



**Community Development Block Grant
(CDBG)
CARES Act Round 3
Substantial Amendment
2020-2024 Consolidated Plan
2020 Annual Action Plan**

Responsible Organization

City of Columbia Office of Community Development
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City of Columbia
Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) - CARES Act Round 3
Substantial Amendment to the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan and 2020
Annual Action Plan

Summary

Notice is hereby given to residents of the City of Columbia that a draft version of the CARES Act Round 3 Amendment to the 2020-2024 Five-Year Consolidated Plan is now available for review and comment for a 5-day period. The Five-Year Consolidated Plan includes the first program year of the Plan, the 2020 Annual Action Plan (AAP).

The Federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act was signed into law to provide additional aid to communities in their efforts *to prevent, prepare for and respond to* the COVID-19 pandemic. The CARES Act included supplemental formula allocations to HUD’s CPD programs, including CDBG-CV, to the City of Columbia. The CARES Act Amendment to the 2020-2024 Five-Year Consolidated Plan and 2020 AAP includes these funds and outlines the proposed uses of these funds.

On September 11, 2020, HUD made available the remaining CDBG-CV allocation funds to entitlement grantees. The allocation named CDBG-CV3 (Allocation 3 – Part A) will be the final allocation for CDBG CARES Act funding. The CDBG-CV3 formula allocation was developed by HUD to meet the statutory requirements of the CARES Act and the President’s August 8, 2020 Executive Order “Fighting the Spread of COVID-19 by Providing Assistance to Renters and Homeowners.” The CDBG-CV3 funding allocated to the City of Columbia is \$976,268 and the Consolidated Plan and first-year Annual Action Plan has been amended to reflect the additional CDBG-CV funding. Total funding from CDBG-CV1 and CDBG-CV3 is now \$1,588,189.

The following proposed changes require modification of projects and activities in the City of Columbia 2020 Annual Action Plan:

CDBG

The City will help to provide financial assistance to low- to moderate-income households negatively affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The CDBG-CV3 proposed funded projects added are CDBG-CV3 Administration and CDBG-CV3 Public Services.

CARES Act - CDBG-CV3 Proposed Budget	2020 Allocation
Total FY2020 CDBG-CV3	\$976,268
Planning & Administration not to exceed 20%	\$195,254
Public Service (PS) Program (<i>15% Cap waived for CV</i>)	\$781,014

<i>Proposed PS CDBG-CV3 Activities</i>	
Financial Assistance **Rental/Mortgage (up to 6 months) **Utility Assistance (up to 2 months)	\$781,014
Total CDBG-CV3 Program Costs	\$976,268

Fiscal Impact

The City of Columbia anticipated receiving HUD entitlement funding for the 2020 program year in the amounts below. On March 27, 2020 the Federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES) was signed into law to assist communities in their efforts to *prevent, prepare for and respond to* the coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic. The CARES Act included supplemental formula allocations to HUD’s CPD programs, including CDBG-CV, for the City of Columbia. The additional CARES Act funds were allocated to Columbia with related provisions to citizen participation and provisions specific for each grant allocation and allows HUD to waive further program requirements if necessary. CDBG-CV Round 3 supports additional assistance to be made available to the citizens of the City of Columbia.

HUD Allocation	Funding Amount	CARES Act Funding Round 1	CARES Act Funding Round 3
FY 2020 CDBG	\$1,040,051	\$611,921	\$976,268
FY 2020 HOME	\$ 636,871		
FY 2020 HOPWA	\$1,517,489	\$220,838	
Totals	\$3,194,411	\$832,759	\$976,268
FY2020 Total Funding	\$5,003,818		

Duplication of Benefits

The CARES Act shall ensure that adequate procedures are in place to prevent any duplication of benefits as required by section 312 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5155) and in accordance with section 1210 of the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018 (division D of Public Law 115–254; 132 Stat. 3442), which amended section 312 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5155). HUD requires each grantee to have procedures in place to prevent the duplication of benefits when it provides financial assistance with CDBG-CV funds. Grant funds may not be used to pay for a particular cost if another source of financial assistance is available to fully pay for that same cost.

Timeliness

HUD has a statutory responsibility to review a grantee’s performance at least annually to determine whether the grantee has the continuing capacity to carry out grant activities in a timely manner. CDBG-CV funds will not be included in determining compliance with the requirements of 24 CFR 570.902 (entitlement timely expenditure).

Community Impact

The City of Columbia Office of Community Development conducted a survey to gain insight into Community Needs as they relate to the CDBG-CV Round 3 funding. The survey was available from April 13th – 19th, 2021, and was marketed to non-profit/community organizations through email blasts. The results yielded a 41.18% response in favor of Housing Assistance. Other responses included 11.76% favorability for Debt/Credit counseling, 5.88% each for emergency assistance, job training, temporary/transitional housing and youth programs. Additionally, 23.53% of respondents favored “Other” programs, the feedback on those other programs included low income rentals, affordable housing and technology access and education. In response to the question “What are your clients asking for right now?”, 76.47% said Housing Assistance. Lastly, when asked “...what does your organization deem the greatest need of your clients due to the impacts of COVID-19”, 82.35% of respondents answered Rental Assistance, 17.65% answered Utility Assistance and 0% of responses indicated either Mortgage Assistance or Broadband. This feedback indicated a clear need for housing assistance, particularly in the form of rental/utility assistance. Therefore, based on the survey results, we recommend that \$781,014 be allocated to the CDBG-CV Housing Relief Fund. The City, through the Housing Relief Fund, will help to prevent, prepare for and respond to the coronavirus pandemic.

Citizen Participation

The City of Columbia under the provision of the CARES Act held a 5-day public comment period from April 13, 2021 to April 19, 2021. The CDBG-CV3 CARES Act Amendment to the plan can be downloaded and viewed from the City’s website. Written comments can be addressed or emailed to the Office of Community Development at CommunityDevelopment@columbiasc.gov.

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