

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**Annual Action Plan Substantial Amendment (2020-#3)**

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 4:00 p.m. on November 12, 2020 to provide an opportunity for comment on the City’s proposed *Substantial Amendment (2020-#3)* to its *2020 Annual Action Plan*. The public hearing will be viewable via remote access at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83844901017?pwd=MW5TVU9ud0xLQkhBUFN3TW4rQ0tyZz09>. To join the public hearing for purposes of public comment via telephone, please call:

Phone Number: +1 312 626 6799

Meeting ID: 838 4490 1017

Password: 093030

Those wishing to provide public comment must pre-register with the Community Development Division no later than 12:00 noon on November 10, 2020 via email: [dnr@aurora-il.org](mailto: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](mailto:dnr@aurora-il.org) or voicemail, 630-256-3320.

The Substantial Amendment will result in the re/allocation of unexpended CDBG 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 Program.

Please be advised that effective November 9, 2020, a summary of the proposed *Substantial Amendment to the City of Aurora’s 2020 Annual Action Plan* will be available for review and public comment on the City of Aurora’s website: [www.aurora-il.org/1175/Neighborhood-Redevelopment](http://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](mailto:dnr@aurora-il.org). Written and verbal comments will be accepted no later than 4:00 p.m., November 13, 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 November 24, 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](http://www.facebook.com/cityofauroraIL)) and on the homepage of the City’s website ([www.aurora-il.org](http://www.aurora-il.org)).

## NOTICIA PÚBLICA

### Modificación sustancial del Plan de acción anual (2020-#3)

Como derecho de la comunidad, la Ciudad de Aurora, Illinois ("Ciudad") recibe fondos del Departamento de Vivienda y Desarrollo Urbano de los Estados Unidos (HUD) a través del Programa de Subvención de Desarrollo de Bloque Comunitario (CDBG), el Programa de Asociaciones de Inversión HOME (HOME) y Programa de Subvención de Soluciones de Emergencia (ESG). A través de la aprobación del 27 de marzo de 2020 de la Ley de Ayuda, Alivio y Seguridad Económica por Coronavirus (Ley CARES), Ley Pública 116-136, la Ciudad también recibió una asignación de fondos CDBG-CV. Para acelerar el desembolso de los fondos de la Ciudad CDBG 2019, CDBG 2020, CDBG-CV 2020, y HOME 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019 a través de 24 CFR 5.110, la Ley CARES autoriza al Departamento de Vivienda y Desarrollo Urbano de los Estados Unidos (HUD) a otorgar exenciones a los requisitos de aviso público, comentario público y plan de participación ciudadana que se encuentran en 24 CFR 91.105I (2) y (k), 24 CFR 91.115I (2) y (i) y 24 CFR 91.401. De acuerdo con el Plan de Participación Ciudadana de la Ciudad de Aurora y las exenciones de requisitos reglamentarios del Departamento de Vivienda y Desarrollo Urbano de los Estados Unidos (HUD) (que reducen el período mínimo de comentarios públicos de 30 días a un período de 5 días), se llevará a cabo una audiencia pública virtual a las 4:00 p.m. del 12 de noviembre de 2020 para brindar la oportunidad para comentar sobre sobre la Enmienda Sustancial propuesta por la Ciudad (2020- #3) a su Plan de Acción Anual 2020. La audiencia pública se podrá ver mediante acceso remoto en:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83844901017?pwd=MW5TVU9ud0xLQkhBUFN3TW4rQ0tyZz09>. Para unirse a la audiencia pública con fines de comentario público por teléfono, llame al:

Número de teléfono: +1 312 626 6799  
Número de ID de la reunión: 838 4490 1017  
Contraseña: 093030

Aquellos que deseen proporcionar comentarios públicos deben registrarse previamente en la División de Desarrollo de la Comunidad a más tardar a las 12:00 del mediodía del 10 de noviembre de 2020 por correo electrónico: [dnr@aurora-il.org](mailto:dnr@aurora-il.org) o por correo de voz, 630-256-3320. Los oradores deben proporcionar su nombre y número de teléfono desde el cual se accederá a la audiencia pública. Se informa al público que todos los números de teléfono y los nombres de los participantes pueden ser visibles para el público.

