

DRAFT Public Hearing Minutes
Block Grant Working Committee
Annual Action Plan Substantial Amendments (2020-#2)
Thursday, July 30, 2020 – 1:00 p.m.
City of Aurora Virtual Public Hearing

VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARING ATTENDEES

Block Grant Working Committee: Linda Cole

City Staff: Chris Ragona, Amy Munro, Tara Neff, Liz Carrizales

Others: Jim Pilmer, Executive Director, Fox Valley Park District and Jeff Palmquist, Director of Planning and Development Grants, Fox Valley Park District

Mr. Ragona introduced himself as the City of Aurora, Community Development Division Manager. He introduced the Community Development Division staff and Block Grant Working Committee member.

Mr. Ragona opened the public hearing at 1:04 p.m. for Substantial Amendment 2020-#2

Mr. Ragona stated the purpose of this public hearing is not to discuss or respond to specific questions regarding the Substantial Amendment. The purpose of this public hearing is to obtain public input for the City Council in their deliberation of the Amendment and to HUD on the proposed Substantial 2020-#2 recommendations to the City's 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020 Annual Action Plans. Public input will be provided to the City Council in their consideration of the funding recommendations and Annual Action Plan Substantial Amendments and will be included in the amended Action Plans submitted to HUD.

Mr. Ragona reviewed the Substantial Amendment 2020-#2's public notification process which included posting in the in the *Reflejos* and *The Beacon News* newspapers and on the City's website. The notice requested that those wishing to provide public comments pre-register with the Community Development Division no later than 12:00 noon on July 29, 2020. The public hearing notice also advised that upon advance request, the City would provide translation services to meet the needs of non-English speaking residents. On July 27, 2020, a summary of the proposed Substantial Amendments to the City of Aurora's 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020 Annual Action Plans was made available for review and public comment on the City of Aurora's website.

Mr. Ragona read the public notice as posted in *The Beacon* newspaper (Public Notice attached).

Mr. Ragona also provided a brief overview of Substantial Amendment 2020-#2, and highlighted the following funding adjustments made to accommodate the Substantial Amendment 2020-#2 CDBG, CDBG-CV, and HOME activities.

Proposed New or Amended CDBG/HOME Activity	Recommended Re/Allocation Amount	CDBG/HOME Program Year Funding Source	Original Funding Allocation	Project Reallocation Comments
CDBG-CV-2020-02 – Non Profit Public Service Activities (additional funding remaining)	\$102,750	CDBG funds received as part of COVID-19 Stimulus #3 Package and reallocation of 2020 CDBG funds.	\$200,000	Projects Recommended Below. An amount of \$102,000 (\$70,000 in CDBG-CV and \$32,000 in 2020 CDBG funds) will be held for additional long term COVID-19 recovery efforts. Staff will continue to monitor the needs and availability of residents to recommend projects for this available funding.
CDBG-2020-CV-02a - Association for Individual Development - COVID-19 Response Project	\$11,750	CDBG funds received as part of COVID-19 Stimulus #3 Package	N/A	Installation of safety measures including plexiglass, hand sanitizing stations, dividers, and other improvements to improve social distancing.
CDBG-2020-CV-02b - Marie Wilkinson Food Pantry - Cold Storage Project	\$15,000	CDBG funds received as part of COVID-19 Stimulus #3 Package	N/A	Food Pantry-Cold Storage Project to increase space and staff capacity to serve the food due to increased demand caused by COVID-19. CDBG-CV funds will be used for equipment and an operations assistant position.
CDBG-2020-CV-02c - Hesed House - COVID-19 Services	\$50,000	CDBG funds received as part of COVID-19 Stimulus #3 Package	N/A	Increase in staff hours at the warehouse shelter due to reduction in volunteers and need for multiple sites to assist clients due to social distancing guidelines. CDBG-CV funds will cover the 680 S River St. Warehouse Shelter’s staff position.

