

**CITY OF WORCESTER  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT**

**FIFTH YEAR ACTION PLAN / PROGRAM YEAR 45  
SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT #3  
July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020**



January 28, 2021

## **BACKGROUND AND OVERVIEW**

Pursuant to recent US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) guidance, *The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act* (CARES Act) Public Law makes available a total of \$5 billion in supplemental Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding to be allocated across federal entitlement communities in the United States for the prevention, preparation, and response to, coronavirus impacts (CDBG-CV grants). Additionally, the CARES Act provides CDBG grantees with flexibilities that make it easier to use CDBG-CV grants for coronavirus response and authorizes HUD to grant waivers and alternative requirements, including streamlining the public comment period for public input related to Consolidated Plan Substantial Amendments. Grantees, such as the City of Worcester, have been advised to amend or prepare their plans as soon as feasibly possible. The Department is also waiving 24 CFR 91.505 to facilitate the use of the CD BG-CV funds to the extent necessary to require submission of the substantial amendment to HUD for review in accordance with 24 CFR 91.500.

As such, on or about the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of June, 2020, the City of Worcester anticipates receiving the following entitlement funds from HUD with the following allocation/award amounts:

- **Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG): \$2,715,383**

The City of Worcester is therefore proposing to substantially amend its Consolidated Submission for Community Planning & Development (2015-2020), Fifth Year Action Plan, July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019 – June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020, in order to additionally fund the following activities and programs through the above supplemental allocations as itemized and further described in this amendment document on the following pages:

**ESG-CV: \$2,715,383** (supplemental funds round 2)

1. **Veterans Inc, Homeless Shelter Operations: \$100,000.00**
2. **Living in Freedom Together LIFT, HARBOR Program Outreach and Case Management Services: \$400,000.00**
3. **Temporary Emergency Shelter – Winter 2020-21, Homeless Shelter Operations: \$1,943,844.70**
  - City of Worcester Executive Office of Economic Development, Housing Development Division
4. **ESG Program Administrative Costs: \$271,538.30**
  - City of Worcester Executive Office of Economic Development, Housing Development Division

*Please Note: The allocation amounts provided above are based upon estimates and are subject to change. Final allocation amounts will be subject to 2 CFR 200.00 et. seq. (entitled “Uniform Administrative Requirements for Federal Awards”) for requirements formerly set forth in O.M.B. Circular A-122 and satisfaction of additional Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program eligibility criteria, as well as any other guidance or regulations as they may relate to The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) Public Law.*



## **PROPOSED AMENDMENT ACTIVITY DESCRIPTIONS**

The proposed amendment will allow the City of Worcester to fund the following activities and programs utilizing new and supplemental funds and guidance from the U.S. Department of Housing HUD related to the *The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act* (CARES Act – Round 2) Public Law. The following, as generally described herein, will be funded by amending the approved Fifth Year (2019-2020) Action Plan. The proposed projects, programs and activities are as follows:

**ESG-CV: \$2,715,383** (ESG-CV Round 2 supplemental funds)

**1. Veterans Inc, Homeless Shelter Operations: \$100,000.00**

Veterans Inc. will expand their shelter operations with 12 additional shelter beds. The COVID-19 Pandemic has placed considerable strain on the city's homeless population. Existing shelter operations did not allow for the physical distancing necessary to prevent the spread of the disease. Funds will be used for the staffing, supplies and operations of these temporary shelters including city health and medical staffing, shelter sub-recipient operations, staffing, meals, equipment, communication devices, cleaning and other eligible items.

**2. Living in Freedom Together LIFT, HARBOR Program Outreach and Case Management Services: \$400,000.00**

The **HARBOR** Program will assist by providing emergency shelter and a safe shelter-in-place facility due to the COVID19 Pandemic. This program addresses the immediate needs of women in systems of prostitution that are at heightened risk of exposure to COVID19 due to the chronic homelessness and compromised immune systems. With vital social service organizations closed and resources and services drastically reduced due to the pandemic, many of the participants are in critical need of support. LIFT's Outreach and Advocacy team will provide the community continued street outreach and supporting emergency shelters. Funds will be used for the staffing, supplies and operations of this shelter to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

**3. Temporary Emergency Shelter – Winter 2020-21, Homeless Shelter Operations: \$1,943,844.70  
City of Worcester Executive Office of Economic Development, Housing Development Division**

Temporary emergency shelters will be activated as needed to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The Pandemic has placed considerable strain on the city's homeless population. Existing shelter operations do not allow for the physical distancing necessary to prevent the spread of the disease. As needed the City may open multiple temporary shelter operations at schools, hotels and churches which would allow for social distancing. This approach has allowed for physical separation of this vulnerable population. Some of the shelters may be designated for occupants that have tested positive for the virus. Funds will be used for the staffing, supplies and operations of these temporary shelters including city health and medical staffing, shelter sub-recipient operations, staffing, meals, equipment, communication devices, cleaning and other eligible items. The funding will be used for the direct operation of this shelter and other costs deemed eligible, necessary, and cost reasonable by the City and its partners and subcontractors in tandem with guidance provided by HUD and the CARES Act Public Law.

**4. ESG Program Administrative Costs: \$271,583.30**

- City of Worcester Executive Office of Economic Development, Housing Development Division

Due to the increased administrative burden of managing the supplemental Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funding, the city will use ten percent (10%) of the overall grant allocation to cover the increased administrative costs related to grant oversight, monitoring and reporting. The administrative costs are allowable under HUD guidance related to the CARES Act Public Law.

*Contracts, or contract amendments, for all above activities will be executed once formal scopes of work have been reviewed and determined to be cost reasonable per 2 CFR 200.00 et. seq. (entitled “Uniform Administrative Requirements for Federal Awards”) for requirements formerly set forth in O.M.B. Circular A-122 as well as full satisfaction of additional program eligibility criteria, including completion of Environmental Reviews per 24 CFR Part 58.*

## **CITIZEN PARTICIPATION**

In accordance with HUD's waiver of 24 CFR 91.105(c)(2) and (k), 91.115(c)(2) and (i), the proposed amendment contained herein is being provided for public comment for no less than 5 days. The proposed amendment has been posted on Thursday, January 28, 2021 at the following locations:

- The City of Worcester's Community Development website, Policies & Procedures Page: <http://www.worcesterma.gov/housing-neighborhood-development/community-development-block-grants/policies-procedures>

Public input, comments, and inquiries may be directed to the City of Worcester's Executive Office of Economic Development as follows:

- By E-mail: [Development@worcesterma.gov](mailto:Development@worcesterma.gov)
- By Phone: (508) 799-1400

Anyone wishing to provide comments should provide their full name and contact information. The final day for accepting public comments will be Tuesday, February 2, 2021.