

City of Utica, New York
CDBG-CV Substantial Amendment

In accordance with the City of Utica, New York 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 \$1,510,166 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 CDBG-CV, 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 Wednesday, May 20, 2020, the Common Council approved that amendment to the City’s Citizen Participation Plan.

Following considerable consultation with the Mohawk Valley Housing & Homeless Coalition, the area’s Continuum of Care, and other human service agencies and organizations, the following plan has been developed:

CDBG-CV	\$1,510,166
Activity/Description	Amount
Economic Development	
Pandemic Stimulus Program - provide direct financial assistance through forgivable loan program to businesses that agree to retain employees during 8-week period w/o regard to family income of employee(s); max loan amount of \$10,000 per applicant	\$225,000
Housing	
Rent Relief Program - assist renters with family incomes between 50% and 80% of area median income with up to three months' rent, including arrears; payment to be made directly to landlords	\$250,000
Mortgage Relief Program - assist low- and moderate-income homeowners (up to 80% of area median income) with payment of up to three months' mortgage, including arrears; payment to be made directly to financing institutions	\$200,000

Mortgage Relief Program - assist moderate-income homeowners (up to 120% of area median income) with payment of up to three months' mortgage, including arrears; payment to be made directly to financing institutions	\$175,000
Public Services	
Provide funding for allocation to local food banks and pantries that distribute food to needy persons and families living in Utica	\$195,000
Provide funding to re-tool community organizing efforts in the wake of COVID-19 with a focus on existing neighborhood associations w/in the City's CDBG Target Area	\$40,000
Establish 'Utica Green Teams'; teams of no more than 10 youth per team, ages 14 to 18, will conduct 'neighborhood sweeps' within CDBG Target Area	\$125,000
Administration (20% maximum)	
General administrative costs (salary/fringe) for City staff	\$300,166
	\$1,510,166

This notice was posted to the City of Utica's website, www.cityofutica.com, on Thursday, May 28, 2020 and will be published in the Observer Dispatch, the City's official newspaper. The City intends to submit its CDBG-CV Substantial Amendment 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.