

## **CITY OF KENT**

### **First Substantial Amendment to The FY 2019 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Annual Action Plan and the 2020-2024 Community Participation Plan**

#### **CARES ACT FUNDING (CDBG-CV)**

On March 27, 2020, the U.S. Congress passed The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (H.R. 748), also known as the CARES Act. The bill allocates \$670,541 in supplemental Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding to the City of Kent (hereinafter referred to as "the City") for grants to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus (CDBG-CV).

Additionally, the CARES Act provides CDBG grantees with flexibilities that make it easier to use CDBG-CV grants and fiscal year 2019 and 2020 CDBG grants for coronavirus response and authorizes the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to grant waivers and alternative requirements.

The CARES Act also eliminates the 15 percent cap on the amount of grant funds that can be used for public services activities. Therefore, the cap in 24 CFR 470.201(e) has no effect on CDBG-CV grants and no effect on FY 2019 and FY 2020 CDBG program year grants used to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus.

To add the additional \$670,541 in CDBG-CV funding, a substantial amendment to the FY 2019 Annual Action Plan is required. A 30-day public comment period is normally required for substantial amendments. However, HUD has waived the 30-day comment period requirement in 24 CFR 91.105(c)(2), provided that no less than five (5) days are provided for public comments on each substantial amendment (this waiver is in effect through the end of program year 2020). The City is providing a five-day comment period on this substantial amendment.

#### **CDBG-CV Funds**

The City of Kent is proposing to amend the FY 2019 Annual Action Plan to allocate \$670,541 in CDBG-CV funds by adding the following projects:

<b>ACTIVITY</b>	<b>Estimated Amount</b>	<b>SUBRECIPIENT(S)</b>
Public Services <sup>1</sup>	\$436,433.00	TBD <sup>2</sup>
Micro-enterprise Assistance	\$100,000.00	TBD
Planning & Administrative <sup>3</sup>	\$134,108.00	City of Kent
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$670,541.00</b>	

### **Unallocated Funds**

The City of Kent is allocating \$184,948 in funds awarded to various activities prior to 2015 (FYs 2003-2014) to public service projects to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus. Additionally, the City is reallocating, \$50,000 in FY 2018 funds that were originally allocated to a Community-Inspired Capital Project to be used for public services. This funding can be allocated to public services because the CARES Act eliminated the 15 percent public service cap for 2019 and 2020 plan years. A total of \$234,948 will be allocated as follows:

<b>ACTIVITY</b>	<b>Estimated Amount</b>	<b>SUBRECIPIENT(S)</b>
Public Services: rent/utility assistance & emergency grants	\$184,948.00 (FYs 2003-2014)	TBD <sup>4</sup>
Public Services: rent/utility assistance & emergency grants	\$ 50,000.00 (FY 2018)	TBD
<b>TOTAL Reallocated to Public Services:</b>	<b>\$234,948.00</b>	

### **Amendment to the 2020-2024 Community Participation Plan**

The City is proposing to amend the CPP as follows:

- Allow for a five-day expedited public comment period under exigent circumstances;
- Allow virtual public hearings under exigent circumstances;
- Expand definition of those encouraged to participate in public comment;
- Revise the definition of "substantial amendment";
- Allow for seven (7) calendar days' notice prior to scheduling a public hearing;
- Allow for electronic copies of documents requested by the public if City offices are closed due to an emergency; and
- Decrease the number of days for non-English speakers or hearing-impaired residents to arrange for interpretation services.

<sup>1</sup> City of Kent public service activities may address the following needs: services for the unhoused, healthcare, rent and utility assistance, food assistance, emergency assistance payments, financial literacy/management services, legal services, trauma counseling, childcare services, and COVID-related supplies.

<sup>2</sup> Subrecipients will be selected via an application process and those selected will be posted on City of Kent website: <https://www.kentwa.gov/city-hall/human-social-services>.

<sup>3</sup> Up to 20% may be used for P & A; the City is using the full amount allowed by federal regulation.

<sup>4</sup> Subrecipients will be selected via an application process and those selected will be posted on City of Kent website: <https://www.kentwa.gov/city-hall/human-social-services>.