



St. Johns County Community Development Block Grant Proposed Substantial Amendment to the 2018-2019 Action Plan

Notice to Citizens: St. Johns County receives Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds as an entitlement community. This program is administered through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the benefit of low/moderate income residents. St. Johns County uses CDBG funds within the unincorporated areas of the County and within the city limits of St. Augustine Beach. The County has prepared a five-year Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plans as required by HUD to receive CDBG funding. St. Johns County is considering a Substantial Amendment to its 2018-2019 Annual Action Plan.

Funding for 2018-2019: The Annual Action Plan lays out how the funds will be used for qualifying purposes such as projects, programs, and administration. For the 2018-2019 Fiscal Year, HUD allocated \$918,973 for St. Johns County. The original 2018-2019 Action Plan provided for the following expenditures:

- \$258,282 for renovations and improvements to the Flagler Estates Park.
- \$129,722 for renovations and improvements to the Armstrong Park.
- \$297,175 for installation of a sidewalk in Flagler Estates.
- \$50,000 for homeless prevention services.
- \$183,794 for HUD-approved administrative costs associated with establishing and maintaining a CDBG program.

During the course of vetting the projects identified above, HUD determined that the proposed sidewalk project is not eligible for CDBG funding. Therefore, the funds originally budgeted for this project must be reallocated through the Substantial Amendment process. St. Johns County is proposing that the funds originally budgeted for the sidewalk project instead be used to increase and maintain the supply of affordable rental housing for low to moderate-income households.

This proposed Substantial Amendment includes purchasing three homes, and rehabilitating one of these homes, at a cost of \$322,462. These homes will be used as affordable rental housing for low to moderate-income families.

Additionally, \$12,000 will be spent to rehabilitate a fourth house so that it may continue to be used as an affordable rental unit for families that have experienced homelessness.

The combined cost of these four affordable housing projects is \$334,462. This amount is \$37,287 more than the allocation for the cancelled sidewalk project; therefore, \$37,287 will be taken from the 2018-2019 Administration and Planning budget to provide the funding needed for the four affordable housing projects.

Public Comment Period: As required by HUD, the proposed Substantial Amendment to the 2018-2019 Annual Action Plan is available for review Monday – Friday, 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM at the Health and Human Services Department, 200 San Sebastian View, Suite 2300, St. Augustine, FL 32084. Additionally, the proposed Substantial Amendment can be viewed on the St. Johns County website: <http://www.sjcfl.us/Housing/index.aspx>. The public is encouraged to comment on the proposed Substantial Amendment from July 20, 2019 through August 20, 2019. Comments from the public will be accepted 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 Hearings: Two public hearings regarding this proposed Substantial Amendment are scheduled. The first hearing will be held on August 5, 2019 at 3:00 p.m. at the Health and Human Services Department located at 200 San Sebastian View, Kingfisher Conference Room; St. Augustine, FL 32084. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act,

persons needing a special accommodation to participate in these proceedings should contact the ADA Coordinator at (904) 209-0650, or at the County Administration Building at 500 San Sebastian View, St. Augustine, Florida 32084. For deaf and/or hard of hearing individuals: Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD): (904) 209-0650, or the Florida Relay Service: (800) 955-8770. To request services, please notify the County five days prior to the hearing date. The second public hearing shall be held as the **Final Action** associated with the plan (see below).

Final Action: The Substantial Amendment to the 2018-2019 Annual Action Plan is scheduled for Board action on August 20, 2019, at the regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of County Commissioners, at 9:00 a.m., in the County Commission Chambers, 500 San Sebastian View, St. Augustine, Florida 32084.



Equal Housing Opportunity