

## DRAFT SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT TO THE FY 2019-2020 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN TO ADD COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT – CORONAVIRUS (CDBG-CV) FUNDS

On March 27, 2020 the United States Congress passed The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (H.R. 748). The bill provided \$5 billion for CDBG to rapidly respond to COVID-19 and the economic and housing impacts caused by it, including the expansion of community health facilities, childcare centers, food banks, and senior services.

The City of Baldwin will receive \$564,798 in Community Development Block Grant – Coronavirus (CDBG–CV) funding. A Substantial Amendment to the FY 2019-2020 Annual Action Plan is required, and usually a thirty (30) day public comment period is required however, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has waived this requirement provided that no less than five (5) days are provided for public comments on each substantial amendment.

The CDBG-CV funds allocated under the CARES Act may be used for a range of eligible activities that prevent and respond the spread of infectious diseases such as the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). The proposed activities must meet the three National Objectives as required by CDBG regulations:

- Benefit low-and-moderate income persons.
- Aid in the prevention or elimination of slums or blight, and
- Meet an urgent need.

City staff is recommending to allocate the funds as follows:

CDBG–CV	Allocation
FY-19-20 CDBG-CV	\$564,798
Administration	
Administration (10%)	\$ 56,480
Public Service Grants	
Food Vouchers/ Food Bank	\$160,000
Rental Assistance	\$140,000
Community Testing	\$ 57,705
Small Business Assistance	\$150,613
<b>Total CDBG Allocations</b>	<b>\$564,798</b>

In addition and for the purpose of an expedited use of the CDBG-CV funding, the bill eliminates the cap on the amount of funds a grantee can spend on public services, removes the requirement to hold in-person public hearings in order to comply with national and local social gathering requirements, and allows grantees to be reimbursed for COVID-19 response activities regardless of the date the costs were incurred.

### Public Review

Pursuant to HUD regulations, the City’s Citizen Participation Plan and current HUD waivers for grant programs and consolidated plan requirements to prevent the spread of COVID19, staff published a 5-day comment period and public hearing. Public comments and Council’s allocation recommendations will be included in the Substantial Amendment to the FY 2019-2020 Annual Action Plan.