

SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT TO THE FY 2019 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) & EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT (ESG) PROGRAMS

I. INTRODUCTION

The city of Shreveport receives annual entitlement funds from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), which includes Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnership (HOME) and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds. A five-year Consolidated Strategy Plan must be developed before funds are received or expended. Each year throughout the five-year plan, the City must develop an Action Plan describing how the funds will be used. Any substantial changes in funding, goals or activities require a substantial amendment to the Consolidated Strategy Plan as set forth in 24 CFR Part 91, which includes:

- A significant change to an activity, scope of work, location, beneficiaries, or persons served; and
- Funding of a new activity not previously described in the FY 2019 Action Plan.

On March 27, 2020, President Trump signed into law the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act (COVID-19). The CARES Act made available \$1,147,831 to the City of Shreveport under the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG-CV) and \$564,476 under the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG-CV). These funds are to be used to prevent, prepare for and respond to the coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19).

The additional supplemental funding through the CARES Act requires an amendment to 2019 Annual Action Plan. The city of Shreveport is proposing amendments that will modify several areas of the plan for CDBG and ESG.

II. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Due to COVID-19, HUD issued guidance waving the Citizen Participation Plan requirements for entitlement recipients, provided (1) no fewer than five days are provided for public comment and (2) reasonable notices and the opportunity to comment are given.

A variety of mechanisms have been utilized to solicit input from various individuals and entities to develop the substantial amendment. These included, but are not limited to, telephone or personal interviews, surveys, conference calls, internet based meetings, focus groups, and other forms of consultations. On April 30, 2020, the City of Shreveport

Department of Community Development conducted a Virtual Public Hearing regarding CDBG-CV and ESG-CV. The City of Shreveport also consulted and collaborated with the Continuum of Care in developing the plan for the use of ESG –CV funds.

Citizens were provided reasonable notice to comment on the substantial amendment. The public notice was published in the Shreveport Times on April 29, 2020. A copy of the proposed amendment is available for review at 4:00 pm, May 7, 2020 through 4:00 pm, May 14, 2020 on the city’s website, www.shreveportla.gov. Please submit all written comments to Post Office Box 31109, Shreveport, LA 71130-1109 or send via facsimile to (318) 673-5903 or email to fred.thomas@shreveportla.gov.

The City will include a summary of the public comments and responses in the submittal to HUD.

Please see the recommended program uses below:

III. PROPOSE USES OF CDBG-CV

ACTIVITY	AMOUNT
Administration	\$172,831
Public Service	\$275,000
Workforce Development Training/Public Service	\$375, 000
Small Business Assistance	\$325,000
Total	\$1,147,831

AMENDMENT I: GRANT ADMINISTRATION

- Reasonable costs of overall program management, coordination, staff costs, monitoring, accounting, auditing, and evaluation.

AMENDMENT II: PUBLIC SERVICES & WORKFORCE TRAINING

- Provide workforce training and job recruitment services for newly unemployed Shreveport residents, and promote long-term area benefit of a skilled technology workforce;
- Increase the availability of Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) by purchasing equipment to manufacture mass productions of PPEs for the community;
- Provide food access to quarantined individuals, homeless shelters, seniors, or individuals that need to maintain social distancing due to medical vulnerability;
- Create an advocacy program or position to support displacement of families and individuals due to evictions, foreclosures, and financial instability caused by COVID-19; and,

- Eliminate educational barriers resulting from COVID-19 through internet access to underserved areas, virtual learning, and other innovative mechanisms.

AMENDMENT III: SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE

- Provide working capital to very small businesses experiencing unforeseen reopening expenses and to prevent job loss for low and moderate income workers;
- Provide information and small business support to Shreveport-area small business and entrepreneurs to stabilize, establish, and expand small business; and,
- Avoid job loss by creating incentives and opportunities for new remote jobs.

IV. PROPOSE USES OF ESG-CV

Resources are targeted and prioritized to serve households that are most in need of temporary assistance. All clients must be 50 percent or below the median income.

ACTIVITY	AMOUNT FUNDED
Shelter Operations	\$190,000
Rapid Rehousing	\$168,000
Homeless Prevention/Administration	\$165,000
Administration	\$ 41,476
Total	\$564,476

AMENDMENT I: GRANT ADMINISTRATION

- Reasonable cost for program execution and management

AMENDMENT II: PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

- **Shelter Operations** will provide financial assistance to emergency shelters to address COVID-19 related concerns;
- **Rapid Rehousing** will provide financial assistance to help homeless individuals or families gain permanent housing and achieve stability by providing housing and supportive services; and,
- **Homeless Prevention** will provide short-term rental assistance, security deposits, utility deposits, utility payments, moving cost assistance, and motel and hotel vouchers.

