

SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT TO THE CITY OF ROCHESTER'S CONSOLIDATED
COMMUNITY/2019-20 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN FOR RECEIPT AND USE OF FEDERAL CARES
ACT FUNDING

June 4, 2021

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act was passed by Congress and signed into law on March 27, 2020. The purpose of this over \$2 trillion economic relief package is to protect people from the public health and economic impacts of COVID-19.

The CARES Act provides fast and direct economic assistance for American workers, families, and small businesses, and preserves jobs for our American industries. Funds may be used for activities that prevent, prepare for, and respond to the spread of infectious diseases such as coronavirus. Funds may be used to mitigate economic impacts caused by COVID19.

The City of Rochester was previously allocated \$4,881,038 in Community Development Block Grant-Coronavirus (CDBG-CV) funds, \$5,303,335 in Emergency Solutions Grants-Coronavirus (ESG-CV) funds, and \$142,029 in Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS-Coronavirus (HOPWA-CV) funds. The City of Rochester was allocated \$2,371,177 in the third round of Community Development Block Grant-Coronavirus (CDBG-CV) funds. Two previous substantial amendments to the 2019-20 Annual Action Plan appropriated a total of \$1,924,700 of the third round of CDBG-CV funds was approved. These amendments were approved by the Rochester City Council in December 2020 and February 2021.

This proposed amendment presents a plan to spend \$446,477 in CDBG-CV funds allocated to the City of Rochester through the third round of CARES Act CDBG-CV funding.

The CARES Act adds additional flexibility opportunities for the grant fund. The public comment period is shortened from 30 days to no less than 5 days for these funds. The City of Rochester will publish the plan for public comment for 5 days. There is no public service cap for the CDBG-CV funds, grantees may reimburse costs of eligible activities incurred for pandemic response regardless of the date, and the funds from this grant are not to be used to cover expenses that would otherwise be covered by other sources.

HUD has granted the ability to utilize waivers to allow for greater flexibility of use for CARES Act funding as well as 2019-20 and 2020-21 funding. The City of Rochester will utilize waivers as appropriate to best use funds to respond to this crisis and to help to mitigate economic impacts caused by COVID19.

At this time, the number to be served using these funding sources is still being developed.

This draft plan is the result of City staff working alongside partner community agencies to identify the most impactful activities and best use of these funds.

1. The City assessed which programs previously funded by CDBG-CV and regular CDBG funds that have successfully met urgent community needs that have emerged as a result of challenges due to the coronavirus.
2. The City worked to gather information from City Departments and our partner agencies to identify needs in the community for which these funds can be used. We will continue to address needs such as housing services and senior citizen support.
3. This amendment represents a proposed spending plan for the final balance of the third round of the City of Rochester's CDBG-CV funding allocation.
4. The City has worked to ensure that once City Council and HUD approves this amendment, the funds will be quickly leveraged to address community needs.

Community Development Block Grant CARES Act Funding (CDBG-CV) budget: \$446,477 allocated to the City of Rochester in the third round of CDBG-CV funding allocations.

Activity	Allocated Funding	Description
Housing and Public Services		
Tenant Landlord Services	\$70,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eviction prevention support services.
Foreclosure Prevention	\$104,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Counseling, negotiation, and advocacy for households affected by the pandemic. The Housing Council’s services include the review of households’ financial circumstances and negotiation with lenders to resolve mortgage arrears. The Empire Justice Center will provide legal advice and litigation services when required by analysis of clients’ circumstances.
Aging in Place	\$58,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food acquisition and distribution for elderly homeowners affected by the pandemic. • The City will contract with Lifespan of Greater Rochester to acquire and distribute perishable and non-perishable goods for low income, elderly homeowners as well as distribute the goods to this vulnerable portion of our community.
Financial Empowerment Centers	\$125,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding for up to two years for one financial counselor that will provide counselling services for community members who have been financially impacted by COVID-19.
Admin		
Administrative Charge	\$89,477	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased staffing demand.
Total	\$446,477	

2019-20 Citizen Participation Plan Amendment

The City is amending the 2019-20 Participation Plan to ensure adequate engagement and involvement of the public in making decisions related to the 2019-20 Annual Action Plan and associated HUD funding and programs. The Citizen Participation Plan (CP Plan) is amended as a result of changes due to the CARES Act and to reflect recent HUD guidance. This document details how the City will engage residents and stakeholders in the development of planning documents required by HUD for its programs.

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act was signed into law on March 27th, 2020. As a result of the CARES Act, the City of Rochester has been approved to apply for the funds from for HUD community development formula grant programs for the 2019-20 program year, necessitating a Substantial Amendment to the 2019-20 Consolidated Community Plan/Annual Action Plan, as follows:

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG-CV)	\$446,477
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The City previously appropriated \$12,251,102 in CDBG-CV, ESG-CV, and HOPWA-CV funding through the CARES Act.

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, Governor Andrew Cuomo has launched a phased-reopening plan called New York Forward and Mayor Lovely A. Warren has issued Local Emergency Orders in accordance of Section 24 of New York Executive Law. Therefore, the public's participation in the Public Hearing on the Substantial Amendment to the 2019-20 Consolidated Community Plan/Annual Action Plan will be conducted as follows:

- (1) On Friday, June 4, 2021, the draft of the Substantial Amendment to the 2019-20 Consolidated Community Plan/Annual Action Plan proposed for Council approval will be posted on-line through the project webpage: <https://www.cityofrochester.gov/conplan>
- (2) A link to the Public Notice and Amended Annual Action Plan documents will be emailed to a list of over 350 local stakeholders, including staff of community organizations and agencies, neighborhood and business association leaders, and Rochester residents on Friday, June 4, 2021.
- (3) The public comment period shall be from June 4, 2021 through 5:00pm on June 9, 2021.
- (4) The City Council Public Hearing on these documents will be held on or after 5pm June 10, 2021, and can be streamed live on the Council's Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/RochesterCityCouncil/> or YouTube Page https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_U7nbtS5kEz4bjEM8AGXIQ?view_as=subscriber .
- (5) Individuals who would like to submit comments for the Public Hearing should email them directly to Amy Ventura, CDBG Coordinator, at HUDFunding@CityofRochester.gov or via U.S. Postal Service to her attention at c/o CARES Act Action Plan Amendment, City Hall Room 224B, 30 Church Street, Rochester, NY 14614. In order for a comment to be presented at the on-line public hearing, it must be received no later than 5:00pm on Wednesday, June 9, 2021 and be prefaced by the name and address of the commenting individual or organization. Each email comment shall also be prefaced with the topic "2019-20 Amended Annual Action Plan" in the subject line.

- (6) Each comment submitted in the above manner and received by Amy Ventura no later than 5:00pm on June 9, 2021 will be read into the record for up to 3 minutes of time on the live cast of the Public Hearing. In addition, the full text of the comment will be shared with the Council in advance of the Public Hearing on June 10.