



Neighborhood and Business Development

CARES Act 2020

COVID-19 CDBG-CV 3 Outline

City of Syracuse

CARES Act Flexibilities for CDBG Funds Used to Support Coronavirus Response and Plan Amendment Waiver

Purpose of CARES Funds - The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) (Public Law 116-136) makes available \$5 billion in supplemental Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding for grants to prevent, prepare for, and respond to Coronavirus (CDBG-CV grants).

- IDIS projects addressing CARES Fund Usage- Funds will be set up in IDIS. The City of Syracuse will use IDIS to complete a narrative explaining how the funds are being used to provide relief and economic security during Coronavirus. Integrated Disbursement Information System (IDIS) - Is a nationwide database, the Integrated Disbursement and Information System (IDIS) provides HUD with current information regarding the program activities underway across the Nation, including funding data. HUD uses this information to report to Congress and to monitor grantees.
- Provides that grantees may use CDBG-CV grant funds to cover or reimburse costs to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19 incurred by a State or locality, regardless of the date on which such costs were incurred, when those costs comply with CDBG requirements. For other grants, pre-agreement and pre-award cost authority is available under 24 CFR 570.489(b) (states) and 570.200(h) (entitlements).
 - o HUD has expressed with CDBG-CV that agencies make sure services are not duplicated. CDBG-CV grantees are required to prevent the duplication of benefits. Therefore, CDBG-CV grant funds may not be used to pay costs if another source of financial assistance is available to pay that cost.

Process to Access Funds - To expedite grantees' use of CDBG-CV funds, HUD is waiving the requirements at 42 U.S.C. 12705(a)(2) to the extent it requires updates to the housing and homeless needs assessment, housing market analysis, and strategic plan and 24 CFR 91.220 and 91.320 to the extent the action plan is limited to a specific program year to permit grantees to prepare substantial amendments to their most recent annual action plan, including their 2019 annual action plan. Grantees must identify the proposed use of all funds and how the funds will be used to prevent, prepare for, and respond to, Coronavirus.

- Citizen Participation- The five-day public comment period for amendments and new plan submissions uncaps the percentage of CDBG funding for public services to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19, as well as other flexibilities.
- The entire allocation of federal CDBG, HOME, and ESG funding awarded to the City each year is based on the severity of both poverty and substandard housing conditions. It is necessary that public participation genuinely involve low-income residents experiencing these conditions.

Process to Access Funds (continued) -

- This will be set up as a substantial amendment to the 2020 Action Plan.
- The CARES Act permits HUD to waive or specify alternative requirements for any provisions of any statute.
- Newly signed certifications for each program
 - Grantees create **one** version of substantial amendment, no matter how many CV grants or tranches are awarded. Amendment title should be “CARES Act Amendment” and note the Community Name if a consortium member
 - Grantees will continue to edit same amendment until all CARES Act funds have been addressed and awarded
 - Grantees may submit substantial amendments for all, some, or one grant at a time.
 - Award individual grant agreements as each submission meets the base requirements for that grant.

Internal Highlights and Goals Regarding CDBG

- \$704,464 in Direct Financial Assistance to keep people in their homes
- Over \$972,337 to address the maintenance of the quality of housing and neighborhoods, economic development, mental health services and substance abuse.

CDBG:

- NOTE: Funds can only be disbursed where there was no other financial support available
- Addressing housing stability through assistance to the public, and supporting housing related city services
- Provides support for households up to 80%AMI



DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOOD & BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

CITY OF SYRACUSE, MAYOR BEN WALSH

CDBG-CV3 Criteria

Commissioner
Michael Collins

Deputy Commissioner
Jennifer Tiff

During this current public health crisis, it is critical we do everything possible to ensure the health and safety of those most vulnerable by limiting the spread of COVID-19. The Department of Neighborhood and Business Development for the City of Syracuse proposes to use the CDBG-CV3 funds to assist low to moderate income households and or individuals using the matrix codes listed above with the **National Objective: Urgent Need**

CDBG-CV3 funds will be eligible under the following activities: Economic Development, Mental Health Services, Tenant/Landlord Counseling and Subsistence Payments.

CDBG-CV3 Eligibility Requirements

- Income: 80% AMI or below
- City Residence
- Rent or Utility Assistance - up to six months
- Security Deposit
- Follow up support services, if needed
- Referral to Financial Empowerment Center (if needed)

Project Descriptions

Catholic Charities

Catholic Charities' Homelessness Prevention Program staff are available to receive referrals for housing counseling services for those receiving rental assistance, per program design, during the same general days and hours that the County staff would be screening and assessing prospective clients and referring them to one of the participating CDBG-CV agencies. The Catholic Charities staff administers similar services during the COVID-19 public health risk, making all necessary accommodations to facilitate the connection between clients and landlords.

