

City of Pawtucket, RI

2019-20 Community Development Block Grant-CV

Emergency Solutions Grant-CV

HOME Housing Program

Substantial Funding Amendment

to

Pawtucket's 2019-2020 Annual Action Plan

Issued: May 28, 2020

Public Comment Due: June 4, 2020

Please direct all questions and comments

about this Substantial Amendment request to:

**Edward Soares
CDBG Program Manager
Pawtucket Department of Planning and Redevelopment
Pawtucket City Hall
137 Roosevelt Avenue, Pawtucket, RI 02860**

Phone: 401-728-0500, Ext. 441

Email: esoares@pawtucketri.com

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CITY OF PAWTUCKET, RI

PUBLIC NOTICE

**Proposed Substantial Funding
Amendment to the
2019-2020 Annual Action Plan
Including (Covid-19) CDBG-CV &
ESG-CV Funding
Amended Citizen Participation Plan
Availability/Opportunity for Citizens Comment**

The City of Pawtucket, RI is announcing the availability of the above amendment for citizen review and comment. A copy of the **Substantial Amendment to the 2019-2020 Annual Action Plan**, which specifies the housing and community development projects to be undertaken under a proposed reuse of available funding under the Community Development Block Grant, Emergency Solutions Grant, HOME Investment Partnerships Program and additional COVID-19 HUD fund is available at the following locations during normal business hours:

Pawtucket Department of
Planning and Redevelopment
Pawtucket City Hall
137 Roosevelt Avenue
Pawtucket, RI 02860

City Clerk
Pawtucket City Hall
137 Roosevelt Avenue, Pawtucket, RI 02860

www.pawtucketri.com/planning-redevelopment

All locations are accessible to the disabled. Individuals requiring special assistance to take part in the review of this document are requested to contact the Pawtucket Department of Planning and Redevelopment at the number shown below.

Citizen comment on the Substantial Amendment will be accepted until **JUNE 4, 2020**. All comments should be addressed to:

Pawtucket Department of
Planning and Redevelopment
Pawtucket City Hall
137 Roosevelt Avenue
Pawtucket, RI 02860
Phone: (401) 728-0500 Ext. 441
Email: esoares@pawtucketri.com

Susan Mara
Director

Donald R. Grebien
Mayor



Narrative Summary of the Substantial Funding Amendment to the City of Pawtucket's 2019-2020 Annual Action Plan

HUD has awarded the City of Pawtucket \$1,085,926 additional CDBG funds and \$548,676 in additional Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds under the "Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act" (CARES Act) to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19. These funds are called "CDBG-CV and ESG-CV" funds.

The use of CDBG-CV and ESG-CV funds constitutes a substantial amendment to the FY 2019-2020 Annual Action Plan covering the use of the funds in regular (non COVID-19 related) CDBG funds from HUD.

Typically, if the City substantially amends its Annual Action Plan, HUD regulations and the City's Citizen Participation Plan, concerning citizen involvement in CDBG planning, require a 30-day public comment period. However, the CARES Act permits the City to shorten the public comment period to minimum of five days.

Therefore, the City is also amending its Citizen Participation Plan to reflect the shorter public comment period for the substantial amendment. The updated Citizen Participation Plan is on the City of Pawtucket's planning web page. www.pawtucketri.com/planning-redevelopment
A list of the changes is listed on the last two pages of this document.

Documents are available for public review both by contacting the Pawtucket Department of Planning and Redevelopment at the contact information shown on the cover sheet or by accessing the City of Pawtucket's web page at <http://www.pawtucketri.com/planning-redevelopment>

Comments:

The City of Pawtucket is providing a 5-day public review and comment period on this document from Thursday, May 28, 2020 to Thursday, June 4, 2020. Comments may be submitted in writing or by calling before 4:30 PM on Thursday, June 4, 2020 to:

Edward G. Soares, Community Development Program Manager, City of Pawtucket, Dept. of Planning and Redevelopment, 137 Roosevelt Avenue. Pawtucket, RI 02860. 401-728-0500, Ext. 441

Email: esoares@pawtucketri.com

City of Pawtucket, RI
2019-2020 Substantial Funding Amendment Summary
Issued: May 28, 2020
Public Comment Due: June 4, 2020

I. Community Development Block Grant (CDBG-CV) Substantial Funding Amendment Total CDBG-CV Funds Available \$1,085,926

Blackstone Valley Emergency Food Center- Food Assistance	\$ 50,000
Boys & Girls Club of Pawtucket – Afterschool Program	\$120,000
Blackstone Valley Community Action Program – Mortgage Assistance	\$ 50,000
Pawtucket Housing Authority – Food Assistance	\$ 53,741
RI Center for Justice Legal Assistance – Eviction Legal Assistance	\$ 20,000
YMCA of Pawtucket – Childcare	\$ 20,000
Leon Mathieu Senior Center - Senior programs/ modifications	\$230,000
Pawtucket Soup Kitchen - Food Assistance	\$ 25,000
Pawtucket Business Development Corporation – Small Business Loans	\$300,000
City of Pawtucket Admin Set-aside	\$217,185

II. Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG-CV) Substantial Funding Amendment Total ESG-CV Funds Available \$ 548,676

Crossroads RI – Emergency Rental Assistance –Rapid Rehousing	\$493,809
City of Pawtucket Admin Set-aside	\$ 54,867

III. HOME Partnership Investment Program (HOME) Substantial Funding Amendment Total HOME Funds Available \$ 300,000

Pawtucket Housing Authority – Tenant Based Rental Assistance	\$300,000
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CARES Act amendments to the City of Pawtucket's Citizen Participation Plan

A. Disaster Response Exemption for Substantial Amendment

In the event there is an emergency or disaster, in which a state of emergency has been declared either at the federal, state, or local level, the consultation and citizen participation requirements – public hearing and public comment – related to the adoption of a substantial amendment shall be waived to allow for a timelier response to the emergency or disaster. All other requirements for a substantial amendment shall remain in effect.

On March 27, 2020, President Trump signed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), Public Law 116-136. Not only does the CARES Act allocate additional FY20 CDBG and ESG dollars to allow municipalities to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus (COVID-19), but the CARES Act also adds additional flexibility for the use of PY20 (July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020) CDBG-CV funds in some cases, for the annual PY21 (July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021) CDBG funds during these unprecedented times.

Waivers provided by HUD related to the Citizen Participation Plan and Consolidated Plan for the City of Pawtucket were issued on May 4, 2020.

B. Citizen Participation Public Comment Period for Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan Amendments

A HUD CPD grantee may amend an approved consolidated and annual action plan in accordance with 24 CFR 91.505. Substantial amendments to these plans are subject to the citizen participation process in the grantee's citizen participation plan (CPP). The citizen participation plan must provide citizens with 30 days to comment on substantial amendments.

Given the need to expedite actions to respond to COVID-19, HUD has waived this requirement in order to balance the need to respond quickly to the growing spread and effects of COVID-19 with the statutory requirements to provide reasonable notice and opportunity for citizens to comment on substantial amendments concerning the proposed uses of CDBG, HOME, or ESG funds.

Waiver: This 30-day minimum for the required public comment period is waived for substantial amendments, provided that no less than 5 days are provided for public comments on each substantial amendment.

Timeframe: This waiver shall be in effect from May 4, 2020 through the end of the recipient's 2020 program year (June 30, 2021)

C. Citizen Participation Reasonable Notice and Opportunity to Comment

For substantial amendments to the consolidated and annual action plan, HUD's regulations require the recipient to follow its citizen participation plan (CPP) to provide citizens with reasonable notice and opportunity to comment, and must also state how reasonable notice and opportunity to comment will be given.

Given governmental orders to limit public gatherings, HUD has provided waivers to allow grantees to determine what constitutes reasonable notice and opportunity to comment given their circumstances.

Waiver: This waiver provides that grantees may amend citizen participation plan to establish expedited procedures to draft, propose, or amend consolidated plans. Expedited procedures must include notice and reasonable opportunity to comment of no less than 5 days. The 5-day period can run concurrently for comments on the consolidated plan and annual action plan amendment and amended citizen participation plans.

In-person public hearings are not required. Grantees may meet public hearing requirements with virtual public hearings if:

1. National/local health officials recommend social distancing and limiting public gatherings for public health reasons.
2. Virtual hearings provide reasonable notification and access for citizens in accordance with the grantee's certifications, timely responses from local officials to all citizen questions and issues, and public access to all questions and responses.

Timeframe: This waiver shall be in effect from May 4, 2020 through the end of the recipient's 2020 program year (June 30, 2021)

Given governmental orders to limit gatherings and the need for expedited decision making related to the use of CDBG-CV funds, the following paragraph describes the efforts to notify the public of public meetings and public hearings during this time:

- Notices for public hearings for amendments to the use of funds proposed in the Consolidated Plan and/or Annual Action Plan will be emailed to neighborhood organizations.
- Notice will be posted on the City website and social media accounts.
- Notice shall be sent to the Planning and Redevelopment Department's email list of agency/organization representatives that operate in Pawtucket.

During this time, public meetings and public hearings shall be conducted virtually to ensure public safety and maintain social distancing. Public hearings will allow for questions in real time, with answers coming directly from officials and planning staff with responses available for all attendees; via a virtual hearing method or platform that provides accessibility for persons with disabilities and/or Limited English Proficiency will be made available to the greatest extent possible.