Previo solicitud, la Ciudad proporcionará servicios de traducción para satisfacer las necesidades de los residentes que no hablan inglés. La Ciudad también tomará las medidas adecuadas para satisfacer las necesidades de las personas con discapacidad. Para obtener más información, para hacer arreglos especiales, comuníquese con la División de Desarrollo Comunitario por correo electrónico: [dnr@aurora-il.org](mailto:dnr@aurora-il.org) o por correo de voz, 630-256-3320.

Las Enmiendas sustanciales resultarán en la reasignación/asignación de fondos CDBG, no gastados y los ajustes necesarios para garantizar la integridad de las obligaciones de gasto de la Ciudad y también abordarán los esfuerzos de la Ciudad para cumplir con los requisitos reglamentarios de Departamento de Vivienda y Desarrollo Urbano de los Estados Unidos (HUD) en la administración del Programa de Subvención de Desarrollo de Bloque Comunitario (CDBG) de la Ciudad.

Tenga en cuenta que, a partir del 9 de noviembre de 2020, un resumen de Las Modificaciones sustanciales propuestas al Plan de Acción Anual de la ciudad de Aurora para 2020 estará disponible para su revisión y comentario público en el sitio web de la ciudad de Aurora: [www.aurora-il.org/1175/Neighborhood-Redevelopment](http://www.aurora-il.org/1175/Neighborhood-Redevelopment)

Para proporcionar comentarios, comuníquese con la División de Desarrollo de la Comunidad (CDD) por teléfono al (630) 256-3320, o por correo electrónico: [dnr@aurora-il.org](mailto:dnr@aurora-il.org). Se aceptarán comentarios escritos y verbales a más tardar hasta las 4:00 p.m., del 13 de noviembre de 2020. Todas las respuestas serán atendidas por la División de Desarrollo de la Comunidad y enviadas al Departamento de Vivienda y Desarrollo Urbano de los Estados Unidos (HUD). La Enmienda Sustancial está programada para su revisión y adopción en la Reunión del Concejo Municipal de la Ciudad del 24 de noviembre de 2020 a las 5:00 p.m., a través de la plataforma de videoconferencia Zoom. Al igual que con todas las reuniones del Concejo de la Ciudad de Aurora, la visualización pública estará disponible en la página de Facebook de la Ciudad ([www.facebook.com/cityofauroraIL](http://www.facebook.com/cityofauroraIL)) y en la página de internet de la Ciudad de Aurora ([www.aurora-il.org](http://www.aurora-il.org)).



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

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***Proposed Substantial Amendment (2020-#3)*  
to  
2020 Annual Action Plan**

**DRAFT (November 2020)**

**Community Development Division • 44 E. Downer Place • Aurora, Illinois 60507  
(630) 256- 3320 • [dnr@aurora-il.org](mailto:dnr@aurora-il.org)**

## Substantial Amendment 2020-#3 Executive Summary

Substantial Amendment 2020-#3 proposes an amendment 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 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 received a Community Development Block Grant-CV special allocation to be used to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the Coronavirus (COVID-19). To expedite the disbursement of the City’s 2020 CDBG funds, via 24 CFR 5.110, the CARES Act authorized 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 addition to the public comment waivers, the CARES Act also established the following regulatory waivers, all of which, the City of Aurora will utilize under proposed Substantial Amendment 2020-#3:

