



St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners

Housing & Community Development

PUBLIC NOTICE

St. Johns County Community Development Block Grant

Proposed 2020-2021 Action Plan

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that St. Johns County has prepared a proposed 2020-2021 Action Plan as required by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to receive Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding. St. Johns County receives CDBG funds as an entitlement community for the benefit of low-to-moderate income residents. St. Johns County may use CDBG funds within the unincorporated areas of the County and within the city limits of St. Augustine Beach. The development and approval of a Consolidated Plan and an Annual Action Plan are requirements of receiving CDBG funds.

The Five Year Consolidated Plan was prepared by St. Johns County and includes a discussion of needs and strategies to meet those needs. The Consolidated Plan was developed with participation from County staff, elected officials, affordable housing and social service providers, and local citizens. As a result of this process, the following priorities were developed:

- **Priority #1** - Rehabilitation of existing Housing: focus on improving health and safety, code violations, accessibility and sustainability for extremely low-to-moderate income residents below 50% AMI (including but not limited to residents who are elderly, disabled, and veterans).
- **Priority #2** – Public Facilities and Infrastructure: provision of adequate public facilities and infrastructure to assure the efficient levels of service and enhance the livability of low-to-moderate income neighborhoods.
- **Priority #3** – Public Services: enhance the living environment of the targeted area by addressing basic needs that were unmet due to economic disparity.
- **Priority #4** – Homeless Assistance: provide housing and support services to assist individuals and families who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.
- **Priority #5** – Affordable Housing: Increase the supply of affordable rental housing available to very low, low, and moderate income residents as well as veterans, elderly, disabled, and homeless persons through new construction or acquisition.
- **Priority #6** – Economic Development: Promotion of Economic Development activities to respond to general needs and to respond to the impact of COVID-19.

The Annual Action Plan lays out how the funds will be used for qualifying purposes such as projects, programs, and administration. For the 2020-2021 Fiscal Year, HUD allocated \$995,329

for St. Johns County. The 2020-2021 proposed Annual Action Plan will provide for the following expenditures:

Priority #2 -Infrastructure Activities:

- \$275,000 for public infrastructure to serve low to moderate income areas.

Priority #3 -Public Services:

- \$110,000 for assistance programs for low to moderate-income individuals or households.

Priority #5 -Affordable Housing:

- \$411,264.00 for acquisition of housing to be used as rental units.

Planning and Administration:

- \$199,065 for HUD-approved administrative costs associated with establishing and maintaining a CDBG program.

The Current Citizens Participation Plan, Consolidated Plan, and the proposed 2020-2021 Draft Action Plan are available for review beginning September 18, 2020, Monday – Friday, 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM at the Health and Human Services Department at 200 San Sebastian View, Suite 2300, St. Augustine, FL 32084. These documents can also be viewed on the St. Johns County website: <http://www.sjcfl.us/Housing/CDBG.aspx>.

Public Comment Period: The purpose of this public notice is to fulfill the requirements of the St. Johns County Citizens Participation Plan by ensuring that the public is informed of the proposed 2020-2021 Action Plan. The public review and comment period is September 18, 2020 through October 20, 2020. Comments from the public are encouraged and will be accepted during this period at the Health and Human Services Department at 200 San Sebastian View, Suite 2300, St. Augustine, FL 32084. Comments can also be given by calling 904-827- 6890 or emailed to housing@sjcfl.us. A written response will be given within fifteen (15) days, to all written comments received. For additional information, please call 904-827-6897.

Public Hearing: Final action will be taken on the proposed 2020-2021 Annual Action Plan, at the regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of County Commissioners to be held at 9:00 a.m. on October 20, 2020.

Meetings of the Board of County Commissioners take place in the County Auditorium, located at 500 San Sebastian View, St. Augustine, FL 32084. Citizens may offer public comments at this meeting. Accommodations have been made to provide for social distancing at meetings of the Board of County Commissioners. Citizens may also offer public comments about the proposed actions via telephone, during this meeting, by calling 904-209-1265. Additional information about call-in participation during County meetings can be found at: <http://www.sjcfl.us/media/MeetingsCV-19.pdf>. Meetings can be viewed on Comcast cable channel 3, or online at <http://www.sjcfl.us/GTV>.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in the CDBG program or in public meetings should contact the ADA Coordinator at

904-209-0650. Deaf and/or hard-of hearing individuals may use Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD): 904-209-0650, or the Florida Relay Service: 800-955-8770. CDBG information is provided in English; the Board of County Commissioners meeting will also be conducted in English. If you require a translator, please call 904-209-0650. To request services, please notify the County at least five business days prior to need for services.

