

City of Providence Department of Planning & Development
Housing & Community Development Division
Notice of Funding Availability
April 17, 2020

I. OVERVIEW

The Department of Planning and Development, Housing & Community Development Division hereby notifies interested applicants of the availability of federal grant funds allocated through the *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act*. Available funds will be allocated through the **Community Development Block Grant (CDBG-CV)** and **Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA-CV) Programs**. The availability and use of these funds is subject to federal regulations, and is further subject to the City of Providence's policies and program requirements.

In releasing this Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA), the goal is to make available flexible financial resources to community-based organizations to enable essential service delivery to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus. Please note: the *CARES Act* has eliminated the cap on public services for coronavirus response.

II. AMOUNT OF FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR AWARD

Approximately \$2.5 million in *CDBG-CV* and \$172,000 in *HOPWA-CV* is estimated to be available through this first supplemental funding round, pending receipt of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funding agreements. The City reserves the right to fund, in whole or in part, any, all, or none of the applications submitted in response to this NOFA.

III. ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Applicants must be non-profit organizations. Applicants who are debarred or otherwise prohibited from receiving federal funding should not apply.

All applicants must register and submit applications for funding through the City's online grants management system (<http://grants.providenceri.com>).

Applicants currently slated for funding under the Program Year 2020 CDBG or HOPWA budget are eligible to apply for this supplemental NOFA, provided supplemental resources are being sought for the purposes of adding new or quantifiably-increased services related to COVID-19.

IV. ACTIVITY SUMMARY

There are 4 main application categories available under this NOFA:

CDBG-CV Public Services & Community Centers: direct, front-line service programs to respond to community need arising from COVID-19. Eligible services are those that are new or a quantifiable increase in the level of service precipitated by COVID-19. Services may include, but are not limited to:

- emergency rental, utility, and mortgage assistance programs to prevent homelessness from COVID-19 related job or income loss;
- financial counseling to people impacted by COVID-19;
- mental health counseling to people impacted by COVID-19;
- food pantry operations;
- domestic violence case management and relocation services;
- housing navigation and case management services to homeless persons or persons at imminent risk of homelessness;
- senior services and meal delivery to homebound elders;
- meal delivery to quarantined individuals or individuals that need to maintain social distancing due to medical vulnerabilities;
- provide testing, diagnosis or other medical services at a fixed or mobile location;
- increase the capacity and availability of targeted health services for infectious disease response within existing health facilities;
- purchase of specialty equipment, supplies, or materials necessary to deliver a public service during an infectious disease pandemic.

To be eligible, services must be provided directly to verifiably low and moderate income clients or on a drop-in basis in a predominately low and moderate income

neighborhood. Some activities may also qualify if addressing an “urgent need” directly related to the federally-declared disaster.

CDBG-CV Construction & Improvement Projects: Activities falling into this category include improvements to physical structures that provide critical services to people impacted by COVID-19. Potential activities include:

- retrofits or improvements to shelter facilities to expand habitable overflow spaces and enable greater distancing of clients housed in congregate settings;
- additions or expansions to shelter facilities;
- construction or retrofit of a facility for testing, diagnosis, or treatment of COVID-19.
- acquisition and rehabilitation, or construction, of a group living facility that may be used to centralize patients undergoing treatment.

CDBG-CV Economic Development Projects: Programs designed to minimize and avoid job loss caused by business closures related to social distancing by providing short-term working capital assistance to small businesses to enable retention of jobs held by low- and moderate-income persons are eligible under this NOFA. Additionally, programs providing technical assistance, grants, loans, and other financial assistance to establish, stabilize, and expand microenterprises that provide medical, food delivery, cleaning, and other services to support home health and quarantine are also eligible under this NOFA.

HOPWA-CV: Supplemental Funding Opportunity

HOPWA-CV funds may be used for a range of housing and social service programs to benefit individuals living with HIV/AIDS and their families.

Low-income persons, at or below 80 percent of area median income, that are medically diagnosed with HIV/AIDS and their families are eligible to receive *HOPWA CV*-funded assistance. Programs focused on preventing or resolving homelessness for persons living with HIV/AIDSs will be prioritized under this NOFA.

As such, the following are priority activities under this NOFA for *HOPWA-CV* funds:

- Tenant-Based Rental Assistance;
- Permanent Housing Placement;
- Short-Term Rent, Mortgage, and Utility Assistance; and
- Associated Supportive Services.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES AND AWARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

Complete applications received by the application deadline (**11:59 PM on May 1, 2020**) will be screened to determine whether the Application meets the minimum NOFA eligibility requirements. Housing & Community Development Division staff will evaluate each complete and eligible application according to the priorities identified herein.

If applicants experience difficulty in compiling any of the required attachments (ex. Board Authorization) due to the current State of Emergency, please notify the Division and accommodations will be made.

V. APPLICATION REVIEW PROCESS

The City has a well-established, web-based application system for its competitive pools of HUD funding. Submitted applications determined to be eligible under the regulations will be further evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Number of Clients Served
- Priority for Equity & Access
- Targeting Areas of Concentrated Poverty & Priority Populations
- Previous Awards
- Past Performance
- Agency Capacity and Staff Expertise for Project
- Compliance with Reporting Requirements
- Evaluation of Cost Reasonableness
- Demonstrated organizational or community need arising from COVID-19
- Quantifiable increase in the level of direct service in response to COVID-19.

VI. APPLICATION AWARD AND NOTIFICATION

The adopted Stimulus budget will be posted on the Division's website. The budget will be incorporated into a Substantial Amendment of the City's 2019-2020 Annual Action Plan, which will be posted on the City's website for 5 days of public comment before being submitted to HUD. All applicants will be notified of final funding decisions in writing.

VII. TIMEFRAME FOR COMMENCEMENT AND COMPLETION OF PROJECT

CDBG-CV and *HOPWA-CV* funds are anticipated to be available for contracting on or before June 1, 2020. Contracts will be offered for a 2-year period from contract start date.

VIII. COMPLIANCE WITH FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS

In addition to the basic rules previously outlined, a number of other federal, state, and local regulations must be adhered to in the course of administering HUD funds. The certifying official of the applicant is responsible for ensuring that the proposed program, activities, goals and timetables are in compliance with all federal and state laws, regulations and executive orders. Detailed requirements are outlined in the associated Program Manuals located at:

<https://www.providenceri.gov/planning/community-development/>.

For additional information regarding this Notice of Funding Availability, please contact Emily Freedman, Director – Housing & Community Development Division at efreedman@providenceri.gov.