

**Substantial Amendments to the
2019 – 2020 Annual Action Plan in Response to COVID-19**

City of Somerville
Massachusetts

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 \$ 1,493,384 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and \$ 750,831 in Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funding 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.

Additional CDBG and ESG funding made available to the City of Somerville by HUD through the CARES Act is unknown at this time but 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 plans to reprogram 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 non-federal 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 <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/ospcd/administration> 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/departments/ospcd/administration>

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.