



CITY OF NEW BEDFORD
JONATHAN F. MITCHELL, MAYOR

July 6, 2020

New Bedford City Council President Joseph P. Lopes and
Honorable Members of the City Council
City of New Bedford
New Bedford, Massachusetts 02740

Dear Council President Lopes and Honorable Members:

The United States Congress has made funding available to the City of New Bedford, through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), Public Law 116-136, was signed on March 27, 2020 to respond to the growing effects of the COVID Pandemic. The CARES Act makes available \$1,624,151 in supplemental Community Development Block Grant (CDBG-CV) and \$805,424 in supplemental Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG-CV) funding to the City of New Bedford for grant activities that prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus.

The City of New Bedford is required to complete and submit to HUD a substantial amendment to the FY 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan and the FY 2019 Annual Action Plan. Attached please find a copy of the ***Substantial Amendment to the FY 2015-2019 Office of Housing and Community Development Consolidated Plan and FY2019 Action Plan***, which sets forth activities to be funded through the CDBG-CV and ESG-CV for the current fiscal year.

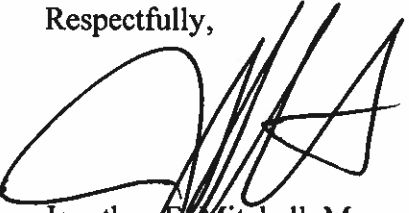
I am requesting that you approve and authorize the submission of the ***Substantial Amendment to the FY 2015-2019 Office of Housing and Community Development Consolidated Plan and FY2019 Action Plan*** to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

No substantive changes have been made to the Substantial Amendment to the FY 2015-2019 Office of Housing and Community Development Consolidated Plan and FY2019 Action Plan which was made available to the public for review on July 8, 2020, for the HUD expedited 5-Day Public Comment Review Period which expired on July 15, 2020.

If you have any questions regarding the contents of the plan, please do not hesitate to contact Patrick J. Sullivan, Director of the Office of Housing and Community Development (OHCD) at (508) 979-1500.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Jonathan F. Mitchell', written over the printed name.

Jonathan F. Mitchell, Mayor

Attachment

CITY OF NEW BEDFORD

IN CITY COUNCIL

July 16, 2020

RESOLUTION OF THE NEW BEDFORD CITY COUNCIL AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO APPLY FOR FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

WHEREAS, The United States Congress has made funding available to the City of New Bedford, through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), Public Law 116-136, was signed on March 27, 2020 to respond to the growing effects of the COVID Pandemic. The CARES Act makes available \$1,624,151 in supplemental Community Development Block Grant (CDBG-CV) and \$805,424 in supplemental Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG-CV) funding for grant activities that prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus, and;

WHEREAS, Grantees eligible to receive funds under the CARES ACT, including the City of New Bedford are required to complete and submit to HUD a substantial amendment to the FY 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan and the FY 2019 Annual Action Plan.

WHEREAS, the Mayor of the City of New Bedford must be authorized to submit the Substantial Amendment to Five-Year Consolidated Plan (2015-2019) and FY 2019 Action Plan to the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development for Federal financial assistance under said Acts;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the New Bedford City Council, as follows:

SECTION 1. The Mayor of the City of New Bedford is authorized to do all things necessary, and to execute any and all documents required for the timely application for Federal financial assistance under these Acts, as amended, and to provide any and all necessary documents which are required for the acceptance and use of CDBG-CV and, ESG-CV funds.

SECTION 2. The Mayor of the City of New Bedford, as Chief Executive Officer, is authorized and designated as an official representative for the City of New Bedford to act in all matters arising in connection with the application for funds, and in providing the United States of America or any of its subdivisions with any additional information as may be required.

IN CITY COUNCIL, July 16, 2020

**City of New Bedford Office of Housing and Community Development
Substantial Amendment to the Annual Action Plan to the 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan and the Citizen
Participation Plan**

The City of New Bedford Office of Housing and Community Development is proposing a substantial amendment to its One Year Action Plan (FY 2019) and Citizen Participation Plan to receive \$1,624,151 allocation of in Community Development Block Grant CDBG COVID-19 (CDBG-CV) funding and \$805,424 in Emergency Solutions Grant ESG COVID-19 (ESG-CV) funding.

