

City of Hartford, CT

Substantial Amendment to Consolidated Plan and 2019 Annual Action Plan

This Substantial Amendment amends the City's Consolidated Plan (2015-2020) and the Annual Action Plan for the program year 7/1/2019-6/30/2020 to address the community needs resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. The City of Hartford has been awarded CARES Act funding including Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) and Housing Opportunity for Person with AIDS (HOPWA) to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the impact of COVID-19, invest directly in eligible activities to support our most vulnerable populations, and to provide assistance to small businesses struggling with impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The original 2019 Action Plan as approved by HUD as well as the draft amendment are available on the City's website at www.planhartford.com/public-notices. A link to the draft amendment was published in the City of Hartford newsletter issued on June 15, 2020, by the Office of Community Engagement. The notice was advertised in the Hartford Courant on June 16, 2020, and published on www.planhartford.com/public-notices.

The proposed changes subject to HUD's review and approval are as follows:

CHANGE #1: ACCEPT CDBG-CV funds

The City has received notice of CDBG-CV funds award in the amount of \$2,185,057.

CHANGE #2: ACCEPT ESG-CV funds

The City has received notice of ESG-CV funds award in the amount of \$3,053,651

CHANGE #3: ACCEPT HOPWA-CV funds

The City has received notice of HOPWA-CV funds award in the amount of \$171,601.

CHANGE #4: CDBG-CV FUNDING TO SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE

The City proposes to allocate \$ \$750,000 towards Small Business Assistance to promote economic recovery and to expand economic opportunities in distressed areas. The activity will provide financial and technical assistance to create/retain jobs at businesses that have been economically impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The proposed activity is consistent with the City's Five Year Consolidated Plan to create/retain Low-Moderate Income jobs.

Project Title: Business Assistance Program

HUD Eligibility: National Objective Low Moderate Income Jobs (LMJ)

HUD Activity Codes: 18A Direct Financial Assistance to For-Profit, 18C Micro-Enterprise Assistance, 18B Technical Assistance to Businesses.

Selection Criteria: Applications will be individually reviewed based on criteria outlined in the Business Assistance Application.

CHANGE #5: CDBG-CV FUNDING TO PUBLIC SERVICES

The City is proposing to allocate \$ 1,400,000 to provide essential human services. The proposed allocation will provide non-duplicative services including but not limited to child care, health services, youth education and engagement programming, transportation, and internet connectivity, designed to support households led by working parents returning to work. These programs directly respond to need based upon impact of COVID-19 and are consistent with the City's Five Year Consolidated Plan goal of providing essential services to low- and moderate-income households.

Project Title: Health Services

HUD Eligibility: National Objective Low Moderate Income Clientele (LMC)

HUD Activity Code: 03P Rehabilitation of Health facilities; 05M address the physical health needs of low-moderate income persons; 05O address the mental health needs of low-moderate income persons; 05W Food Bank operations; 05 Other Public Services

Description: Funding to support community-based health initiatives that promote public education, testing, and contact tracing in light of the coronavirus, programs that support health initiatives including community health workers, provision of PPE, and implementation of other public health remediation activities.

Selection Criteria: Programs to be selected and coordinated by the City's Department of Health and Human Services

Project Title: Youth Services

HUD Eligibility: National Objective Low Moderate Income Clientele (LMC)

HUD Activity Code 05D Youth Services; 05L Childcare Services

Description: Engage youth through relevant programming and services, connect youth to education and summer employment, provision of internet connectivity that enable remote participation and learning, provision of online training and supports; expand access to activities for youth that promote academics, high quality instruction, training or other significant achievement, while increasing positive social behaviors.

Selection Criteria: Programs to be selected and coordinated by the City's Department of Families, Children, Youth & Recreation

Project Title: Supporting Households to Return to Work

HUD Eligibility: National Objective Low Moderate Income Clientele (LMC)

Activity Codes: 05C Legal Services; 05D Youth Services; 05E Transportation Services; 05H Employment Services; 05L Childcare Services; 05M Health Services; 05O Mental Health Services;

05Q Subsistence Payments; 05S Rental Housing Subsidies; 05T Security Deposits; 05U Housing Counseling; 05W Food Banks;

Description: Employment support and job counseling to heads of household who have lost income due to COVID-19. Provision of additional service such as childcare, youth programming, transportation, and mental health counseling to support working parents' return to the workforce.

