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CARES Act

Emergency Solutions Grant – CV Substantial Amendment

May 20, 2020

The *Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act* (CARES Act) (Public Law 116-136) provided entitlement communities with \$4 billion in supplemental Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Program funding 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). Based on the current entitlement formula used to calculate annual ESG allocations, HUD has notified the City of Utica that it will receive a supplemental allocation of ESG-CV funds totaling \$743,966.

In order to access the supplemental ESG-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 ESG-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, ESG-CV recipients have been given the flexibility to omit the usual citizen participation and consultation requirements and instead publish how it has and will use its allocation online; the posting of this notice at www.cityofutica.com fulfills that requirement.

In developing the plan summarized below for the expenditure of its supplemental ESG-CV funds, the City of Utica consulted extensively with the Mohawk Valley Housing & Homeless Coalition, the area's Continuum of Care. As a result of that consultation, the plan addresses a variety of priorities, including:

- Providing assistance to existing emergency shelters that have been impacted by the coronavirus;
- Addressing rapid rehousing as a means of controlling the spread of the virus by the more transient segment of the City's homeless/at-risk population; and the
- Prevention of homelessness through rent relief for low-income persons and families.

Proposed Activity/Description	Amount
Emergency Shelter	
To address impacts to existing shelters as a result of COVID-19 - need to purchase PPE, additional staff time for disinfecting, meeting social distancing requirements, etc.	
Rescue Mission Men's Shelter	\$100,000
YWCA Domestic Violence Shelter	\$25,000
Johnson Park Center	\$25,000
Rapid Rehousing	
Moving 18- to 25-year olds from shelters into permanent housing; to be administered by ICAN	\$179,600
Homelessness Prevention	
Rent Relief Program - assist renters with family incomes less than 50% of area median income with up to three months' rent, including arrears; payment to be made directly to landlords. City will contract the administration of this program to a local agency to be selected based on a competitive Request For Proposal (RFP) process.	\$330,000
Administration & HMIS Reporting	
HMIS Data/Reporting	\$10,000
Administration (10%)	\$74,366
	\$743,966

With respect to the rent relief program, it is important to note that standard ESG rules limit such assistance to persons and families up to 30% of the area median income (AMI). The CARES Act, however, provides entitlement communities with the flexibility to assist persons and families up to 50% of AMI.

This notice has been posted to the City of Utica's website: www.cityofutica.com on Wednesday, May 20, 2020. The City intends to submit its ESG-CV Substantial Amendment to its Program Year 2020 Annual Action Plan electronically to HUD no later than Friday, May 22, 2020. Comments on this Substantial Amendment may be e-mailed to Commissioner of Urban & Economic Development Brian Thomas, AICP at bthomas@cityofutica.com.

