



Housing & Community Development Block Grant Consolidated Plan Program Years 2020 - 2024

Proposed Substantial Amendment (2021-#2)
to
2020 Annual Action Plan

DRAFT (July 2021)

**Community Development Division • 44 E. Downer Place • Aurora, Illinois 60507
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Substantial Amendment 2021-#2 Executive Summary

Substantial Amendment 2021-#2 proposes amendments to the following document:

- Substantial Amendment to 2020 Annual Action Plan (AAP)

As an entitlement community, the City of Aurora, Illinois (“City”) receives funding from U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, HOME (HOME) Investment Partnerships Program, and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Program. In accordance with the City of Aurora’s Citizen Participation Plan and the requirements of HUD, a public hearing will be held at 1:00 p.m. on August 9, 2021, City Hall, 5th Floor Conference Room B, 44 E. Downer Place, Aurora, IL 60507 to provide an opportunity for comment on proposed *Substantial Amendment to the City of Aurora’s 2020 Annual Action Plan*. The Substantial Amendment will result in the re/allocation of CDBG and CDBG-Coronavirus funds and adjustments needed to ensure the integrity of the City’s spending obligations and also further address the City’s effort to comply with HUD’s regulatory requirements in administering the City’s CDBG Program.

Please be advised that effective July 25, 2021, the proposed *Substantial Amendment to the City of Aurora’s 2020 Annual Action Plan* will be available for review and public comment at the following locations: City of Aurora-Community Development Division, 44 E. Downer Place, Aurora, IL; Library-Main, 101 S. River St., Aurora, IL; Library-Eola, 555 S. Eola Rd, Aurora, IL; Library-West, 233 S. Constitution Dr., Aurora, IL; and on the City of Aurora website: www.aurora-il.org/1175/Community-Development .

Upon advance request, the City will provide for translation services to meet the needs of non-English speaking residents. The City will also take whatever actions are appropriate to serve the needs of persons with disabilities. For more information, to make special arrangements, or to provide comments, contact Community Development Division (CDD), 44 E. Downer Place, Aurora, IL 60507, (630) 256-3320 or cdd@aurora-il.org. Written and verbal comments will be accepted no later than 4:00 p.m., August 24, 2021. All responses will be addressed by the CDD and submitted to HUD. The Substantial Amendment is scheduled for review and adoption at the City Council’s August 24, 2021 meeting at 6:00 p.m., City Hall, 5th Floor Conference Room B, 44 E. Downer Place, Aurora, IL 60507. Please be advised that the public hearing and meeting dates are all subject to change and adoption may occur after the proposed August 24, 2021 approval date.

Upon closure of the public comment period and receipt of City Council approval, all proposed amended and new activities together with their proposed funding will be entered into the applicable sections within HUD’s e-Con Planning Suite Reporting System. The following tables and project/activity descriptions reflect the proposed substantial amendments to the City’s 2020 AAP (**proposed amendments are tracked**):

Project Name	Non-Profit Public Service Assistance (2020 Annual Action Plan - CDBG-CV-2020-03)
Target Area	Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Area Citywide
Goals Supported	Public Service Assistance Including the Prevention and Reduction of Homelessness



