



CITY OF STAUNTON, VIRGINIA

SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT TO FY 2019 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN FOR CDBG CARES ACT FUNDS and PROJECT REALLOCATION CDBG

Overview/Objective

The federal CARES Act, P.L. 116-136, made available supplemental funding through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. An additional \$125,136 in CDBG-CV funds were allocated to the City of Staunton by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (USHUD).

Special USHUD waivers permit CDBG-CV funding to be utilized for public services and other activities that will prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus. The broad flexible waivers will permit the City of Staunton to address the challenges facing the city.

The City of Staunton is also proposing an amendment to current projects in the 2019 Entitlement CDBG allocation. The previously approved Valley Supportive Housing project will be modified to provide \$30,000 for a roof replacement project on an 8-unit, Supportive Housing project located on Kalorama Street. This is a different location than previously approved; however, the new project proposes to serve additional persons. The metal roof at the proposed project site is in need of a full replacement. The project will benefit 8 low-income households currently living in the property. Beneficiaries are formally homeless households with disabilities. To accommodate the increased funding for this project, the City proposes a reduction in the Rockway Street Waterline project. The Rockway Street Waterline project is a multi-year project that will be completed in a future funding year. To accommodate the reduction, the City proposes funding the project in future funding years.

Public Comment

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) granted several waivers to program procedure to expedite the use of these funds. These waivers included an ability to amend the Citizen Participation Plan and allow for a much shorter timeframe for public display, use of the internet to make the Substantial Amendment available to the public and use of virtual meetings

to allow for input and comment. The City of Staunton advertised and made the Substantial Amendment available to the public on January 19, 2021 for a period of 7 days and held a virtual public hearing by call in on January 21, 2021.

Rationale for amendment

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, (CARES Act) which was signed into law on March 27, 2020, provides funds through the CDBG, ESG and HOPWA programs. The CARES Act provides for allocations of funds to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus.

The City of Staunton has taken stock of local needs and the parameters of each of the programs and determined how the funds allocated will be used in this community. The following activities will be funded:

- Subsistence Payments (rental, utility and mortgage assistance)
- Shelter Operations
- Food Banks
- Health Services
- Legal Services

The four (4) main objectives of the City of Staunton COVID response would be to:

- Providing emergency payments for rental, mortgage and utility assistance to low-to-moderate income households.
- Provide funding for additional emergency shelter staffing due to the increased shelter space needs resulting from social distancing.
- Provide food assistance to low to moderate income households.
- Increase outreach and education to underserved populations to provide prevention messaging in socially vulnerable areas, as identified by CDC social vulnerability index maps, of the City.

1. CV Salvation Army Homeless Prevention (rent/utilities/mortgage payments):

City of Staunton residents have experienced significant financial hardship due to social distancing restrictions imposed in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency. The goal of the subsistence payments program would be to provide low-moderate income, qualifying households short term (no more than 3 months) rental and/or utility assistance.

Program Budget

The Salvation Army estimates serving 100 people with rent/utilities/mortgage payments with a total budget of \$20,000.

TOTAL BUDGET FROM CARES FUNDS \$60,000

2. CV Salvation Army Food Assistance

The City of Staunton residents have experienced significant financial hardship due to social distancing restrictions imposed in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency. The Salvation Army's volunteers distribute groceries twice a week to local school stops and once a week delivering groceries to residents unable to leave their homes. This program will benefit low-to-moderate income households within the City of Staunton.

Program Budget

The Salvation Army will serve approximately 300 low-income people with a \$5,000 budget.

TOTAL BUDGET FROM CARES FUNDS \$14,482

3. CV Blue Ridge Legal Services

The City of Staunton has recognized the need to provide legal aid services to persons at risk of homelessness as a result of COVID-19. Such services include legal services to provide legal aid to low- and moderate-income households facing evictions. Blue Ridge Legal Services will hire an additional attorney for the balance of 2020 to add the capacity needed to meet the anticipated demand for legal aid for City of Staunton residents when the courts reopen.

Program Budget

Blue Ridge Legal Services estimates spending \$15,109 serving approximately 10 people.

TOTAL BUDGET FROM CARES FUNDS \$40,109

4. CV Shelter Operations Valley Mission:

The City of Stanton has recognized the need to assist Valley Mission's effort in providing emergency shelter for person's experiencing homelessness during the pandemic. As a result of increased shelter space needs resulting from social distancing measures, there is a need for additional emergency shelter staff support. Financial support will provide 10 weeks of gross salary for emergency shelter staff.

Program Budget

The City of Staunton estimates providing emergency shelter to 46 people with a total budget of \$30,000.

TOTAL BUDGET FROM CARES FUNDS \$60,000

5. CV Health Education and Services

Funds will be used to hire a Community Health Worker (CHW) to provide education and resources on COVID-19 to underserved areas in the City of Staunton. Funds will support the CHW salary, and this position can be used for both outreach and contact tracing for Staunton. Funds will also be used to support purchase of hand sanitizer, masks and other items that help with COVID prevention to distribute to communities as well as printing of educational materials. CHW can also work with the Office of Health Equity (VDH) to develop maps of neighborhoods at high risk for severe COVID disease due to age/chronic medical conditions/low income/high density housing and develop strategies to reach these populations.

Program Budget

Central Shenandoah Health District will serve 425 people with a total budget of \$30,000.

TOTAL BUDGET FROM CARES FUNDS \$65,000

6. CV Program Administration

In order to provide oversight and programmatic technical assistance to grantees, The City of Staunton will use the maximum allowed percentages for both CDBG-CV to pay for program administration.

Program Budget

Total cost for Program Administration is \$25,027

TOTAL BUDGET FROM CARES FUNDS \$66,545

Amendments to 2019 Entitlement Projects below

Project Name	Valley Supportive Housing-PSH
Target Area	Citywide
Goals Supported	Affordable Housing
Needs Addressed	Housing/services for the Homeless
Funding	CDBG: \$30,000
Description	Valley Supportive Housing will use CDBG funding to replace the metal roof at an 8-unit supportive housing development for formally homeless individuals with mental health disabilities. \$10,000 previously awarded to purchase a four-unit structure for formally homeless individuals with mental health disabilities.
Target Date	04/01/2020
Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Target minimum number of individuals to be served in the program year = 8 homeless individuals.
Location Description	Citywide
Planned Activities	Valley Supportive Housing will use CDBG funding to replace the metal roof at an 8-unit supportive housing development for formally homeless individuals with mental health disabilities.

Project Name	Public Facility Improvements-Rockway Street Waterline
Target Area	Rockway Street
Goals Supported	Improve public facilities and infrastructure
Needs Addressed	Public Facilities and Infrastructure
Funding	CDBG: \$125,796
Description	This project will provide funding for approximately 810 ft of waterline along Rockway Street from Lambert Street. Project funding reduced by \$20,000.
Target Date	9/30/2021
Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Target minimum number of individuals to be served in the program year = 40 low-income households
Location Description	Rockway Street from Lambert Street in the City
Planned Activities	This project will provide funding for approximately 810 ft of waterline along Rockway Street from Lambert Street.