

**CITY OF GULFPORT  
SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT  
ANNUAL ACTION PLANS FOR CDBG AND HOME  
COVID 19 CARES ACT  
FUNDING AND WAIVERS**

On March 27, 2020 the Federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES) was signed into law to assist communities in their efforts to “Prevent, Prepare for and Respond to the Coronavirus COVID19.” The CARES Act included supplemental formula allocations to HUD’s CPD programs, including CDBG for City of Gulfport. The additional CDBG CARES Act funds allocated to City of Gulfport was \$424,924.00, with provisions that suspends the 15% cap on public services and allows HUD to waive further program requirements if necessary.

The Home Investment Partnership Program allowed for various waivers to its programs and eligible activities to assist with the COVID19 initiative, including increasing the administrative and planning cap from 10% to 25%, match reduction from 50% to 100% for FY 2020-2021. (October 1, 2019 through September 30, 2021). The waivers also allowed for the reduction to zero for CHDO set-aside for FY 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and increase the CHDO operating costs from 5% to 10%. The Home Investment Partnership Program did not increase funding allocations.

Additional waivers extends the submittal of the 2020 Annual Action Plans through August 16, 2021 and extends the submittal of the 2019 Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report from 90 days to 180 days.

In order to effectively utilize the CARES Act funding, HUD provided waivers to its Citizen Participation process for Substantial Amendments to its Annual Action Plans and Consolidated Plans by reducing the 30-day public comment period to 5-days, utilizing creative social distancing measures for communicating, such as virtual public hearing, along with in-person public hearings if applicable, website notices and power points, etc. Proposed usage will be identified in the amendments to the City of Gulfport’s Citizen Participation Plan.

**PROPOSED CHANGES TO 2019 CDBG FUNDING AND ACTIVITIES**

The CDBG CARES COVID 19 funding to be included in the 2019 CDBG Funding allocation:

Original CDBG Funding Allocation	\$ 700,035.00
• CDBG CARES Act Funding Allocation	<u>\$ 424,924.00</u>
Total 2019 CDBG Allocation	\$1,124,959.00
• Suspension of the 15% cap on Public Services.	

The Home Investment Partnership Program – No Additional funding allocation. Proposed changes as per allowed waivers will include for the Harrison County HOME Consortium:

- Increase the Administration cost from 10% to 25% for FY 2019 and 2020.
- Match Reduction of 100% for FY 2020-2021 (October 1, 2019 to September 30, 2021)

### **PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE CITIZEN PARTICIPATION PLAN**

The Citizen Participation Plan identifies the minimum requirements to notify the public of the City's Consolidated Action Plan, Annual Action Plans, Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report and any Amendments to such plans. The last change to the Citizen Participation Plan was after Hurricane Katrina to allow the ability of waivers approved by HUD specific to that disaster. The proposed changes will include a Disaster Response Notification and Process in current plan and a specific addendum for the COVID19 Cares Act Waivers.

### **PROPOSED USE OF SPECIFIC CDBG CARES ACT FUNDING ALLOCATION - \$424,924.00**

The City proposes to utilize its funding allocation to assist eligible low-income rental households and homeowners in the City of Gulfport with housing assistance, specifically rent, mortgage, utility costs. The City proposes to utilize the assistance of one or two non-profit agencies who have the capacity to manage the program utilizing the requirements of the funding agency, including required documentation.

The City will also set aside an additional 10% of the CDBG Cares Funding or a maximum \$42,000.00 from its Annual 2019 CDBG funds for administrative cost for the non-profit agencies to set up and complete this program in a timely manner.

### **PUBLIC NOTICES AND PUBLIC HEARINGS – CDBG AND HOME**

The City of Gulfport under the provision of the CARES Act proposes to hold a 7-day public comment period from July 13, 2020 to July 20, 2020. The Plan and proposed usage of funds will available for view and comment from the City's of Gulfport's Website at [www.gulfport-ms.gov](http://www.gulfport-ms.gov). Citizens will be encouraged to provide comments of proposed amendments and changes.

Questions or comments may be submitted to the City of Gulfport Community Development Department at [communitydevelopment@gulfport-ms.gov](mailto:communitydevelopment@gulfport-ms.gov), or [kmccarty@gulfport-ms.gov](mailto:kmccarty@gulfport-ms.gov), or call 228-868-5705, ext. 6545. Questions and answers will be posted to the website and submitted to HUD.

**An in-person public hearing is scheduled for July 15, 2020, at 5:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers at 2309 15<sup>th</sup> Street, Gulfport, MS. (PLEASE NOTE – IN-PERSON PUBLIC MEETINGS ARE SEVERELY LIMITED AND THE NUMBER OF PERSONS ALLOWED TO ATTEND BASED ON REQUIRED SOCIAL DISTANCING CRITERIA.**

**PROPOSED SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT BUDGET**  
**CDBG and HOME PROGRAM YEAR 2019**

<b>2019 CDBG Resources as Substantially Amended</b>	
Entitlement Allocation	\$700,035
CARES Act CDBG-DV Allocation	\$424,924
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,124,959</b>

<b>2019 CDBG Expenditures as Substantially Amended</b>	
<b>Program Administration (20% HUD cap)</b>	
CDBG-Eligible activities including salary for program administration; publication of notices; legal and environmental review services; Fair Housing Act compliance activities; update of Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice and other eligible administrative costs	\$140,0017
<b>Public Service Activities (15% HUD cap waived in response to COVID19)</b>	
Housing and Non-Housing public service activities, programs include <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Subsistence Payments</li> <li>• Interpreting services, women and child services,</li> </ul>	\$484,924
<b>Capital Improvements and Public Facilities</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Various Street Paving (low/mod income areas)</li> <li>• Bullis Park Improvements</li> </ul>	\$450,028
<b>Housing</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water-Sewer Installation</li> </ul>	\$50,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,124,959</b>

<b>2019 HOME Resources as Substantially Amended</b>	
Entitlement Allocation	<b>\$440,141</b>

<b>2019 HOME Expenditures as Substantially Amended</b>	
<b>Program Administration (10% HUD cap increased to 25% for 2019-2020)</b>	
HOME Eligible activities including salary for program administration; publication of notices; legal and environmental review services; Fair Housing Act compliance activities; and other eligible administrative costs	\$110,035
<b>CHDO Set-aside funds – minimum 15% of allocation</b>	\$66,022
<b>City of Gulfport – Homebuyer Assistance – 65%</b>	\$171,655
<b>Harrison County – Homebuyer Assistance - 35%</b>	\$92,429
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$440,141</b>