Proposed New or Amended CDBG/HOME Activity	Recommended Re/Allocation Amount	CDBG/HOME Program Year Funding Source	Original Funding Allocation	Project Reallocation Comments
CDBG-2020-CV-02d - Rebuilding Together Aurora - Personal Protection Equipment	\$2,500	CDBG funds received as part of COVID-19 Stimulus #3 Package	N/A	Personal protection equipment for agency workers, contractors, and clients including masks and gloves to prevent the spread of the pandemic.
CDBG-2020-CV-02e - Aurora Interfaith Food Pantry - COVID-19 Safety Improvements	\$35,000	CDBG funds received as part of COVID-19 Stimulus #3 Package	N/A	Capital improvement project that will ensure their market and waiting area are compliant with social distancing requirements.
CDBG-2020-CV-02f - Marie Wilkinson Food Pantry – COVID-19 Services	\$15,000	CDBG funds received as part of COVID-19 Stimulus #3 Package	N/A	Create a new position to assist in new operations due to COVID-19 to increase safety, efficiency, and increased demand.
CDBG-2020-CV-03 - Emergency Rental Subsistence Payments	\$500,000	CDBG-2020-12 - Rebuilding Together Aurora - Safe at Home Program - \$140,000 & 2020-09 - Fox Valley Park District - Walters Park - \$192,000	\$200,000	To assist residents directly impacted by COVID-19 by recommending approval for a set aside for the activity of subsistence emergency rent subsistence payment assistance.
HOME-2020-02 - Community Contacts - Community Housing and Development Organization Set Aside	\$300,000	2016-2019 Community Housing and Development Organization Set Aside through the Home Investment Partnership Program (HOME)	N/A	Community Contacts will acquire, rehabilitate, and resell modest single family homes to income eligible first time homebuyers.
Estimated Allocation / Reallocation Total	\$1,032,000			

Mr. Ragona asked if anyone would like to provide public testimony and requested that they state their name, address, and if representing an agency, the name of agency.

Jim Pilmer provided his comment on behalf of the Fox Valley Park District. Mr. Pilmer highlighted the importance of the Walters Park Wellness Walk and asked the City of Aurora to remain committed to the urgency of this project and direct the committed CDBG funding to the project as soon as funds are available.

Mr. Ragona stated that the comment period extends through August 3, 2020, 4:00 p.m. The City of Aurora will include a summary of all comments together with the City's response(s) in the City's submittal of the Substantial Amendments to HUD. It is anticipated that the City Council will make a final determination for approval of Substantial Amendment 2020-#2 on August 11, 2020.

Mr. Ragona closed the public hearing at 1:17 p.m.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Annual Action Plan Substantial Amendment (2020-#2)

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 Program (CDBG), HOME (HOME) Investment Partnerships Program, and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Program. Through the March 27, 2020 passage of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), Public Law 116-136, the City has also received a CDBG-CV allocation. To expedite the disbursement of the City’s 2019 CDBG, 2020 CDBG, 2020 CDBG-CV, and 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019 HOME funds, via 24 CFR 5.110, the CARES Act authorizes HUD to grant waivers to the public notice, public comment, and citizen participation plan requirements found in 24 CFR 91.105I(2) and (k), 24 CFR 91.115I(2) and (i) and 24 CFR 91.401. In accordance with the City of Aurora’s Citizen Participation Plan and HUD’s regulatory requirement waivers (which reduce the minimum 30-day public comment period to a 5-day period), a virtual public hearing will be held at 1:00 p.m. on July 30, 2020 to provide an opportunity for comment on the City’s proposed *Substantial Amendment (2020-#2)* to its *2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020 Annual Action Plans*. The public hearing will be viewable via remote access at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89276693050?pwd=M1pUT1ltNW9zVit2OEhqa09YYXFIQT09>. To join the public hearing for purposes of public comment via telephone, please call:

Phone Number: +1 312 626 6799

Meeting ID: 892 7669 3050

Password: 235762

Those wishing to provide public comment must pre-register with the Community Development Division no later than 12:00 noon on July 29, 2020 via email: dnr@aurora-il.org or voicemail, 630-256-3320. Speakers must provide their name and telephone number from which the public hearing will be accessed. The public is advised that all telephone numbers and participant names may be visible to the public.

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, contact the Community Development Division via email: dnr@aurora-il.org or voicemail, 630-256-3320.

The Substantial Amendments will result in the re/allocation of unexpended CDBG, CDBG-CV and HOME funds and adjustments needed to ensure the integrity of the City’s spending obligations and to also further address the City’s effort to comply with HUD’s regulatory requirements in administering the City’s CDBG and HOME Programs.

Please be advised that effective July 27, 2020, a summary of the proposed *Substantial Amendment to the City of Aurora’s 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020 Annual Action Plans* will be available for review and public comment on the City of Aurora’s website: www.aurora-il.org/1175/Neighborhood-Redevelopment. To provide comments, please contact the Community Development Division (CDD) via phone at (630) 256-3320 or dnr@aurora-il.org. Written and verbal comments will be accepted no later than 4:00 p.m., August 3, 2020. 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 11, 2020 meeting at 5:00 p.m., via the Zoom video conferencing platform unless otherwise published. As with all Aurora City Council meetings, public viewing will be available on the City’s Facebook page (www.facebook.com/cityofauroraIL) and on the homepage of the City’s website (www.aurora-il.org).