

Substantial Amendment to the State of Florida's FFY 2019 Annual Action Plan to Include Community Development Block Grant Coronavirus (CDBG-CV) Funding



The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) is requesting public comments on its Substantial Amendment to the state of Florida's Federal Fiscal Year 2019 Action Plan to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to include Community Development Block Grant – Coronavirus (CDBG-CV) funding.

HUD has allocated \$79.8 million in CDBG-CV funding to the state of Florida to help local governments respond to and recover from COVID-19 and the impacts it has caused. Prior to receipt of CDBG-CV funding from the HUD Office of Community Planning and Development, Florida is required to prepare a formal substantial amendment to the Federal Fiscal Year 2019 Action Plan. DEO is responsible for preparing the Action Plan and soliciting comments from the public regarding the plan and its subsequent amendments. The comment period will commence on July 21, 2020, and end on July 28, 2020. Additional information about how to provide comments on the Action Plan is included at the bottom of this notice.

Introduction

Signed into law March 27, 2020, H.R.748, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act, provides over \$2 trillion in aid nationwide to assist low-income families and most vulnerable citizens. As part of this response, HUD allocated \$2 billion in CDBG-CV funds to fiscal year 2020 CDBG recipients through the existing CDBG allocation formula (Round One Funding). Of this, \$16,660,264 was allocated to the state of Florida for eligible non-entitlement communities to prevent, prepare for and respond to COVID-19. HUD allocated an additional \$1 billion in CDBG-CV funds to states to administer in entitlement and non-entitlement communities (Round Two Funding). Of this, \$63,170,132 was allocated to the state of Florida.

CDBG-CV Allocation Details

DEO will allocate Round One funding (\$16,660,264) less any administration or technical assistance costs to non-entitlement communities as required by the CARES Act. DEO will allocate Round Two funding (\$63,170,132) less any administration or technical assistance costs to both entitlement and non-entitlement communities as required by the CARES Act.

Method of Distribution

The Method of Distribution for Round One funding will be through a competitive application process for eligible non-entitlement communities. The Method of Distribution for Round Two funding will be through a formula that considers factors such as the number of COVID-19 cases, the community's low- to moderate-income population or another formula modeled after HUD's methodology. The formula will determine the maximum amount of funds that can be applied for by each individual entitlement community or the non-entitlement communities as a whole. If funds are still available after the application period closes, funds will be redistributed to other eligible communities.

Entitlement Community Program:

Eligible applicants will include entitlement communities that will be encouraged to coordinate with local governments within their program. Local governments within entitlement communities that participate in the entitlement program will not be eligible to apply directly for funding from the state.

Entitlement communities will apply for programs related to COVID-19 response and recovery that can include rehabilitation and construction of publicly-owned facilities; planning and capacity building; public services; public infrastructure to promote economic development; assistance to businesses that employ low- to moderate-income individuals and other eligible CDBG-CV activities. Based on a needs and capacity review application process, funds will be awarded up to the amount of the entitlement community's allocation for eligible activities approved by DEO.

Non-Entitlement Community Program:

The Non-Entitlement Community Program will be funded through (1) the CDBG-CV Round One allocation in the amount of \$16,660,264; (2) the CDBG-CV Round Two allocation based on the formula distribution; and (3) supplemented with additional funds, based on need, available through the Federal Fiscal Year 2019 Small Cities CDBG program. The CDBG-CV Round Two allocation formula will distribute dollars to the non-entitlement community program as a whole. The Method of Distribution will then be determined through a competitive application process.

The Non-Entitlement Community Program and activities will closely align with the current competitive Small Cities CDBG program. Eligible applicants will include non-entitlement communities included in the FFY 2020 eligible communities list. Eligible activities may include rehabilitation and construction of publicly-owned facilities; planning and capacity building; and public infrastructure to promote economic development. Applications will be awarded based on score and eligible project readiness.

Public Comment

All interested parties are invited to submit written comments directly related to the proposed amendment to the current Florida FFY 2019 Action Plan. The full text of the amendment to the Florida FFY 2019 Action Plan can be accessed at www.FloridaJobs.org/CDBG-CV. Individuals and organizations may submit written comments by email to cdbq@deo.myflorida.com. Written comments must be received no later than July 28, 2020.

A public hearing to receive verbal comments will be held by conference call on July 28, 2020, at 11 a.m. Eastern Time. Interested parties may dial-in at 888-585-9008 (Access Code: 233-971-084).