

PUBLIC NOTICE

In accordance with 24 CFR 91.05(c)(2) and subpart B of the federal regulations relative to citizen participation for Community Planning and Development Programs and applicable waivers made available to those requirements through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), the City of Somerville is making an amendment to the 2019–2020 Housing and Urban Development Annual Action Plan for the City of Somerville available to the public through this notice.

Public Comment Period and Process:

This Annual Action Plan amendment is available for a 5-day public review and comment period from October 21, 2020 to October 27, 2020. Citizens wishing to submit written comments during the public review and comment period may mail them, postmarked no later than October 27, 2020, to the following:

OSPCD^[1]_[SEP]
93 Highland Ave^[1]_[SEP]
Somerville, MA 02143^[1]_[SEP]
Attn: Alan Inacio^[1]_[SEP]

You may also email comments no later than October 27, 2020 to ospcd@somervillema.gov

Amendment:

This is an amendment to the 2019-2020 Housing and Community Development Annual Action Plan for the City of Somerville to enable the City to receive and administer an additional \$878,051 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) made available through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act). These funds are being added as an additional available resource available in the 2019-2020 plan.

Previous amendments to the plan were made to receive the first and second rounds of CARES Act funding totaling \$1,493,384 in CDBG and \$1,383,190 in ESG funding. These funds will be used for the same purpose of the initial allocations indicated above which is to prevent the spread of coronavirus 19 (COVID-19) and facilitate assistance to eligible communities, households, and persons economically impacted by COVID-19. In addition, the City has reprogrammed up to 60% of the original FY 2019-2020 CDBG funding allocation as needed to respond to COVID-19. FY 2020-2021 CDBG funds already allocated to the City may also be used to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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, 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 re-housing, Homeless Management Information System and administration.

Further, eligible CDBG and ESG costs incurred as of March 27, 2020, which is the date

in which the CARES Act was signed, and paid for with nonfederal funds may be repaid with CDBG and ESG funding, including those made under the CARES Act. These pre-award costs will meet all HUD requirements applicable to CDBG and ESG, including those under the CARES Act. Unless waived by HUD, CDBG pre-award costs for FY 2020-2021 will not exceed 25% of the grant and will be used for the CDBG eligible activities as indicated above.

Public notices regarding future amendments to the Consolidated Plan will be printed in local newspapers and posted online on the City of Somerville website at www.somervillema.gov. Specific activities using ESG funding under the CARES Act will not require a 5-day public comment period but will be posted on the City of Somerville website.

Lastly, as part of this amendment, the City of Somerville has revised the Consolidated Plan's Citizen Participation Plan to include the 5-day comment period as indicated above as well as to make other changes. The revised Citizen Participation Plan is available for review on the City of Somerville website at:

<https://www.somervillema.gov/sites/default/files/hud-action-plan-2019-2020-substantial-amendments-covid-19.pdf>

Background on the Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plans:

The Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plans describe the housing and community development needs, as well as activities to address those needs through the City of Somerville, as defined and funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). As required by HUD, the Consolidated Plan and subsequent Annual Plans bring together, in one consolidated submission, the planning and application aspects of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME), and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Programs.