

HUD Funding Recommendations

*The City of Columbus
CDBG-CV*



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Introduction

Community Development Block Grant – Corona Virus (CDBG-CV)

The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program provides communities with resources to address a wide range of unique community development needs. The CDBG program provides annual grants on a formula basis to Entitlement Communities to support viability by providing decent housing, a suitable living environment, and opportunities to expand economic opportunities, principally for low and moderate-income persons.

The CARES Act made available \$5 billion in Community Development Block Grant Coronavirus (CDBG-CV) funds. Of this amount, the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is immediately allocating \$2 billion based on the fiscal year 2020 CDBG formula. The remaining \$3 billion shall be allocated based on needs using best available data, in the following tranches: \$1 billion shall be allocated to States and insular areas within 45 days of enactment of the Cares Act, and \$2 billion shall be distributed to states and local governments at the discretion of the Secretary.

Allocation for CDBG-CV Funding

The City of Columbus has received funding through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) from the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to support critical community services during the COVID-19 Pandemic. The CDBG-CV award totals \$981,189.

Project Eligibility for CDBG-CV Funding

CDBG-CV funds may be used to cover or reimburse allowable costs to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus and its impact on local communities through partnerships with non-profit agencies administering programs directly to individuals or families who are considered low to moderate income, as well as those who serve residents in low to moderate census tracts. Project activities are limited to the following:

- Planning, Capacity Building, and Technical Assistance
- Assistance to Businesses, including Special Economic Development Assistance
- Buildings and Improvements, Including Public Facilities
- Public Services

Outreach Efforts for FFY 2020 Application Cycle

Community Reinvestment has made an informational briefing available through The City of Columbus' website and other social media outlets, which was designed to provide prospective applicants with information regarding the CDBG-CV grant application process and eligibility requirements for the aforementioned grant opportunity. We received 62 individual applications. Of the applications received, 32 were submitted for scoring.

Recommendations Rationale

As we developed our plan for the implementation of these grant funds in our community, we were encouraged to consider approaches that prioritize the unique needs of low- and moderate-income persons and the development of partnerships between our unit of government, private for-profit, and nonprofit sectors.

The Community Reinvestment Department used the following rationale when making CDBG-CV funding recommendations. Careful considerations included:

- Proposed Activity Eligibility and Alignment with Stated Strategic Goals
- Financial soundness and sustainability of the organization
- Timeliness activity and readiness to be implemented
- History, Experience, and Past Performance of the Organization
- Funding already secured from other sources supporting the activity
- Previous year's funding allocations
- Application minimum scoring requirements

CDBG-CV Funding Recommendations

Administration and Planning Recommendation

HUD allows a maximum of 20% set aside for CDBG Administration and Planning. Administration and Planning includes activity oversight, reporting, and monitoring as HUD requires. The CDBG-CV administration cap is \$196,237.80. COVID-19 has had a significant impact on the residents and small businesses in the City of Columbus. As such, Community Reinvestment recommends a total amount of \$0.00 for Administration and Planning costs to ensure 100% of the total grant award gets implemented within our community.

Administration & Planning Recommendations

Applicant Name	Description	Recommendation Amount	Anticipated Beneficiaries
Community Reinvestment	Administration & Planning	\$0.00	N/A
Total:		\$0.00	N/A

Table 1: Administration & Planning Recommendations

Economic Development Recommendation

The proposed economic development recommendations will assist The City of Columbus in leveraging these funds to help small businesses continue operations and keep residents employed in a safe environment. The Community Reinvestment Department recommends \$100,000.00 for micro-enterprise recovery for existing businesses and \$15,000.00 for the development of new and startup businesses. HUD defines a microenterprise as a commercial business that has ten or fewer employees, with one or more having ownership. The aforementioned recommendations represent 11.72% of the CDBG-CV allocation.

Economic Development Recommendations

Applicant Name	Description	Recommendation Amount	Anticipated Beneficiaries
StartUp Columbus	Small Business Economic Recovery	\$100,000.00	40 Small Businesses
StartUp Columbus	Microenterprise Development	\$15,000.00	3 Small Businesses
Total:		\$115,000.00	43 Small businesses

Table 2: Economic Development Recommendations

Homeowner Housing Rehabilitation Recommendation

The Community Reinvestment Department recommends \$63,901.00 for Homeowner Housing Rehabilitation loans to income eligible homeowners in the City of Columbus to complete minor repairs to their home. Properties approved for the CDBG Rehab program are inspected by a certified inspector for health and safety items to repair as well as lead based paint/asbestos testing, interim inspections, and a final inspection. The average amount per household is \$10,000.00. Additionally, the inspector conducts a Uniform Physical Condition Standard (UPCS) inspection for each qualified property. The aforementioned recommendations represent 6.51% of the CDBG-CV allocation.