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), Public Law 116-136, was signed on March 27, 2020 to respond to the growing effects of the COVID Pandemic. The City of New Bedford was notified by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) that it will receive \$1,624,151 in Community Development Block Grant CDBG COVID-19 (CDBG-CV) funding and \$805,424 in Emergency Solutions Grant ESG COVID-19 (ESG-CV) funding. The funding will be distributed through a request for proposal process to local organizations with urgent needs as a result of COVID-19 and prioritize the unique needs of low- and moderate-income persons.

The City was directed by HUD to amend the approved 2019 Annual Action Plan to reflect the allocation of CDBG-CV and ESG-CV funds and to demonstrate how the funding will be allocated to the City. The City was also directed to amend the Citizen Participation Plan to reflect two waivers from HUD that allow for a shortened 5-day comment period and alternative hearing formats (e.g., virtual meetings) due to the urgent nature of COVID-19.

Eligible CDBG activities include, but are not limited to, assisting low- and moderate income households with rental assistance for no more than three months, general food security and meal programs, workforce development and re-training programs, small business assistance to retain employees that are low- and moderate-income, and support of other COVID-19 response services to ensure public health and well-being.

Eligible ESG activities include street outreach, emergency shelter, homelessness prevention, rapid rehousing, Homeless Management Information System and administration.

The amended documents have been posted online (see links below) for public review and comment.

All public comments on the two documents are welcomed and encouraged!

Amendments at a Glance:

2019 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN AMENDMENTS

- The approved 2019 Annual Action Plan has been amended to reflect the allocation of \$1,624,151 in FY20 CDBG-CV funds and \$805,424 in FY20 ESG-CV funds.
- The proposed amendments to the document are indicated with underlined text. Specific updates are noted below by section and page number.
 - **AP-05 Executive Summary:** the summary of Citizen Participation was updated (See page 5).
 - **AP-10 Consultation:** text was added about contacting the stakeholder list about CDBG-CV, ESG-CV funds.

- **AP-12 Participation:** please see notation regarding HUD's issuance of Waiver's for the 2019 AAP amendment to receive the CDBG-CV funds and ESG-CV funds, and information about the virtual public hearing held on June 11, 2020. Information about the community wide surveys issued in May 2020 and the virtual public hearing held on July 16, 2020 (See Pages 13, 27, 34.35 and 36)
- **AP-15 Expected Resources:** text was added about the CDBG-CV, ESG-CV funds, dollar amounts were updated to include the new allocation of CDBG-CV, ESG-CV funds. (See page 40.)
- **AP-35 Projects:** text was added about the allocation of CDBG-CV and ESG-CV funds and how it will be distributed to the community through a request for proposals process. (See page 46,47)
- **AP-38 Project Summary:** the information and timelines were updated to reflect the CDBG-CV and ESG-CV funds and the proposed projects. (See pages 55-57)
- **AP-65 Homeless and AP-85 Other Actions:** notes were added that CDBG-CV funds could be used to support urgent needs in response to COVID-19. (See pages 48 and 53)

CDBG CITIZEN PARTICIPATION PLAN AMENDMENTS

- The plan has been amended to reflect HUD Waivers 8 and 9 under the "Public Meetings, and "Public Comment" sections as indicated with red text.
- Under Public Meetings" and "Public Comment," the text reflects HUD waiving the 15 and 30-day minimums for the public comments and allows for no less than five days during the emergency period.
- Under "Public hearings", the waiver allows for the use of virtual meetings in an effort to contain COVID-19 and limit public gatherings.

The amended draft Annual Action Plan for PY2019 and the amended Citizen Participation Plan will be available for review and comment for a period of 7 days from July 8, 2020 to July 15,2020

Opportunities for Public Comment:

- Written comments will be accepted beginning July 8, 2020 through July 15, 2020 by emailing OHCD@newbedford-ma.gov.
- A public hearing will be held virtually using Zoom at the regular meeting of the City Council on July 16,2020, at 7:00 p.m. to consider any and all public comments on the amended 2019 Annual Action Plan and the Citizen Participation Plan. The link to the New Bedford Cable access for the City Council Zoom meeting is: <https://www.facebook.com/nbcablenetwork/>