Needs Addressed	Affordable Housing Homelessness Prevention Support Coronavirus (COVID-19) and Other Infectious Disease Responses
Funding	\$718,346 <u>\$620,908.00</u> (CDBG-CV)
Description	Funding will be used to assist non-profit agencies in providing basic needs to support activities that relate to their coronavirus and other infectious disease responses. Services may include, but are not limited, to activities to assist senior services, substance abuse, domestic violence survivors, housing legal services, food and shelter, and additional case management opportunities. In developing this project, the City will reach out to its partner agencies (such as, but not limited to its CoCs, FEMA, State, etc.) to ensure that the CDBG-CV funds are solely used as gap funding
Target Date	December 31, 2022
Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	TBD
Location Description	Citywide
Planned Activities	<p>The City is reserving \$70,750 in non-profit assistance for long term COVID-19 recovery efforts. City staff released an abbreviated application and held a virtual meeting to provide a summary of the requirements, timeline, and application process for CDBG-CV funds on May 28, 2020. The application deadline was June 19, 2020. The City received twelve applications and proposed funds in the amount of \$98,000 to assist the following agencies in their efforts to prepare for, prevent, and respond to COVID-19 and other infectious diseases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CDBG-2020-CV-02a*: Association for Individual Development - COVID-19 Response Project (\$11,750) • CDBG-2020-CV-02b*: Marie Wilkinson Food Pantry - Cold Storage Project (\$15,000) • CDBG-2020-CV-02c*: Hesed House - COVID-19 Services (\$50,000) • CDBG-2020-CV-02d*: Rebuilding Together Aurora - Personal Protection Equipment (\$2,500) • CDBG-2020-CV-02e*: Aurora Interfaith Food Pantry - COVID-19 Safety Improvements (\$35,000) • CDBG-2020-CV-02f*: Marie Wilkinson Food Pantry – COVID-19 Services (\$15,000) <p>Under Substantial Amendment 2020-#4, following the City's review of its 2021 CDBG applications, the following agencies were selected to receive CDBG-CV funds due to their project's CDBG-CV eligibility:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CDBG-CV-2020-06: HOPE Fair Housing Center/Fair Housing Activities (\$50,000) • CDBG-CV-2020-07: Hesed House/ SEEDS Case Management- (\$50,000) • CDBG-CV-2020-08: Aurora Area Interfaith Food Pantry/Food Purchase (\$50,000) • CDBG-CV-2020-09: Marie Wilkinson Food Pantry/Food Purchase (\$20,000) • CDBG-CV-2020-10 Prairie State Legal Services/Aurora Housing Advocacy Legal Services Project (\$50,000)



	<p><u>City staff released an application on April 26, 2021. The application deadline was May 14, 2021. The City received 14 applications and proposed funds in the amount of \$275,000 to assist the following agencies in their efforts to prepare for, prevent, and respond to COVID-19 and other infectious diseases:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>CDBG-CV-2020-12: City of Aurora Community Services Department - Financial Empowerment Center (\$50,000)</u> • <u>CDBG-CV-2020-13: APS - Training Academy STEAM Program (\$50,000)</u> • <u>CDBG-CV-2020-14: NAMI DuPage Mental Health Education and Support Services (\$40,000)</u> • <u>CDBG-CV-2020-15: Public Action to Deliver Shelter 680 Comprehensive Resource Center COVID Shelter (\$25,000)</u> • <u>CDBG-CV-2020-16: CASA Kane County (\$20,000)</u> • <u>CDBG-CV-2020-17: Northern Illinois Food Senior Box Program (\$40,000)</u> • <u>CDBG-CV-2020-18: Mutual Ground, Inc. Domestic Violence Emergency Shelter (\$50,000)</u> <p>*Pending additional HUD guidance, these activities may require reclassification as a public facility improvement project or may need to be modified to meet the requirements of CDBG-CV funds. Should this occur, the City will reclassify the activity under its Community Facilities/Infrastructure/Amenities Project Category or another eligible activity identified during HUD consultations.</p>
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Project Name	CV Emergency Rent / Mortgage Assistance (2020 Annual Action Plan – CDBG-CV-2020-03)
Target Area	Citywide
Goals Supported	Public Service Assistance Including the Prevention and Reduction of Homelessness/ CDBG-Assisted Affordable Housing Projects
Needs Addressed	Public Service Assistance Support Coronavirus (COVID-19) and Other Infectious Disease Responses
Funding	\$ 166,201.50 200,000 (CDBG-CV); \$300,000 (CDBG)
Description	Subsistence payments will be provided to qualifying households directly affected by COVID-19 for homelessness prevention. In developing this project, the City will reach out to its partner agencies (such as, but not limited to its Continuum of Care, FEMA, State, etc.) to ensure that the CDBG-CV funds are solely used as gap funding.
Target Date	December 31, 2021
Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Approximately 225-250 LMI Households
Location Description	TBD
Planned Activities	Additional research and consultation is required by HUD, so official details on the plan are forthcoming. Eligible applicants will need to provide household income documentation and proof of need. Any payments will be made directly to providers with income restrictions, maximum payments, and housing values to be considered as staff works on an application and procedures for distributing funding. Due to the limited funding and high probability of



