

NOTICE of FUNDING AVAILABILITY

Notice of Funding Availability Is in response to the Coronavirus Pandemic (COVID-19). The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), Public Law 116-136 was signed into law March 27, 2020. As a result, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) made available \$5 billion in Community Development Block Grant Coronavirus (CDBG-CV) funds **to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19**. The City of Martinsburg is being awarded \$210,613. This funding is separate from the regular annual CDBG funds that the City receives every year. Because this is a distinct program, the City is required to amend its FY 2020-2021 Annual Action Plan calling it a Substantial Amendment to include in the proposed CDBG-CV funds.

The City of Martinsburg is an Entitlement Community and receives CDBG funds on a formula basis from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to fund activities that primarily benefit low and moderate income (LMI) residents of the City. The City of Martinsburg announces the availability of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG-CV) funds to undertake projects to **prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus (COVID-19)**.

Funds must be used to carry out activities for one of the three broad National Objectives:

- benefit low and moderate-income persons;
- aid in the prevention or elimination of slum and blight; or
- meet other community development needs of particular urgency.

The CDBG program includes several restrictions and requirements on annual expenditures:

- 20% cap on administration and planning costs;
- 15% cap on public services (waived under CDBG-CV);
- 70% of all expenditures must benefit low and moderate- income persons or neighborhoods

The CARES Act provides flexibility for Entitlement Communities such as Martinsburg, WV in using our FY 2020-2021 CDBG and CDBG-CV program funds. The CARES Act authorizes HUD to grant waivers and give alternative requirements of statutes and regulations in connection with the use of CDBG-CV funds and our Fiscal Year 2020 program funds except for the requirements dealing with fair housing; nondiscrimination; labor standards; and environment.

The FY 2020 Annual Action Plan

The current FY 2020-2021 Annual Action Plan will be amended to allow the City of Martinsburg to receive and administer the \$210,613 in CDBG-CV funds made available through the CARES Act. **These funds may be used to prevent or prepare for the spread of coronavirus 19 (COVID-19)** and respond and facilitate assistance to eligible

city households, persons, nonprofit agencies that serve the low- and moderate-income city residents; and eligible city small businesses that have been economically impacted by COVID-19. If the city would receive any additional funds by HUD through the CARES Act it will be utilized for the same purpose of the original allocation.

CDBG-CV activities

Eligible CDBG-CV activities may include, but not be limited to,

- **Public Service** activities assisting low-and-moderate income households and/or clientele. The 15% public service cap has been waived during this emergency funding program and applies to the FY 2020 Annual Plan that will be used to incorporate the CDBG-CV funds;
- **Public Improvements** to include acquisition, construction, or installation of public works, facilities, and site or other improvements or rehabilitation of building or improvements; and
- **Economic Development** assistance to small businesses such as provide grants or loans to create or retain jobs.

GRANT FUNDS may not be used to pay costs if another source of financial assistance is available to pay that cost.

Examples of CDBG-CV Related Activities:

- Add to Existing FY 2020 Public Services Projects with COVID-19 needs since the 15% Public Service Cap has been waived;
- Emergency rent/utility assistance;
- Food distribution;
- An existing CDBG Public Improvement Project that can show a loss of jobs/funding due to COVID-19;
- Provide testing, diagnosis or other services at a fixed or mobile location;
- Short Term working capital assistance to small businesses to enable retention of jobs held by low-and moderate-income persons.

All funding request applications for CDBG-CV must be submitted to and received by CDBG & HOME Administrator for the City of Martinsburg by Thursday, June 11, 2020 by 4:00pm. Only completed applications will be accepted so please review the application carefully and make sure the budget page is filled out completely. Also include all required attachments.

HUD Performance Measurements:

HUD has implemented **performance measures** to quantify the impact of the Community Development Block Grant program and other HUD programs, including HOME Investment Partnerships. **All activities funded with the City's CDBG funding must meet one of the following HUD objectives and outcomes:**

HUD OBJECTIVES

- Creating **Suitable Living Environment** – addressing physical or social issues;
- Providing **Decent Housing** – housing activities to meet individual or community housing needs;
- Creating **Economic Opportunities** – economic development, job creation, commercial revitalization;

HUD OUTCOMES

- **Improve Availability/Accessibility:** Makes accessible to low-and -moderate income persons where they live and make the basic service, facility, or shelter available;
 - **Improve Affordability:** Makes an activity more affordable by lowering cost, improving quality or increasing affordability of a product or service for benefit of low-and- moderate income persons;
 - **Improve Sustainability:** Using resources in a targeted area to improve communities or neighborhoods, helping them be more livable by benefiting low-and-moderate income persons.
- **Requests involving federal funds shall serve the LMI areas or persons in the city of Martinsburg.**

- **FY 2020 HUD Income Limits**
- **Martinsburg, WV HUD Metro FMR Area**

2020 Income Limit Category	1 Person	2 Person	3 Person	4 Person	5 Person	6 Person
Extremely Low – 30% median income or below	\$15,650	\$17,850	\$21,720	\$26,200	\$30,680	\$35,160
Very Low – 50% of median income	\$26,050	\$29,750	\$33,450	\$37,350	\$40,150	\$43,100
Low – 80% of median income	\$41,650	\$47,600	\$53,550	\$59,450	\$64,250	\$69,000

- **A public comment period will be held from June 23, 2020 to July 2, 2020.**
- **The Public Hearing on recommendations for Funding Allocations for CDBG-CV will be held on Wednesday, July 1, 2020, 4:00pm at City Hall and Virtually.**
- **Approval from the Mayor and Council for the FY 2020 CDBG-CV Substantial Amendment will be Thursday July 9, 2020.**
- **Please contact Ms. Nancy Strine, CDBG & HOME Administrator at 304-264-2131 ext. 278 or nstrine@cityofmartinsburg.org for questions.**
- **Assistance will be provided to accommodate the special needs of persons with disabilities upon 24-hour advance request.**