



City of Harrisonburg, Virginia

Office of the City Manager

409 South Main Street
Harrisonburg, VA 22802
(540) 432-7701 / FAX (540) 432-7778

Eric Campbell
City Manager

TO: Eric Campbell, City Manager
FROM: Kristin McCombe
DATE: 04/30/2020
RE: Public Hearing for CDBG Citizen Participation Plan Amendment, CDBG 2017-2021 Consolidated Plan Amendment, and CDBG 2020 Action Plan (including CDBG-CV funds)

Summary:

The City of Harrisonburg has prepared its Annual Action Plan for HUD FY 2020. The City will apply for FY 2020 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). This is the second of two Public Hearings for this document.

Background:

This process is required every year for CDBG compliance. This year there are additional requirements due to the CDBG-CV funding.

Key Issues:

As an entitlement community, the City of Harrisonburg, VA receives funding through the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG). The purpose of the Public Hearing is to once again solicit citizen participation in the process. Citizen participation and comments on the Annual Action Plan will assist the city in the finalization of these required documents. The Consolidated Plan serves as the planning document for addressing overall community development and housing needs that will utilize the \$534,269 annual entitlement of CDBG funding available to the city to meet those needs. Projects selected to receive funding will be included in the annual Action Plan.

The CDBG selection Committee met on February 20, 2020. The attached document summarizes funding recommendations for the 2020 Action Plan. Additionally, staff has decided to roll \$88,124 in previously unspent CDBG funding into the "pot" for this year. This brings the estimated amount of regular CDBG funding to be allocated to a total of \$622,393. The city's CDBG program has also been awarded an additional \$314,293 in CDBG-CV funding from the 2020 CARES Act. This funding must be used specifically for COVID-19 response efforts. The total amount available for allocation within the 2020 Action Plan is \$936,686.

To allow the use of CDBG-CV funding for the proposed Economic Development Small Business Loan/Grant Program, the CDBG five year consolidated Plan requires an amendment to the goals to include COVID response.

With this CDBG-CV funding come a number of programmatic changes to the CDBG program. To allow communities to expedite the process of getting this critically needed funding to the people and businesses that need it most, HUD has temporarily relaxed public participation requirements for the program. The included amendment to our citizen participation plan allows for the use of these new



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regulations. An additional section has been added to the Citizen Participation Plan which reads as follows:

"In the Event of an Emergency

In the event of a local, state or federally declared disaster or emergency where public places may be closed to the public or in-person participation may not be feasible or large gatherings may be considered a public health risk (such as the Covid-19 pandemic), the City of Harrisonburg may opt to conduct public hearings and meetings virtually via phone-in set up, conference call or live web-streaming with the ability to ask questions and provide comment in real time. Accommodations will be made for persons with disabilities and non-English speaking persons upon request, such as sign language or language interpretation services. Documents for public review will be shared via the City of Harrisonburg's website. Copies of the document may be mailed or e-mailed upon request. Furthermore, an expedited display period for the consolidated plan, annual action plans, and substantial amendments to these documents can be undertaken. The public display period will be for a period of no less than five days. For the purposes of moving funding quickly into use, emergency funds will only be subject to one (1) shortened public display period, and will not require an RFP process."

Environmental Impact:

None anticipated at this time

Fiscal Impact:

This is a requirement to receive CDBG grant funding from HUD.

Prior Actions:

Alternatives:

- (a) Hold Public Hearing for these three documents; or
- (b) Do not hold Public Hearing

Community Engagement:

The first Public hearing on this issue was held on January 14, 2020.

CDBG staff held a training meeting on January 16, 2020 and has participated in numerous meetings and with interested organizations in the months since.

The City will consider comments on the proposed plan prior to consideration for adoption by Harrisonburg City Council on May 26, 2020. The City plans to submit the Annual Action Plan to HUD on or before June 1, 2020.



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Recommendation:

Staff recommends that council hold a public hearing and open the eight-day public comment period.

Attachments:

- Notice of Public Hearing
- Recommended Funding
- Tentative Schedule

The full Citizen Participation Plan, Five Year Consolidated Plan, and Action Plan are all available on the City's CDBG web page.

Review:

The initiating Department Director will place in Legistar, in sequence of transmittal, the names of each department that must initial their review in order for this item to be placed on the City Council agenda. The completion of review only addresses the readiness of the issue for Council consideration. This does not address the recommendation for approval or denial of the issue.

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