Housing Rehabilitation Recommendation

Applicant Name	Description	Recommendation Amount	Anticipated Beneficiaries
Columbus Area Habitat for Humanity	Owner Occupied Housing Rehab- Single Family	\$63,901.00	6 Households
Total:		\$63,901.00	6 Households

Table 3: Housing Rehabilitation Recommendation

CDBG Public Facilities Recommendation

The Community Reinvestment department recommends allocating \$42,650.00 for public facility improvements. This funding will assist projects that a direct benefit to clients in low-income communities. The aforementioned recommendation represent 4.35% of the CDBG-CV allocation. Community Reinvestment recommends two activities for funding.

Public Facility Recommendations

Applicant Name	Description	Recommendation Amount	Anticipated Beneficiaries
Whole Person Ministries	Food Storage Modification	\$6,200.00	196 Persons Assisted
Enrichment Services Program, Inc.	Building Modifications	\$36,440.00	55 Persons Assisted
Total:		\$42,640.00	251 Persons Assisted

Table 4: Public Facility Recommendations

CDBG Public Service Recommendations

The Community Reinvestment department received 30 applications for CDBG Public Service activities totaling \$1,933,912.00 in funding requests. Generally, HUD has established a 15% cap for Public Service activities; however, we have applied for and were approved to eliminate this requirement for CDBG-CV funding. The Community Reinvestment department recommends \$689,565.00 for 12 operating activities and six equipment purchases. The aforementioned allocations represent 77.42% of the CDBG-CV allocation.

Public Service-Operating Recommendations

Applicant Name	Description	Recommendation Amount	Anticipated Beneficiaries
StartUp Columbus	Small Business Economic Recovery – Payroll Expenses	\$5,000.00	43 Persons Assisted
Boys and Girls Club	Youth Education – CV19 PPE Supplies – Payroll Expenses	\$90,100.00	1,043 Persons Assisted
Mercy Medical	COVID-19 Test Kits - Payroll	\$60,000.00	5,455 Persons Assisted
Homeless Resource Network	Rent/Utilities – Transportation – Payroll Expenses	\$85,148.00	42 Persons Assisted
Whole Person Ministries	Meal Distribution Program	\$10,138.00	196 Persons Assisted
Columbus Area Habitat	PPE Office Supplies – Payroll Expenses	\$17,800.00	104 Persons Assisted
Let's Grow Steamx	Event Technology – Awards – Youth Program	\$22,000.00	500 Persons Assisted
Enrichment Services Program	Educational Program – Technology – Payroll Expenses	\$67,360.00	55 Persons Assisted
St. Anne Community Outreach	Rent/Utilities - Payroll Expenses	\$160,761.00	314 Persons Assisted
Salvation Army	Rent/Utilities – Payroll Expenses	\$70,000.00	91 Persons Assisted
United Way of Chattahoochee Valley	Technology Support – Payroll Expenses	\$44,000.00	500 Persons Assisted
Hope Harbour/Alliance Against Battered Women	Rent/Utilities – Home Supplies - Telecommunications	\$57,258.00	55 Persons Assisted
Total:		\$689,565.00	8,355 Persons Assisted

