

City of Providence Department of Planning & Development
Housing & Community Development Division
CDBG-CV Notice of Funding Availability
February 8, 2021

I. OVERVIEW

The Department of Planning and Development, Housing & Community Development Division hereby notifies interested applicants of the availability of an additional tranche 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) Program**. 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 financial resources to community-based organizations to enable targeted essential service delivery to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus.

II. AMOUNT OF FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR AWARD

Approximately \$1.31 million in *CDBG-CV* is estimated to be available through this supplemental funding round, pending receipt of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funding agreement. 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 qualified 501(c) non-profit organizations in good standing with the Rhode Island Secretary of State. 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 receiving funding under the approved 2020 CDBG or CDBG-CV budgets are eligible to apply under this NOFA, provided supplemental resources are being sought for the purposes of adding new or quantifiably-increased services related to COVID-19 as identified below.

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; however, only 30% of the funds available under this NOFA may support “urgent need” activities per a regulatory cap.

IV. FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

The City is seeking proposals to address unmet or ongoing needs (as identified below) through this NOFA in the following 4 categories:

CDBG-CV Public Services: Testing and Vaccination – extended and/or expanded testing and vaccination services for the low/moderate income. Based upon infection rates, there is a stated geographic preference for vaccination and testing service delivery in the 02907, 02908, and 02909 zip codes under this NOFA.

CDBG-CV Public Services: Food Insecurity - Food distribution programs for high-risk, homebound, and food insecure.

CDBG-CV: Emergency Housing Projects - acquisition (lease or purchase), operation, and/or rehabilitation of shelter facilities or housing to provide physically-distant, safe, and sanitary housing options for high-risk individuals or families experiencing homelessness.

CDBG-CV Economic Development: Small Business Supports – technical assistance clinics and workshops for small businesses experiencing hardship due to COVID-19.

Priority services include:

- provision of pro-bono legal clinics including review of business owner rights and obligations and commercial lease reviews;

- assistance with accessing recovery resources (such as PPP loans); and
- business planning services to foster stabilization, recovery, and strategic innovation.

V. APPLICATION PROCEDURES AND AWARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

Complete applications received by the application deadline (**11:59 PM on March 5, 2021**) 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.

VI. 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 High-Risk & Frontline Populations
- Past Performance
- Agency Capacity and Staff Expertise for Project
- Compliance with Reporting Requirements
- Evaluation of Cost Reasonableness
- Responsiveness to NOFA & Application Requirements

VII. APPLICATION AWARD AND NOTIFICATION

The adopted budget will be posted on the Division's website. The budget will be incorporated into a second 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.

VIII. TIMEFRAME FOR COMMENCEMENT AND COMPLETION OF PROJECT

CDBG-CV funds are anticipated to be available for contracting on or about May 1, 2021. All contracts must terminate on or before June 30, 2022.

IX. 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.