	applications, a lottery of eligible households may be considered to streamline the process in awarding funding.
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	2020 Annual Action Plan
Project Name	Community Facilities/Infrastructure/Amenities
Target Area	Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Area Low- and Moderate-Income Census Tracts
Goals Supported	Enhance and Improve Access to the Number of Community Amenities in Low- and Moderate-Income Neighborhoods Promote Energy-Efficiency and Sustainable Investments in Low- and Moderate-Income Areas
Needs Addressed	Neighborhood Investments that affirmatively further fair housing choice Sustainability/Community Resiliency
Funding	\$300,000 (CDBG); \$4 355,000 (CDBG-CV)
Description	Targeted neighborhood investments that provide safe and accessible pedestrian modes of transportation from affordable housing communities to neighborhood amenities and public transit, promote crime prevention through environmental design standards, and adds neighborhood amenities (i.e. public art, community gardens, playgrounds, and parks) that enhance the quality of life.
Target Date	December 31, 2022
Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	TBD
Location Description	Low- and Moderate-Income Census Tracts
Planned Activities	<p>Project Deferred to 2021 - CDBG-2020-09 - Walters Park “Wellness Walk” by the Fox Valley Park District (\$192,000) Funds have been reprioritized to address short-term rental needs for City residents impacted by COVID-19. Funds will be reallocated to CDBG-2020-03 Emergency Shelter and Subsistence Program. CDBG 2021 Funds (\$200,000) will be set aside for this project. The increase in the project’s 2021 funds is to cover cost increases due to the delay.</p> <p>Project Cancelled: CDBG-2019-12: Todd School Renovation for Mutual Ground - \$100,000</p> <p>CDBG-2021-03: City of Aurora Engineering Department/ Road Resurfacing - \$300,000 <i>AS of the date of this report, it is anticipated that 2020 and prior year CDBG funds (including program income, unexpended program will be available to fund this project. Should additional funds become available, the City reserves the right to increase the CDBG-2021-03 project budget in an amount not to exceed an overall project total of \$300,000</i></p> <p>CDBG-CV-2020-05: Hesed House/Roof Replacement - \$355,000 (CDBG-CV)</p> <p><u>CDBG-CV-2020-11: Aurora Area Interfaith Food Pantry Roof Replacement - \$100,000 (CDBG-CV)</u></p>



The following funding adjustments will be made to accommodate the above referenced Substantial Amendment 2020-#2 activities under the City's 2020 Annual Action Plan and to also allow the City to expend its funds in a timely manner.

Proposed Amended CDBG-CV Activity	Original Funding Allocation	Recommended Re/Allocation Amount	CDBG Program Year Funding Source	Project Reallocation Comments <i>(all CDBG/CV funds to be used for services to Aurora residents)</i>
CDBG-CV-2020-02: Non-Profit Public Service Activities TBD	\$369,096.00	-\$369,096.00	2020 CDBG-CV	Funds to be allocated to public service and public facility activities
CDBG-CV-2020-02a: Association for Individual Development	\$11,750.00	-\$5.00	2020 CDBG-CV	Unexpended funds/project completed
CDBG-CV-2020-03: Emergency Rent / Mortgage Assistance	\$500,000.00 (\$200,000 [CV]; \$300,000 [CDBG])	-\$5,899 (CV)	2020 CDBG-CV and prior year CDBG funds	Unexpended funds
<i>Deobligated Funding Total</i> <i>(Amount available to reallocate)</i>		\$375,000 (CV)		

