

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Notice of Public Comment Period, Public Hearings, and Proposed Substantial Amendments to the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan and 2020 Annual Action Plan

Background

The City of Niagara Falls (“City”) is proposing amendments to its 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan and 2020 Annual Action Plan that cover the use of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME), and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funding received by the City from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The amendments, which are described below, address (i) the reprogramming of CDBG funds, and (ii) the impacts of the Covid-19 virus.

Substantial Amendment to 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan

Notice is hereby given that the City proposes a Substantial Amendment of its HUD 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan. The 2020-2024 Plan included a Public Space Improvements Goal, and given the increasing need to stabilize target neighborhoods, remove dangerous and blighting influences, and improve transportation safety in low- and moderate-income areas, targeted blight eliminations activities are reemphasized in the Public Improvement plans. This proposed Substantial Amendment is subject to a public comment period and public hearing as detailed below.

Substantial Amendment to 2020 Annual Action Plan

Notice is hereby given that the City proposes a Substantial Amendment of its HUD Annual Action Plan for 2020 to reprogram unused CDBG funds from the accounts below to be used in FY 2020-2021. The funds targeted for reprogramming consist of unused funds, balances for programs that no longer exist, or are funds unlikely to be used in a timely manner. If these funds are not expended, the City’s federal grant allocations will be at risk of recapture by HUD. Funds will be allocated for activities that will allow for timely expenditures. In accordance with Consolidated Plan requirements at 24 CFR Part 91 (B) and the City’s Citizen Participation Plan, the City has posted the changes to the Action Plan through this Reprogramming Amendment in order to provide opportunity for public comment. A summary of the proposed reprogramming is as follows:

Prior Year Funding Line Items to be Reprogrammed:

2015 Reprogramming IDIS #1791-Commercial Façade	\$10,000.00
2016 Reprogramming IDIS #1764-Park Improvements	\$39,996.32
2018 Reprogramming IDIS #1949-CD Program Supplies	\$49,333.00
2018 Reprogramming IDIS #1954-CD Supplies Rehab	\$24,500.00
Decreasing 2020 Road Milling and Paving budget to:	<u>\$68,175.68</u>
Total CDBG (Reductions)	\$192,005.00

Line Items for Funding Addition (FY 2020-2021):

Clean Neighborhoods 2020 Program	\$180,000.00
Code Enforcement 2020 Program	\$12,005.00
Total CDBG Funding being Reprogrammed	\$192,005.00

Requests for additional information regarding the reprogramming should be submitted by email to Clifford Scott at Clifford.Scott@niagarafalls.ny.gov. This proposed Substantial Amendment is subject to

a public comment period and public hearing as detailed below.

CARES Act Supplemental CDBG (CV) Funds-Line Items to be Reprogrammed

Notice is hereby given that the City of Niagara Falls proposes to reprogram supplemental CDBG-CV funds of awarded to the City under the CARES Act to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the Covid-19 Crisis. The City is proposing to use this funding to implement activities in the following categories in an attempt to reduce Health Disparities in Underserved Census Tracts. The following CARES Act CV funds will be reprogrammed as follows:

Line Items to be reprogrammed (Reduced):

2019 COVID-19 Testing - NFMMC	\$25,000.00
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Line Items for Funding Addition (FY 2020-2021):

2020 Reducing Health Disparities in Underserved Census Tracts	\$25,000.00
Create A Healthier Niagara Falls Collaborative Inc.	\$25,000.00
Total CARES (CV) Funding being Reprogrammed	\$25,000.00

Requests for additional information regarding the CARES Act funding should be submitted by email to Clifford Scott at Clifford.Scott@niagarafalls.ny.gov. This proposed Substantial Amendment is subject to a public comment period and public hearing as detailed below.

Public Comment Periods

A public comment period on (i) Substantial Amendments to the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan and 2020 Annual Action Plan, and (ii) CARES Act Supplemental CDBG and ESG Funding, opens September 3, 2021. Public comments must be received in writing on or before October 1, 2021. Written comments may be submitted in person at, or by mail addressed to: City of Niagara Falls, Department of Community Development, 1022 Main Street, Niagara Falls, NY 14302. Written comments may be submitted by e-mail addressed to Clifford Scott at Clifford.Scott@niagarafalls.ny.gov. All comments will be presented to the City Council prior to its consideration of resolutions to submit the amendments to HUD.

Public Hearings

A public hearing was held on October 4, 2021. The Public Hearing is available on YouTube Channel: Rich Meranto NF City Schools. Public comments were read during the public hearing. All subsequent responses will be posted at the following website: <https://nf-cd.org/news>.

All public comments will be presented to the City Council before a vote on (i) Substantial Amendments to the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan and (ii) 2020 Annual Action Plan. The Substantial Amendments must be approved by City Council before the Substantial Amendments can take effect.