

Substantial Amendment to the FY2019 Community Development Block Grant Annual Action Plan in Response to Covid-19 Pandemic

Governor Murphy signed Executive Order 103 on March 9, 2020 declaring a State of Emergency and a Public Health Emergency and subsequent orders including Stay at Home, mandatory business closures, and social distancing mandates, among others.

The Federal CARES Act provided supplemental funding for Coronavirus aid, relief, and economic security to help America’s low-income families and most vulnerable citizens which included waivers and flexibilities to enable grantees to quickly aid their communities.

Waivers and flexibilities include reduced public comment periods on substantial amendments, telephonic public hearings and waiver of the 15% public service cap.

The FY2019 Annual Action Plan is being amended to incorporate the additional CDBG-CV funding of \$175,747 and identify how the funding will be directed to prevent, prepare for, and respond to Coronavirus.

Activities include support for increased demand on local food supply operations, small business assistance, temporary shelter for the quarantined Covid-19 positive homelessness population, and public health planning and education as noted below:

Project	Initial Budget	Revised Budget	Change
COVID-19 Food Pantry Support	\$0	\$35,000	\$35,000
COVID-19 Family/Youth Support	\$0	\$35,000	\$35,000
COVID-19 Temporary Shelter for Homeless	\$0	\$5,000	\$5,000
COVID-19 Public Health Recovery Education and Outreach	\$0	\$10,000	\$10,000
COVID-19 Economic Development Small Business Recovery	\$0	\$90,747	\$90,747
		TOTAL:	\$175,747

The City has communicated with the Cumberland County Department of Health, public service providers, and CDBG Advisory Committee meetings to discuss the appropriate direction of the additional CDBG-CV funds. Summary of program activities below meet eligibility guidelines of the CDBG Entitlement program and either prevent, prepare for or respond to coronavirus.

Food Pantry Support:

The Help & Hope Ministries Food Pantry has been a regular recipient of Millville’s annual CDBG funding as they are one of the only local resources in the community for this type of service. The Pantry has closed its service center to the public due to NJ Executive Orders and has developed a delivery system and is seeing new faces everyday, a two-fold increase of client base in April. The additional funding will go towards the purchase of food supplies, delivery expenses, and administrative support.

Family/Youth Support:

Rise and Shine is a current recipient of CDBG funding and they typically run an after-school program for youth of the community. Rise and Shine has had to close the afterschool program until executive orders are lifted. They have since joined with Help & Help to partner and deliver needed services to the community including the youth and families within their program. Delivery of household necessities, grab and go meals, and distance learning activities will be supported with the additional funding.

Temporary Shelter for Homeless Population:

The County has been the coordinator of many efforts during this unprecedented pandemic. This particular service the additional funding will support is the temporary shelter of the Millville homeless population who have been diagnosed with Covid-19 and need to be quarantined for 2 weeks. The funding will be coordinated with the County Human Services Department.

Public Health Recovery Education and Outreach:

Recovery planning efforts for communities is going to be crucial. As we start "opening" back up again, the need for education for businesses and community residents will be serious. Opening will to be in phases, but having the ability to communicate and educate efficiently with businesses is going to make for a smoother transition. The threat of Covid-19 returning in the fall poses the need for additional guidance for our communities to remain safe. Keeping the community and businesses engaged for the next year will be crucial and the additional funding will be used to establish educational and communication tools and to implement a readiness toolkit for the fall and 2021.

Economic Development Small Business Recovery:

The City along with its non-profit partner Holly City Development Corporation have worked to design an application and grant/loan program to respond to Covid-19 economic development impacts. Additional CDBG-CV funds will be used where eligible to fund eligible business under the pilot program. These funds will be issued as forgivable loans and be complemented by technical assistance, leveraged funds/loans where applicable and Business Needs Assessment for sustainable recovery planning.