

Baltimore County, Maryland
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FFY2019/CFY2020
Annual Action Plan
Substantial Amendment – CDBG-CV Grant
Substantial Amendment – ESG-CV Grant

Public Comments Submitted to:

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Virtual Public Hearing:
May 20, 2020 @ 6 pm

Comment Period:
May 18, 2020 - May 26, 2020 @ 5 p.m.

Baltimore County, Maryland

Background

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) was signed into law on March 27, 2020. The Act provided stimulus funding for local jurisdictions to respond to the pandemic and gave jurisdictions more flexibility in how those funding sources could be utilized. The public comment period was shortened to not less than five days and allows virtual public hearings for health reasons. Notice of public hearing and opportunity to comment was also shortened to “a reasonable” period. Baltimore County is providing one week notice of our virtual hearing. The public services cap for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program is suspended for CARES Act funds and local jurisdictions may reimburse costs of eligible activities incurred for pandemic response regardless of the date. Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds have the following flexibilities: no spending cap on emergency shelter and outreach; 10 percent of funds may be used for administrative costs; no ESG match requirement; homelessness prevention assistance can be used for individuals up to HUD’s Very Low-Income limit; and recipients may deviate from applicable procurement standards in response to coronavirus.

The substantial amendments that follow are Baltimore County’s modifications to its FFY2019/CFY2020 Annual Action Plan. The Plan details the funding strategy for the CDBG, ESG and HOME Investment Partnership program for that period. The County’s Citizen Participation Plan encourages the County and its citizens to engage in a public process where citizens may comment on the activities set forth in the Annual Action Plan and any Substantial Amendments to that Plan. The awarding of new stimulus funding requires a Substantial Amendments to both the CDBG and ESG portions of the Action Plan. Those amendments are detailed below.

FFY 2016-2019/CFY 2017-2020 CONSOLIDATED PLAN
FFY 2019/CFY 2020 ACTION PLAN SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT
CDBG-CV GRANT

Baltimore County plans to use \$3,465,175 in CDBG funding to address the impact of COVID-19 on the jurisdiction. The County received a special allocation totaling \$2,465,172 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. The County also intends to use \$1,000,000 of its old CDBG funds toward this end. To do so, Baltimore County is amending its FFY 2019/CFY2020 Annual Action Plan to include the COVID-19 CDBG Grant and old CDBG funds as follows:

Activity 1 - Activity Name:

COVID-19 Public Services

Activity Type:

Public Services: Homelessness Prevention. Public Services for Low Mod Income Housing Benefit, Public Services other than Low Mod Income Housing Benefit

National Objective:

Low and Moderate-Income Persons

Activity Description:

Grants to CDBG-eligible public service activity providers for activities to prevent, prepare for and respond to the spread of COVID-19 to include, but not limited to, the following types of services and equipment, supplies and materials to deliver said services: Food Banks, expenses related to pop-up food bank sites in low/moderate income areas of the County, mobile food delivery to quarantined individuals or medically vulnerable, homeless prevention activities, housing counseling, healthcare testing, diagnosis or other services that increase the capacity of targeted health services for infection disease response, job training to expand pool of workers responding to COVID-19. These funds are targeted towards those impacted by the economic and health disaster created by COVID-19. While COVID-19 has affected the traditional homeless, a new cohort of individuals is also now in need. Much of this funding is intended to mitigate the housing instability of those currently homeless as well as those that may be new to being on the edge of homelessness, those that have fallen behind on their rent and can be diverted from entering the traditional homeless system and for those that have the ability to quickly recover is an improved economy.

Activity Budget:

\$1,962,138 CDBG-CV, \$613,524 CDBG from FFY2019 CDBG

Activity 2 - Activity Name:

Housing Accessibility Modifications and Rehabilitation/Repairs in Response to COVID

Activity Type:

Rental Units Rehabilitated, Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated

National Objective:

Low and Moderate Income Persons

Activity Description:

Funds will be utilized in support of CDBG eligible rehabilitation activities in response to COVID-19 needs of County citizens. Examples include, but are not limited to, assisting eligible homeowners make needed modifications/repairs to their properties in response to COVID-19, accessibility renovations to assist those with disabilities (renters and homeowners or nonprofits) make renovations to living units for improved accessibility, and assistance to partner organizations to provide greater housing options by rehabilitating properties in response to County residents impacted by COVID-19.

