOB, the prevention of fraud, waste, and abuse, and on documenting the impact of this program for beneficiaries.

Reminder, all CPD Grantees must ensure they maintain active Dun and Bradstreet Numbering System (DUNS) numbers in the System for Award Management (SAM) system. Entities must have an active and unexpired DUNS before execution of grant agreements to avoid delays in the obligation of funds- which will delay your ability to drawdown funds in the Integrated Disbursement & Information System (IDIS). Grantees are required to maintain an active SAMs registration by re-activating their DUNS number annually in the SAM system for the entire drawdown period of their grants. DUNS numbers can be registered and renewed each year at the following website: <https://www.sam.gov/SAM/>.

The Office of Community Planning and Development (CPD) is looking forward to working with you to successfully meet the urgent and complex challenges faced by our communities. If you or any member of your staff has questions, please contact your local CPD Field Office Director or CPDQuestionsAnswered@hud.gov.

Sincerely,



John Gibbs
Acting Assistant Secretary
for Community Planning and Development
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

EXHIBIT B

CDBG-CV	
Activity	Amount
Admin & Reserve	\$ 100,000
Rental Assistance - funding will be used to provide rental assistance of up to 6 months, based on need and ability to access other local, state or federal funding	\$ 175,000
Mortgage Assistance - funding will be used to provide mortgage assistance of up to 6 months, based on need and ability to access other local, state or federal funding	\$ 50,000
Utility Assistance - funding will be used to provide utility assistance of up to 6 months, based on need and ability to access other local, state or federal funding	\$ 175,000
Eviction Prevention/Housing Counseling - Funding will be used to support ongoing housing and financial counseling programs to preserve affordable housing and legal services for eviction clients	\$ 50,000
Homeless Services Assistance - funding will be used to support direct homeless service providers with required food, expansion of services, PPE, security, etc.	\$ 26,702
Food Assistance - funding will be used to support food assistance providers such as soup kitchens, free meal deliveries, etc.	\$ 26,703
Total	\$ 603,405