1. The public services cap of 15% is suspended for the City’s 2019, 2020, and CDBG-CV funds.
2. The CARES Act allows for unlimited COVID-19 related pre-award costs for eligible reimbursement costs funded through CDBG-CV only. (This does not apply to the City’s 2019 and 2020 CDBG funds; pre-award costs are limited to no more than 25% or \$300,000 of the City’s grant amounts for each year, whichever is greater.)
3. The CARES Act permits the use of virtual public hearings when necessary for public health reasons.
4. The CARES Act permits HUD to issue citizen participation regulatory waivers to modify its reasonable public notice requirements (allowing for the implementation of social distancing accommodations outlined in the City’s Citizen Participation Plan) and also to reduce the minimum 30-day public comment period to a minimum 5-day period for activities which prevent and respond to the spread of infectious diseases such as the coronavirus.

The Substantial Amendment to the the City’s 2020 AAP will result in the reprogramming of unexpended 2020 CDBG funds (\$100,000) 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. The proposed Amendment will also assist the City’s effort to prevent and resond to the spread of infectious diseases such as the coronavirus.

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 shown as tracked changes):



<b>Project Name</b>	Microenterprise and Small Business Assistance
<b>Target Area</b>	Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Area City of Aurora
<b>Goals Supported</b>	Foster Small and Local Business Development CV-Coronavirus Response and Recovery Projects
<b>Needs Addressed</b>	Neighborhood Investments that affirm fair housing Capacity-Building
<b>Funding</b>	CDBG: <del>\$500</del> 400,000
<b>Description</b>	Funding will be provided to small business owners seeking to establish, stabilize, or expand their business activities within the defined NRSA or citywide. Substantial Amendment 2020-1. \$300K added due to cancellation of 2020 Engineering project fund with (\$229,743 funds and \$59,010 in prior year funds via Sub Amendment 2019-3, the remaining \$11,247 will be added via Minor Amendment 2020-1)
<b>Target Date</b>	12/31/21
<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	TBD
<b>Location Description</b>	Citywide and NRSA
<b>Planned Activities</b>	The small business forgivable loan program will provide funding of up to \$15,000 for businesses with 5 or less employees, and up to \$25,000 for businesses with between 6 and 50 employees. The total funding for this program will be \$1,400,000 when combined with previously approved funding (\$200,000) and CDBG-CV Funds (\$300,000). Although the CDBG-CV funds will be used to specifically assist businesses in their COVID-19 recovery efforts, the City has prioritized small business COVID-19 recovery efforts and it is expected that the majority 2018, 2019, and 2020 CDBG funds will be requested by businesses impacted by COVID-19. \$700,000 of the overall funding amount has been set-aside for the NRSA.  <u><b>*Activity Cancelled*</b>: CDBG-2020-10 - City of Aurora Information Technology Department 605 District Program (-\$100,000)</u>
<b>Project Name</b>	Targeted Public Services
<b>Target Area</b>	Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Area City of Aurora
<b>Goals Supported</b>	Public Service Assistance



<b>Needs Addressed</b>	Homeless Prevention <u>Capacity-Building</u>
<b>Funding</b>	CDBG: \$ <del>157257</del> ,500
<b>Description</b>	Funding for targeted public services will be provided for programs that increase economic opportunities, reduce poverty, and support the needs of special populations. This includes housing related services, supports for special needs populations, and workforce development programming.
<b>Target Date</b>	12/31/ <del>2020</del> 2021
<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	Approximately <del>7,532</del> 6,898-LMI individuals
<b>Location Description</b>	Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Area Citywide
<b>Planned Activities</b>	Hesed House: SEEDS Case Management Senior Services Associates: Senior/Physically Disabled Services Breaking Free/Mutual Ground: Homeless Substance Abuse Treatment Services Mutual Ground: Domestic Violence Shelter Program Prairie State Legal: Aurora Housing Advocacy Legal Services Project CARA Clean Slate: Cleanslate Workforce Crew  <u>*New Activity*: City of Aurora Information Technology Department/Youth Services Division: Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics (STEAM) After School Training Program (+\$100,000)</u>