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Onondaga County Department of Social Services (DSS)

DSS will offer Direct Financial Assistance to assist individuals and families 80% or below AMI who are possibly going to be evicted due to severe financial difficulties caused indirectly by COVID related circumstances such as loss of income or employment. All individuals or families will have a single point of entry to receiving assistance. A rental assistance phone number will be marketed to the public to call the Department of Social Services (DSS). The DSS worker will do a Homeless Risk Assessment over the phone to identify the individual's needs and to refer this individual to the appropriate service provider for services and direct financial assistance if needed.

Helio Health

Helio Health will increase its street outreach program during the pandemic COVID-19,

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which will allow the agency's certified peer advocates to engage and build trust with the city's homeless population on a more frequent basis. Helio Health works to connect the homeless to local resources that will support their success through the recovery process and in securing stable housing. Helio Health's permanent housing programs work with the local Continuum of Care to take individuals from the coordinated entry list. This list prioritizes people who are chronically homeless, and ensures that they obtain housing. Helio Health has also prioritized chronically homeless individuals historically, before the development of coordinated entry. To this end, Helio Health partners with a broad range of community organizations that provide services that are aligned with the agency's holistic approach to bringing medical care, behavioral health care, and social services to homeless that will foster sustained positive change.

Liberty Resources

Liberty Resources Mobile Crisis Unit provides expertise in crisis Intervention during the pandemic COVID-19. The Mobile Crisis Unit is a trained response team that is available to de-escalate crisis, divert unnecessary hospitalizations or arrests and link folks to needed services in the community. This program is designed to provide a rapid crisis response, telephonically or in the community for adults and youth experiencing a behavioral health/substance use crisis. The Crisis Services team is composed of Licensed Therapists, Certified Alcohol and Substance Abuse providers, Certified Peer Specialists and Qualified Mental Health providers. Liberty Resources has an established MOU and a Third Party Triage Contract with Contact Community Services to provide 24/7 Crisis Triage and Telephonic Response on the dedicated "Crisis Connects" Line. Liberty Resources will provide assessment, crisis intervention and referrals/linkage, including to community-based mental health and substance use service.

SEDCO

Syracuse Economic Development Corporation will seek to build off the success of its COVID-19 Emergency Loan Fund by using CDBG funds to assist small businesses located in the City of Syracuse with low interest, working capital financing designed to address impacts of the Coronavirus pandemic and sustaining operations in order to continue and/or reopen. Requests for funding may be considered for various uses, including but not limited to: personnel/payroll, adaptive business practices, operational expenses, and payment toward outstanding debt.

Volunteers Lawyers Project

Volunteer Lawyers Project's Advocacy and Prevention Eviction and Defense Program will provide legal representation in the Syracuse Landlord Tenant Court to housing vulnerable tenants with urgent need during COVID-19. Its goal is to assist housing vulnerable individuals/families avoid or delay evictions, housing counseling, reduce or prevent money judgments against tenants so that they can relocate if needed.

**City of Syracuse|
DRAFT CDBG-CV3 Program Budget**

Funding Activities for CDBG-CV3 Supplemental Funding	CDBG-CV3 Proposed Budget	Draft CDBG-CV3 Funding Allocations Approved by Common Council
CV Housing Services <i>Catholic Charities Eviction Prevention Program (Casework, Admin)</i>	\$109,000	\$ 103,000
CV Housing Legal Services <i>Volunteer Lawyers Project</i>	\$100,000	\$ 100,000
Small Business Economic Development, Technical Assistance Program <i>SEDCO</i>	\$150,000	\$ 350,000
Direct Financial Assistance Department of Social Services Economic Security	\$1,250,000	\$ 704,064
CV Helio Health Peer Advocate Program	\$166,721	\$ -
CV Certified Mobile Crisis Unit for Mental Health + Substance Abuse Use Liberty Resources	\$251,697	\$ 251,697
Admin (20% Max: \$335,228)		\$ -
<i>Admin : Staffing at 10%</i>	\$167,640	\$ 167,640
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$ 1,676,401
HUD Total CDBG-CV3 Allocation		\$ 1,676,401

Helio Health application did not meet the City of Syracuse CDBG-CV 3 requirements and guidelines.