

City of Utica, New York
2020 – 2021 Program Year Substantial Amendment

In accordance with the City of Utica, New York’s Citizen Participation Plan and the federal *Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act* (CARES Act) (Public Law 116-136), the City of Utica has prepared a Substantial Amendment to the City’s 2020-2021 program year Annual Action Plan, the first year of the City’s 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan.

The proposed Substantial Amendment involves \$679,576 in supplemental Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds awarded through the CARES Act and intended to prevent, prepare for and respond to the global coronavirus pandemic. This funding is administered by the United States Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD).

In order to access the supplemental CDBG-CV funds, the CARES Act requires that entitlement communities submit a Substantial Amendment to HUD through HUD’s Integrated Disbursement and Information System (IDIS). Additionally, HUD has asked that entitlement communities amend their latest approved Annual Action Plan. On May 14, 2020, HUD notified the City of Utica that its Program Year 2020 Annual Action Plan had been reviewed and approved; as such, the City of Utica is proposing to amend its 2020 Annual Action Plan to include any and all supplemental CARES Act funding, including the second round of CDBG-CV for the City of Utica, the subject of this notice.

Under ordinary circumstances, the City’s Citizen Participation Plan requires that public notice be provided at least thirty (30) days prior to the submission of a Substantial Amendment to HUD. However, in light of the current pandemic, CDBG-CV recipients have been given the flexibility to amend their Citizen Participation Plan and reduce the usual citizen participation requirements to no less than five (5) calendar days. At its meeting on May 20, 2020, the Common Council approved that amendment to the City’s Citizen Participation Plan.

Following considerable consultation with various human service agencies and organizations, the following plan has been developed:

CDBG-CV	\$679,576
Activity/Description	Amount
Community Kitchens	
Through this funding, the City will fund existing community kitchens that serve hot meals within the City; participating kitchens will in-turn work with Utica-based restaurants to provide pre-packaged meals to the kitchens. The City will also work cooperatively with those kitchens to market the program to restaurants strictly located within the City of Utica. Self-certification of all persons/families receiving the meals will need to be gathered by each participating kitchen and the City will need to document that at least 51% of those receiving meals have a total family income of less than 80% of AMI.	\$280,576
Landlord Assistance Through Emergency Repairs	
Up to \$15,000 in assistance will be provided to owners of multi-unit residential buildings to make emergency repairs for which no other funding (public or private) is available, due to impacts from the coronavirus. The City will contract with a local not-for-profit familiar with construction and selected through a competitive process to administer this program. Emergency repairs will include major building systems (i.e., furnace, hot water heater, plumbing, electrical, etc.), building envelope (i.e., roof, windows, etc.) and building access (i.e., steps, ramps, etc.) necessary to protect the health and safety of the	\$279,000

low- to moderate-income residents. In order to be eligible, landlords will be required to prove a COVID hardship, such as reduced rental income for a sustained period of time since March 2020 and insufficient funds to cover the anticipated cost of repairs.	
Employment via Social Enterprise	
This activity will require that a local social service agency develop a social enterprise program that, in effect, employs homeless persons within the City of Utica to perform tasks that do not compete with existing private-sector businesses, such as establishing a service that shovels the sidewalks of elderly residents in the winter.	\$120,000
\$679,576	

The City is also proposing a second amendment that aims to reallocate Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds that were awarded during the 2016-17, 2017-18, and 2018-19 Program Years that remain unspent due to rule changes and/or subrecipient withdrawal from their contracts. The action involves a transfer of \$140,084.79 of ESG funds from the following activities: \$21,708.76 – Transitional Housing funds (2016-2018) will be reallocated to pay for foundation repairs to the Johnson Park Center Emergency Shelter; \$118,376.03 – Rapid Rehousing funds (2016-2019) will be reallocated to Rapid Rehousing and Homelessness Prevention activities provided by the Municipal Housing Authority, Integrated Community Action Network (ICAN) and the Veterans’ Outreach Center. Additional shelter needs at the YWCA Hall House and Rescue Mission Men’s Shelter may also be addressed where possible.

Finally, the City is proposing a final amendment to transfer \$150,000 in CDBG revolving loan fund proceeds/program income to Demolition in the current 2020-2021 program year in order to demolish various City-owned properties that are either a slum and blighting influence on the surrounding neighborhood or are located within the City’s CDBG Target Area.

This notice was posted to the City of Utica’s website, www.cityofutica.com, on Wednesday, January 27, 2021 and is being published in the Observer Dispatch, the City’s official newspaper. The City intends to submit the above Substantial Amendments to its Program Year 2020 Annual Action Plan electronically to HUD five (5) days after publication in the newspaper. Comments on this Substantial Amendment may be e-mailed to Commissioner of Urban & Economic Development Brian Thomas, AICP at bthomas@cityofutica.com.