Activity Budget:

\$100,000 OLD CDBG from FFY2018

Activity 3 - Activity Name:

COVID-19 General Administration and Planning

Activity Type:

General Administrative and Planning activities consistent with CDBG-CG Grant funding

National Objective:

Not Applicable

Activity Description:

General administration and planning activities related to Baltimore County's administration of the CDBG-CV grant, including staffing costs. Consistent with CDBG funding, funds are budgeted not to exceed the 20 percent cap on general administration and planning.

Activity Budget:

\$493,034 CDBG-CV

Activity 4 - Activity Name:

COVID-19 Response Costs

Activity Type:

To be determined

National Objective:

Urgent Need

Activity Description:

Baltimore County reserves funds for costs associated with responding to and preventing further spread of COVID-19 in a myriad of ways. Examples include operational supplies for County staff and nonprofit partners to include Personal Protective Equipment, hand sanitizer, building/office modifications, etc. These costs are not part of the administration of the CDBG-CV grant and do not include administrative staffing costs.

Activity Budget:

\$10,000 CDBG-CV

Reallocation of FFY 2019 CDBG funds for COVID Response Use - \$613,524

FFY2019 Capital Improvement projects will be decreased by \$538,524.

Project # 4 – Lighthouse Capital Expansion Project - \$50,000 is cancelled

Project # 6 – Prologue Outreach Center Capital Project - \$95,000 is cancelled

Project # 2 – Episcopal Housing Community Center - \$68,000 will be funded w/FFY18 funds

Project # 7 – SVDP INNterim House Renovations - \$225,524 will be funded w/FFY18 funds

Project #5 – Pen Mar Organization: Accessibility Improvements \$100,000 will be funded with
FFY14 funds

FFY2019 Other Projects will be decreased by \$75,000.

Project #29 – CBDO Project - \$70,000 is cancelled

Project #41 – Planning: Survey - \$5,000 is cancelled

Reallocated CDBG funds will be used for public service need of low to moderate income individuals in response to COVID-19.

Baltimore County, Maryland

FFY 2016-2019/CFY 2017-2020 CONSOLIDATED PLAN
FFY 2019/CFY 2020 ACTION PLAN SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT
ESG-CV GRANT

Baltimore County received a special allocation totaling \$1,230,869 of Emergency Solutions Grant funds to be used to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19) among individuals and families who are homeless or receiving homeless assistance; and to support additional homeless assistance and homelessness prevention activities to mitigate the impacts of 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 and Baltimore County is amending its FFY 2019/CFY2020 Annual Action Plan to include the COVID-19 ESG Grant as follows:

Activity 1 - Activity Name:

COVID-19 ESG Program Component Funding

Activity Type:

ESG-CV Grant funding for ESG Components

National Objective:

Not Applicable

Activity Description:

Baltimore County expects to use ESG-CV funds to meet the needs of the homeless/prevent families and individuals from becoming homeless during the COVID-19 pandemic. Individuals experiencing homelessness are at greater risk of exposure to a variety of infectious diseases including influenza and coronavirus. Baltimore County plans to use its ESG-CV funds for the following ESG-eligible program components: street outreach, emergency shelter, homelessness prevention, and rapid rehousing.

Activity Budget

\$1,107,783 ESG-CV

Activity 2 - Activity Name:

COVID-19 ESG Administration

Activity Type:

General Administrative and Planning activities consistent with ESG-CV Grant funding

National Objective:

Not Applicable

Activity Description:

General administration and planning activities related to Baltimore County's administration of the CDBG-CV grant, including staffing costs. Consistent with ESG-CV funding, funds are budgeted not to exceed the 10 percent administrative cap.

Activity Budget:

\$123,086 ESG-CV

PUBLIC COMMENT ON SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT

Per HUD regulations for use of COVID funds, Baltimore County is required to have a minimum public comment period of five days. Baltimore County's public comment period begins May 18 and ends May 26, 2020. A virtual public hearing is scheduled for May 20, 2020 at 6 pm. On May 18, www.baltimorecountymd.gov/agencies/planning will post the link and instructions to participate in the virtual hearing. Members of the public are invited to provide comments during public hearing, or they may send comments in writing via email or US Mail. Addresses for sending comments can be found on the front of this notice. All comments must be received by close of business, 5:00 pm, on Tuesday, May 26, 2020.