**Citizen Participation Timeline**

**In light of existing COVID-19 social distancing and public health concerns, the CDD provided reasonable notice to its citizens in accordance with the following:**

**March 13, 2020:** President Trump declared the ongoing Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic of sufficient severity and magnitude to warrant an emergency declaration for all states, tribes, territories, and the District of Columbia pursuant to section 501 (b) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. 5121-5207 (the “Stafford Act”)

**March 16, 2020:** Mayor Irvin issued an Emergency Declaration in the City of Aurora which implemented several social distancing measures due to COVID-19 including the closure of City Hall to the public and limiting the City’s public meeting forum to a virtual format only

**March 21, 2020:** Governor Pritzker issued a statewide Stay-At-Home Order through April 7, 2020



**March 27, 2020:** President Trump approved the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (Public Law 116-136) (CARES Act). The CARES Act made available \$5 billion in CDBG coronavirus response (CDBG-CV) funds to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus

**March 31, 2020:** Governor Pritzker extended the Stay-At-Home Order through April 30, 2020

**April 1, 2020:** Mayor Irvin extended the City's Emergency Declaration through May 15, 2020 with an option to be withdrawn earlier if the emergency no longer exists.

**April 6, 2020:** City received HUD's notification of its CDBG-CV allocation (\$902,078)

**April 9, 2020:** HUD issued its Memorandum regarding the *CARES Act' Flexibilities for CDBG Funds Used to Support Coronavirus Response and Plan Amendment Waiver* which permits the reduction of the 30-day public comment period to a minimum 5-day period and allows for virtual public hearings through December 31, 2020. (Attachment 1)

**June 26, 2020:** The City notified its HUD Field Office of the City's intent to utilize the following HUD issued citizen participation waivers (Attachment 2):

1. Consolidated Planning Requirements – HOME, CDBG, HTF, ESG, and HOPWA Programs – Citizen Participation Public Comment Period for Consolidated Plan Amendment
2. Consolidated Planning Requirements – HOME, CDBG, HTF, ESG, and HOPWA Programs – Citizen Participation Reasonable Notice and Opportunity to Comment

**June 26, 2020:** State enters into Phase 4 of its Restore Illinois Plan. Social distancing measures have been modified as follows: All gatherings of 50 people or fewer are allowed with this limit subject to change based on latest data & guidance. (Information taken from <https://coronavirus.illinois.gov/s/restore-illinois-phase-4>)

**July 6, 2020:** The City of Aurora reopened to the public on Monday, Wednesdays, and Fridays. At the time of this Amendment's publication, virtual meeting protocols are still in place.

**October 23, 2020:** City of Aurora enters into COVID 19 Mitigation Plan to decrease spread of COVID in the region. Several restrictions are implemented under this Plan which include limiting meeting guests to lesser of 25 guests or 25 percent of overall room capacity.

**November 2, 2020:** City of Aurora submits Notice of Intent to utilize HUD's Waivers as authorized by the Cares Act to HUD's Office Community Planning and Development (attached).

**November 6, 2020:** Public hearing notice for Substantial Amendment 2020-#3 published in *Reflejos* and posted on the City's website, [www.aurora-il.org/1175/Neighborhood-Redevelopment](http://www.aurora-il.org/1175/Neighborhood-Redevelopment) . The notice established the public comment period of November 9, 2020 to November 13, 2020 and advised the public to contact the CDD for translation and accommodations to meet the needs of persons with disabilities.



**November 8, 2020:** Public hearing notice for Substantial Amendment 2020-#3 published in *The Beacon News*. The notice established the public comment period of November 9, 2020 to November 13, 2020 and advised the public to contact the CDD for translation and accommodations to meet the needs of persons with disabilities.

**November 9, 2020:** Substantial Amendment 2020-#3 Public Comment Period Opens.

**November 10, 2020:** Substantial Amendment 2020-#3 Public Health, Safety and Transportation Committee Review and Approval (pending)

**November 12, 2020:** Substantial Amendment 2020-#3 Virtual Public Hearing at 4:00 p.m. In keeping with the City's current meeting requirements in response to social distancing and public healthy safety measures, a virtual public hearing via the Zoom online meeting platform was scheduled.