Proposed New/Amended CDBG/CV Activity	Original Funding Allocation	Recommended Re/Allocation Amount	CDBG Program Year Funding Source	Project Reallocation Comments <i>(all CDBG/CV funds to be used for services to Aurora residents)</i>
CDBG-CV-2020-11: Aurora Area Interfaith Food Pantry Roof Replacement	N/A	\$100,000.00	2020 CDBG-CV	Funds to be used for roof construction costs
CDBG-CV-2020-12: City of Aurora Financial Empowerment Center	N/A	\$50,000.00	2020 CDBG-CV	Funds to be used for program staff salaries
CDBG-CV-2020-13: APS Training Academy STEAM Program	N/A	\$50,000.00	2020 CDBG-CV	Funds to be used for program staff salaries
CDBG-CV-2020-14: NAMI DuPage Mental Health Education and Support Services	N/A	\$40,000.00	2020 CDBG-CV	Funds to be used for program staff salaries
CDBG-CV-2020-15: Public Action to Deliver Shelter 680 Comprehensive Resource Center COVID Shelter	N/A	\$25,000.00	2020 CDBG-CV	Funds to be used for program staff salaries



CDBG-CV-2020-16: CASA Kane County	N/A	\$20,000.00	2020 CDBG-CV	Funds to be used for program staff salaries
CDBG-CV-2020-17: Northern Illinois Food Bank Senior Box Program	N/A	\$40,000.00	2020 CDBG-CV	Funds will be used for food distribution
CDBG-CV-2020-18: Mutual Ground, Inc. Domestic Violence Emergency Shelter	N/A	\$50,000.00	2020 CDBG-CV	Funds will be used for program staff salaries.
<i>(Re)Allocation / Total</i>		\$375,000 (CV)		

Citizen Participation Timeline

All public hearing and meeting dates are subject to change and adoption may occur after the proposed July 27, 2021 approval date.

July 23, 2021: Public hearing notice for Substantial Amendment 2021-#2 posted on the City's website, www.aurora-il.org/1175/Community-Development

July 25, 2021: Public hearing notice for Substantial Amendment 2021-#2 published in *The Beacon News*

July 25, 2021: Substantial Amendment 2021-#2 Public Comment Period Opens

August 9, 2021: Substantial Amendment 2021-#2 Public Hearing at 1:00 p.m.

August 24, 2021: Substantial Amendment 2021-#2 Public Comment Period closes at 4:00 p.m.

August 24, 2021: Substantial Amendment 2021-#2 City Council Review and Approval at 6:00 p.m.

August 27, 2021 (tentative): Substantial Amendment 2021-#2 submitted to HUD

Public Notice, Comments, and City of Aurora Responses

Following the close of the public comment period and receipt of City Council approval (anticipated August 24, 2021), all of the above referenced Consolidated Plan/Annual Action Plan activities and re/allocations will be formally submitted to HUD for approval.

Public Comments and City of Aurora Responses

Any comments and the City's response(s) will be included in the City's report submittals to HUD upon conclusion of the public comment period. To date, the City has not received any comments.

This document will serve as the City's Substantial Amendment submittal to HUD for the following federal resources:

Following the close of the public comment period and receipt of City Council approval, all of the aforementioned Annual Action Plan activities and re/allocations will be formally submitted to HUD for approval (via the applicable narrative and tables within their respective sections such as the Executive Summary, PR-15, PR-10, AP-12, AP-15, AP-20, AP-38).



To date, the City has not received any comments. Any comments and the City's response(s) will be included in the City's report submittals to HUD upon conclusion of the public comment period.

This document will serve as the City's Substantial Amendment submittal to the HUD for the following federal resources:

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program is Aurora's most flexible funding resource and can be used for housing and non-housing activities, including those that revitalize neighborhoods, promote economic development, improve community facilities/infrastructure, and provide public services, all of which must benefit the City's low and moderate income residents. The CDD anticipates receiving approximately \$1.5 million each year.

The Community Development Block Grant Coronavirus (CDBG-CV) Program is a special 2020 Program Year allocation which was authorized by the CARES Act, Public Law 116-136 to respond to the Coronavirus pandemic crisis. The City will use these funds to provide gap funding assistance to its residents, businesses, and non-profit agencies to further prevent, prepare for, and respond to the Coronavirus. Should additional funds be made available, the City will allocate these funds via its Substantial Amendment process.

