



St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners

Housing & Community Development

Public Notice

Proposal to Use CDBG-CV3 Funding to Mitigate Impacts of COVID-19 and a Proposed Substantial Amendment to the 2019-2020 Annual Action Plan

St. Johns County hereby gives public notice of the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) providing supplemental funding, in the amount of \$950,706, to the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. The purpose of this supplemental funding is to address impacts of COVID-19.

HUD provides St. Johns County with an annual allocation of CDBG funding to be used for a variety of community development needs. In addition to the annual CDBG allocation, HUD has made available to the County supplemental funding through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act). This funding is to be used specifically for the purpose of preventing, preparing for, and responding to coronavirus.

The CARES Act is the Federal legislation that makes supplemental CDBG funding available and specifies the requirements for the use of this funding. This supplemental funding, in the amount of \$950,706, is referred to as CDBG-CV3. Additionally, the CARES Act provides the County with flexibilities that make it easier to use CDBG-CV3 funding for response to COVID-19. A Public Notice published on April 11, 2020 stated that the County reserved the right to use waivers offered by HUD, if those waivers aided the County in being more agile and efficient in its response to COVID-19.

In regard to planning and use of CDBG-CV3 funding, St. Johns County intends to use the HUD-approved waiver limiting public meetings held for the purpose of informing citizens about the planning, implementation, and evaluation of the CDBG program. Another HUD-approved waiver that the County intends to use is reducing the Public Comment period for substantial amendments to an Annual Action Plan from 30 days to no less than 5 days. The use of these waivers is intended to promote public safety and allow for rapid implementation of activities in response to the COVID-19 crisis.

HUD has informed St. Johns County that a substantial amendment must be made to the 2019-2020 Annual Action Plan to apply for the CDBG-CV3 allocation of \$950,706.00. Each year, the County is required to submit to HUD an Annual Action Plan that demonstrates how funding will be used for a variety of community development activities. A substantial amendment is required when additional community development activities are added to the Annual Action Plan.

St. Johns County proposes using all CDBG-CV3 funding to develop Public Service activities, to respond to the impact of COVID-19, which may include legal aid, eviction assistance, foreclosure prevention assistance, tenant/landlord counseling, rental assistance, subsistence payments, and case management. The County intends to add these Public Service activities to the

2019-2020 Annual Action Plan.

In accordance with the County's Citizen Participation Plan, citizens are encouraged to participate in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of the CDBG program. Citizens are encouraged to comment on the use of the waivers mentioned above as well as the proposed amendment to the 2019-2020 Annual Action Plan.

All questions and comments related to the CDBG program may be mailed to 200 San Sebastian View, Suite 2300, St. Augustine, FL 32084, or emailed to housing@sjcfl.us, or given verbally by calling 904-827-6890. A written response will be given within 15 days, to all written questions or comments received. The public comment period will end on February 2, 2021.

Current versions of the Citizens Participation Plan and the 2019-2020 Annual Action Plan can be viewed at <http://www.sjcfl.us/Housing/CDBG.aspx>. The draft of the proposed amendment to 2019-2020 Annual Action Plan can also be viewed at <http://www.sjcfl.us/Housing/CDBG.aspx>.

Final action will be taken on the proposed substantial amendment to the 2019-2020 Annual Action Plan at the regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of County Commissioners to be held at 9:00 a.m. on February 2, 2021.

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.