**November 13, 2020:** Substantial Amendment 2020-#3 Public Comment Period closes at 4:00 p.m.

**November 17, 2020:** Substantial Amendment 2020-#3 Committee of the Whole Review and Approval (pending)

**November 24, 2020:** Substantial Amendment 2020-#3 City Council Review and Approval (pending)

**November 30, 2020 (tentative):** Substantial Amendment 2020-#3 submitted to HUD

**November 30, 2020 (tentative):** The City's goal is to begin implementation of its Substantial Amendment 2020-#3 activities.

Following the close of the public comment period and receipt of City Council approval (anticipated November 24, 2020), Substantial Amendment 2020-#3 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, and 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 resource:

**The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)** 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.





# City of Aurora



Innovation and Core Services Department | Community Development Division

44 E Downer Place | Aurora, Illinois 60507

Phone: (630) 256-3320 | Fax: (630) 256-3329 | Web: [www.aurora-il.org](http://www.aurora-il.org)

Via email transmission to: [CPD\\_COVID-19WaiverCHI@hud.gov](mailto:CPD_COVID-19WaiverCHI@hud.gov)

November 2, 2020

Mr. Donald Kathan, Director  
Office of Community Planning and Development  
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development  
77 West Jackson Boulevard, Room 2401  
Chicago, Illinois 60604-3507

Dear Mr. Kathan,

Respectfully, the City of Aurora, Illinois is hereby providing notice to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development of its intent to utilize HUD's Waivers as authorized by the CARES Act to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and mitigate economic impacts by COVID-19. As directed by HUD's Mega Waiver Memorandum (received by the City on April 13, 2020), the City hereby provides details related to the two waivers it intends to utilize:

- **Requestor's name, title, and contact information:** Chris Ragona, Manager, Community Development Division, 44 E. Downer Place, Aurora, Illinois 60507, 630-256-3321, [cragona@aurora-il.org](mailto:cragona@aurora-il.org)
- **Declared-disaster area(s) where the waivers will be used:** City of Aurora, Illinois
- **Date on which the grantee anticipates first use of the waiver flexibility:** November 9, 2020
- **A list of the waiver flexibilities the City of Aurora will use:**  
*In order to expedite its use of funds to respond to COVID19 recovery efforts, the City is implementing the following waivers to reduce its 30-day citizen participation public comment period to 5 days:*
  1. Consolidated Planning Requirements – HOME, CDBG, HTF, ESG, and HOPWA Programs – Citizen Participation Public Comment Period for Consolidated Plan Amendment
  2. Consolidated Planning Requirements – HOME, CDBG, HTF, ESG, and HOPWA Programs – Citizen Participation Reasonable Notice and Opportunity to Comment

Additionally, upon review of HUD's published guidance, it is the City's understanding that HUD's regulatory waivers are only required for the above Consolidated Plan activities. However, the City wishes to advise HUD that it has implemented the below flexibilities as per the enactment of the CARES Act:

- The public services 15% cap has been eliminated for City's CDBG-CV grant and also for the City's FY 2019 and 2020 CDBG grant funds used for coronavirus efforts.
- The City may use CDBG-CV grant funds to cover or reimburse costs to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus incurred by a State or locality, regardless of the date on which such costs were incurred, when those costs comply with CDBG requirements.

Please advise if waivers are also required for the above noted CARES Act CDBG program flexibilities. Waivers were previously submitted by the City to [CPD\\_COVID-19WaiverCHI@hud.gov](mailto:CPD_COVID-19WaiverCHI@hud.gov) on 4/15/2020 and 6/25/2020.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions.

Thank you.



Chris Ragona  
Community Development Manager  
City of Aurora, Illinois