



Town of Barnstable

Planning & Development Department

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

www.town.barnstable.ma.us/planninganddevelopment



Elizabeth Jenkins
Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HYANNIS, MA – Public Review and Comment Period. The Town of Barnstable Planning and Development Department is accepting comments on substantial amendments to the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) 2019 Action Plan and Citizen Participation Plan.

The purpose of the amendments is to apply for Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) funding and flexibilities provided to make it easier to use CDBG-CV funds and 2019 and 2020 program year funds for coronavirus response. The Town of Barnstable is expecting to receive \$168,324 in CDBG Coronavirus (CDBG-CV) funds.

Complying with the flexibilities provided under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Securities (CARES) Act the Town will accept comments for a period of not less than 5 days from this notice.

Please submit comments by email to kathleen.girouard@town.barnstable.ma.us with “CDBG Comments” in the subject line please. Comments received by **May 12** will be considered and included in submission to HUD.

Summary of the substantial amendments:

- \$168,324 CDBG-CV funds added as additional resources to 2019 program year. Any funds remaining at year end will be added to 2020 program year
- Amending the Citizen Participation Plan to reduce the public comment period from 30 days to 5 days to allow for more rapid response to COVID 19 and eliminate the requirement for public hearings when national/local health authorities recommend social distancing and limiting public gatherings for public health or other reasons and using virtual hearings that provide reasonable notice and access for residents when meetings are required
- Waiving the 15% cap for public services used for COVID 19 efforts in program year 2019 and 2020 and for CDBG-CV funds as provided under the CARES Act
- Funds will be used to prevent, prepare for or respond to coronavirus (COVID 19) through activities consistent with action plan goals including provision of public services, economic opportunities, public improvements, housing and program administration. Tier 1 priority for:
 - Public services providing child care for first responders and other essential personnel while schools and daycare centers are closed; food security for elderly, homeless, and other vulnerable populations; and other eligible activities related to COVID 19 Estimated funding: \$60,000.
 - Activities that retain or create jobs or economic opportunities for low and moderate income persons affected by COVID 19. Estimated funding \$34,624.
- Increasing the amount available for urgent need activities from \$10,000 to 30% of amount subject to low and moderate income (LMI) benefit requirement. Estimated caps for 2019, 2020, and CDBG-CV are \$74,000, \$68,670 and \$40,395 respectively.
- Changing certification of LMI expenditure benefit from 1 year to 3 years to better respond to COVID-19 for both Consolidated Plan periods 2015-2019 and 2020-2024

Amended plans available on the town website: <https://townofbarnstable.us/departments/cdbg/>

CONTACT: Please submit comments or questions by email kathleen.girouard@town.barnstable.ma.us. If you don't have access to email you can leave a message with your name and call back number 508-862-4678 and someone will get back to you.