

Proposed CARES Act Funds – Amendment

The State of Louisiana has been allocated a total of \$44,336,196 in Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) Formula Grant funds (\$13,443,720 for CV1, \$18,401,828 for CV2 and \$12,490,648 for CV3). The purpose of this amendment is to reallocate a portion of the prior rounds of CDBG-CV funds.

Public Facilities

Non-congregate Shelter Program (New)

This amendment proposes to allocate \$8,000,000 to a Non-congregate Shelter (NCS) Program for the acquisition of property to be utilized as non-congregate low barrier shelters for people experiencing homelessness. Non-congregate Shelters provide homeless individuals with private rooms, and this type of sheltering is essential to protect people from COVID-19. This reallocation includes CDBG-CV funds previously allocated to other programs as well as CDBG-CV funds that have been returned. Any additional CDBG-CV funds not utilized or returned to the State will be distributed to any qualifying established programs administered by the Office of Community Development – Local Government Assistance (OCD-LGA) as deemed necessary by the OCD-LGA.

The NCS Program accepted letters of intent to identify non-profit organizations that are interested in applying for funding. Organizations that submitted letters of intent were ranked by OCD with the assistance of the Louisiana Housing Corporation based on the following priorities:

1. Projects in rural disaster impacted areas specifically (Houma/Terrebonne Parish, Calcasieu Parish, and the Northshore) will be given priority
2. Projects must be able to articulate an annual operations budget for the last 5 years
3. Funding may not exceed \$3 million dollars per property acquisition
4. Additional funds can be made available for rehabilitation, furniture, and supplies related to the initial set-up
5. Organization's experience working with federal funds; previous collaborations with OCD-Community Development Block Grant, Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), or Disaster Recovery

The highest ranking applicants have been invited to submit a full application in consideration of the funds that are available. Application packages have been emailed to the selected organizations. Documentation verifying the ranking criteria as stated in the letters of intent will also be required in the full application package. Final determination of awards will be based on documentation provided in the application package.

Some additional program requirements to note:

Maximum Grant Amount: \$3 million

- When operational, it is expected that the organization utilizes the HMIS/comparable database of the CoC in which funds are being requested or will be able to meet this requirement quickly.
- Organizations must also participate in the Coordinated Entry system(s) of the CoC in which funds are being requested.
- The property must be currently ADA and Section 504 compliant.
- Environmental requirements at 24 CFR Part 58 will apply and the facility must meet Part 58 and the minimum shelter standards found at 24 CFR 576.403.
- CDBG-CV grants are subject to the Davis-Bacon prevailing wage requirements imposed by section 110(a) of the HCD Act.
- Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (URA) must be followed in regards to real property acquisition and relocation.
- Feasibility and other due diligence items including resources to address on-going operational costs will be the responsibility of the Sub recipient. Appraisals, zoning and all necessary permitting for the facility will be required.
- If the property was acquired or improved by a grantee, the change of use standard applies from the date CDBG-CV funds are first spent for the property until five years after closeout of the grantee's participation in the CDBG program. (25 CFR 570.505)

HVAC Improvement Program (Change)

OCD has allowed municipalities awarded grants from the HVAC Improvement Program to request additional funding due to the increase in construction costs related to the effects of COVID-19 and the need for additional testing on some facilities. Some of the municipalities have exceeded the maximum grant amount of \$1,000,000 due to increased costs and limited bid responses.

Public Facilities (Change)

Of the \$5 million dollars that was transferred from the Office of Community Development – Disaster Recovery Section, \$3.5 million was to be directed to other public facilities projects yet to be determined. In a previous amendment, OCD proposed to allocate \$600,000 of the remaining \$1.5 million to a community center public facilities project in the City of Opelousas. This amendment proposes the remaining \$900,000 be allocated to additional public facilities projects in the City of Opelousas.