Selection Criteria: Programs to be selected and coordinated by the City's Departments of Health and Human Services and Families, Children, Youth & Recreation

Project Title: Administration

Activity Code: 21A General Program Administration

The City is proposing to allocate \$35,057 to general program administration of CDBG-CV.

CHANGE #6: ESG -CV FUNDING TO OUTREACH, SHELTER, HOUSING, AND CASE MANAGEMENT SERVICES

The City is proposing to allocate funding to eligible program activities consistent with provider identification of need, and to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the impact of COVID-19. Activities will prevent homelessness through the provision of short-term rental assistance and other activities, will expand homeless outreach, will safely expand shelter capacity, and provide housing search and rapid housing placement. Each program and contract will be reviewed for scope, budget, and CARES Act regulatory and administrative compliance. Funds not able to be allocated to a particular project will be reallocated in accordance with community need and provider capacity.

Project Title: Emergency Solution Grants

Description: Homeless Outreach, Prevention, Emergency Shelter and other services provided to homeless individuals. Goals include shortening the period of time that individuals and families experience homelessness, facilitating access for homeless individuals and families to affordable housing units, and preventing individuals and families who were recently homeless from becoming homeless again.

HUD Eligibility: ESG

Activity: Rapid Rehousing

Budget Increase: \$1,500,000

HUD Eligibility: ESG

Activity: Homeless Outreach

Budget Increase: \$300,000

HUD Eligibility: ESG

Activity: Housing Search
Budget Increase: \$80,000

HUD Eligibility: ESG
Activity: Shelter Capacity
Budget Increase: \$400,000

HUD Eligibility: ESG
Activity: Homeless Prevention/Diversion/Short-term Rental Assistance
Budget Increase: \$650,000

HUD Eligibility: ESG
Activity: Administration
Budget Increase: \$123,651

CHANGE #7: HOPWA-CV FUNDING TO HOUSING, HEALTH, AND CASE MANAGEMENT SERVICES

The City is proposing the HOPWA funds will be available for Persons Living With HIV/AIDS: Supportive Services and Resource Identification costs associated with efforts to establish, coordinate, and develop housing and related economic assistance resources for eligible persons, and to connect them to the provision of other grant and privately-funded services for the target population, including programming furthering improved health outcomes and workforce related services through improved administration. Provide quality housing and other services for people living with HIV/AIDS and their families, increasing economic and housing stability and access to care.

The City is proposing to proportionately increase the contracts of each HOPWA provider subject to review of scope, budget, and CARES Act regulatory and administrative review, with focus to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the impact of COVID-19 on HOPWA clients and their families. Funds not able to be allocated to a particular project will be reallocated in accordance with community need and provider capacity.

Project Title: Zeggio House
Description: provision of permanent Housing Facility Operating Costs, case management and supportive services
Budget Increase: \$16,313.59

Project Title: Chrysalis Center
Description: provision of community supportive housing services to individuals and families with HIV/AIDS in need of housing support and case management services, as well as providing housing subsidies
Budget Increase: \$23,037.39

Project Title: ACT

Description: provision of resource identification, short-term rent, mortgage and utility assistance and supportive services, including case management, to 30 individuals.

Budget Increase: \$19,401.19

Project Title: Hands on Hartford

Description: provision of intensive, specialized, HIV-sensitive case management services focused on maintaining health care and reducing the risk of infection of others; maintaining housing; accessing benefits; building life skills; supporting recovery, employment, education and other personal goals; and linking them to community supports

Budget Increase: \$46,933.84

Project Title: HRA

Description: provision of Tenant Based Rental Assistance and comprehensive case management services.

Budget Increase: \$27,793.49

Project Title: Mercy Housing and Shelter

Description: provision of service that assist homeless persons make the transition to permanent housing and independent living, including shortening the period of time that individuals experience homelessness, facilitating access for homeless individuals to affordable housing units, and preventing individuals who were recently homeless from becoming homeless again.

Budget Increase: \$19,618.93

Project Title: Saint Phillips House

Description: provision of ongoing support services to help participants remain in permanent housing, including: tenancy, budgeting, and housekeeping skills; linkage to physical, mental health, and substance abuse providers; connections to HIV/AIDS recovery groups and helping individuals access higher levels of care when needed.

Budget Increase: \$13,376.55

Project: Administration

Description: funding for staff and associated cost to oversee HOPWA programs

Budget Increase: \$5,126.02

Public Comment on the proposed Substantial Amendment will be accepted from June 16, 2020 through June 22, 2020. Written comment can be submitted, by email only, to Joan Barere, at joan.barere@hartford.gov