

PUBLIC NOTICE

Substantial Amendment to the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan and 2020-2021 Annual Action Plan for the Incorporation and Use of Community Development Block Grant -COVID Funds in Allen, TX

The City of Allen seeks input for a substantial amendment to the previously approved 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan and 2020-2021 Annual Action Plan. This amendment is to incorporate additional funds provided by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the impacts of COVID-19.

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (Public Law 116-136) (CARES Act) makes available Community Development Block Grant-coronavirus (CDBG-CV) funds to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus. As part of the CARES Act, HUD has allocated **\$672,286** to the City for its CDBG-CV program.

Responsive to perceived public need, the City of Allen has established program objectives and criteria for its federal CARES Act programs. CDBG-CV funds will be allocated with program guidelines released through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

The public comment period is in accordance with the City of Allen's Citizen Participation Plan as amended, Texas Local Government Code, Chapter 373 and the waivers of HUD program regulatory requirements to help prevent, prepare and/or respond to COVID-19. These waivers allow jurisdictions to reduce the 30-day comment period to no less than 5 days to receive public comment. The City is making every effort to continue the community input process while observing social distancing protocols during COVID-19.

- A presentation and formal opportunity for comment will be offered at the following times. Requests for sign interpreters or special services must be received forty-eight (48) hours prior to the meeting time by calling the City Secretary at 214-509-4105.
 - Online Zoom Meeting on Tuesday January 19, 2021 at 3 p.m. using the following login information:
<https://zoom.us/j/98872949314?pwd=TC90bys0UEZTcTgzR0c3SjNGQWxBdz09>, Meeting ID: 988 7294 9314, Passcode: 983392, Dial by your location: 877-853- 5257 US Toll-free.
 - A public hearing will be held before the City Council at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 26, 2021 in the City Council Chamber located at 305 Century Parkway Allen, TX.

Copies of the draft amendments will be available for public review and comment at the following locations from January 14, 2021 through January 26, 2021

- City of Allen Web Site: www.CityofAllen.org/CDBG

- In person, **by appointment only**, from 8:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. M-F in the Community Enhancement Office located on the 1st Floor of City Hall, 305 Century Parkway Allen, TX
- Please address all questions and comments to City of Allen, Community Enhancement Dept., ATTN: CDBG Administrator, 305 Century Parkway, Allen, TX 75013. Phone (214) 509-4176. Email: ejones@cityofallen.org.

The following information presents a summary of the recommended use of funding made available by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act through the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). These draft funding proposals reflect staff recommendations to address community needs responsive to COVID-19. Recommendations as to how best to fund these proposals may change based on funding availability from a range of sources to address these community needs. Future amendments will be made in accordance to HUD's guidelines and the City of Allen's Citizen Participation plan as amended.

ACTIVITY: EMERGENCY UTILITY ASSISTANCE

FUNDS: Approximately \$152,429

HUD FUNDING CATEGORY: Public Services

- The Community Enhancement Department in conjunction with the Community Services Department will operate an emergency utility assistance program (water bills). The program provides up to six months of subsistence payments to low-moderate income families in order to bridge a financial crisis directly related to a COVID-19 financial loss. It is estimated that this funding will aid approximately 262 families.

ACTIVITY: Senior Food Assistance

FUNDS: Approximately \$87,428

HUD FUNDING CATEGORY: Public Services

- The Community Enhancement Department in conjunction with subrecipient(s) will provide funding for increased demand for food services directly related to COVID-19 for eligible Allen seniors including, but not limited to, meals, emergency food boxes and nutritional supplements. It is estimated that this funding will aid approximately 46 seniors over the course of a year.

ACTIVITY: Tutoring Assistance

FUNDS: Approximately \$152,429

HUD FUNDING CATEGORY: Public Services

- The Community Enhancement Department in conjunction with the Allen Independent School District (AISD) will provide tutoring services through private contractors for low-moderate income students who have fallen behind as a direct result of COVID-19 related restrictions such as at home learning or periods of quarantine away from the classroom. It is estimated that this funding will aid approximately 100 students.

ACTIVITY: Small Business Grants

FUNDS: Approximately \$250,000

HUD FUNDING CATEGORY: Economic Development

- The Community Enhancement Department in conjunction with the Allen Economic Development Corporation will provide grants to eligible brick and mortar small business (55 employees or less) directly impacted by COVID-19. It is estimated that this funding will aid approximately 10 small businesses.

ACTIVITY: Community Needs and Resource Assessment

FUNDS: Approximately \$30,000

HUD FUNDING CATEGORY: Administration

- The Community Enhancement Department in conjunction with University of North Texas's School of Public Administration and Nonprofit Management will conduct a needs assessment focused on community needs including how those needs have shifted since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, identify community resources, identify barriers to effective service delivery, explore best practices and role of City.