Table 5: Activities Recommended for FY2020 CDBG Public Service-Operating

Public Service - Equipment Recommendations

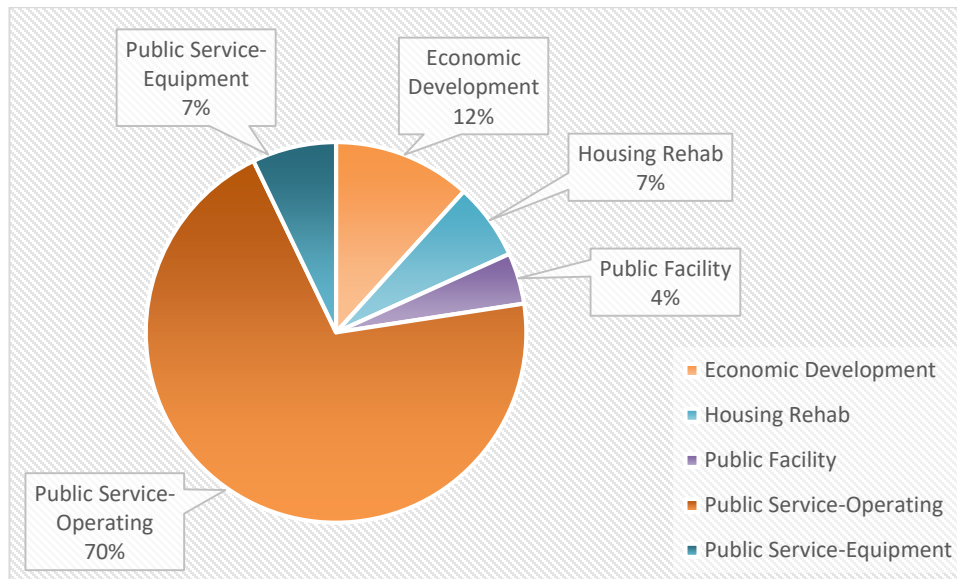
Applicant Name	Description	Recommendation Amount	Anticipated Beneficiaries
Whole Person Ministries	Food Preparation Tent - Coolers	\$3,275.00	196 Persons Assisted
Columbus Area Habitat	Technology Service Support	\$9,000.00	104 Persons Assisted
Feeding the Valley	Food Freezer – Meal Packer/Sealer Line	\$50,00.00	19,231 Persons Assisted
Enrichment Services Program	Technology -Laptops	\$1,200.00	55 Persons Assisted
Safehouse Ministries	Drug Screening Test Kits	\$3,600.00	16 Persons Assisted
United Way of Chattahoochee Valley	Computer/Hardware Upgrade	\$3,009.00	500 Persons Assisted
Total:		\$70,084.00	20,246 Persons Assisted

Table 6: Activities Recommended for FY2020 CDBG Public Service-Equipment

Summary of CDBG 2020 Recommendations

The chart and table below provide a summary of the proposed CDBG-CV recommendation amounts:

Total CDBG-CV Recommended Projects by Activity Type



Project Activity	Funding Amount	Percent of Total (%)
Economic Development	\$115,000	12%
Housing Rehab	\$63,901	7%
Public Facility	\$42,640	4%
Public Service-Operating	\$689,564	70%
Public Service-Equipment	\$70,084	7%
Total:	\$981,189	100%

Table 7: Summary of CDBG-CV Recommendations

The Table below provides the complete list of recommended projects and funding amounts:

Total CDBG-CV Recommended Projects

Agency Name	Activity	Recommended Amount
StartUp Columbus Existing Business	Economic Development	\$100,000.00
StartUp Columbus New/ Startup Business	Economic Development	\$15,000.00
StartUp Columbus	PS-Operating	\$5,000.00
Boys & Girls Club	PS-Operating	\$90,100.00
Mercy Medical	PS-Operating	\$60,000.00
Homeless Resource Network	PS-Operating	\$85,148.00
Whole Person Ministries	Public Facility	\$6,200.00
Whole Person Ministries	PS-Operating	\$10,138.00
Whole Person Ministries	PS-Equipment	\$3,275.00
Columbus Area Habitat	CDBG Rehab	\$63,901.00
Columbus Area Habitat	PS-Operating	\$17,800.00
Columbus Area Habitat	PS-Equipment	\$9,000.00
Feeding the Valley	PS-Equipment	\$50,000.00
Let's Grow STEAMx/Youth College Expo	PS-Operating	\$22,000.00
Enrichment Services Program	Public Facility	\$36,440.00
Enrichment Services Program	PS-Operating	\$67,360.00
Enrichment Services Program	PS-Equipment	\$1,200.00
St. Anne Outreach Community Outreach	PS-Operating	\$160,760.00
Salvation Army	PS-Operating	\$70,000.00
Safehouse Ministries	PS-Equipment	\$3,600.00
United Way of the Chattahoochee Valley	PS-Operating	\$44,000.00
United Way of the Chattahoochee Valley	PS-Equipment	\$3,009.00
Hope Harbour/Alliance Against Battered Women	PS-Operating	\$57,258.00
	Total:	\$981,189

Table 8: Summary of CDBG-CV Recommendations