



PY 19 ACTION
PLAN

AMENDMENT SUMMARY

MERIDIAN CDBG PROGRAM

<https://meridiancity.org/cdbg/>
Crystal Campbell
ccampbell@meridiancity.org
(208) 489-0575

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Purpose

The CARES Act made available \$5 billion in Community Development Block Grant Coronavirus (CDBG-CV) funds. Of this amount, HUD allocated \$2 billion based on the fiscal year 2020 CDBG formula; this constituted the first round of CDBG-CV funds. Next, \$1 billion was required by the Act to be allocated to States and insular areas and this constituted the second round of CDBG-CV funds. The remaining \$2 billion in CDBG-CV funds was allocated to states and local governments at the discretion of the Secretary of HUD on a rolling basis; this constituted the third round of CDBG-CV funds.

The first round of CDBG-CV funding for \$288,106 was approved by Council in the PY19 Action Plan Amendment on April 28, 2020. All funds were directed to public services with a priority on projects for services related to homelessness prevention and stabilization, food security, behavioral health (mental health and substance use disorders), and domestic/intimate partner violence and sexual assault.

HUD allocated an additional \$254,197 under the third round to the City of Meridian for a total of \$542,303 in funds to prepare, prevent, and respond to COVID-19. This amendment will accept the additional funds.

CDBG-CV Progress

All CDBG-CV funds must be 80% spent by June 4, 2023 and 100% spent by June 4, 2026. As of January 31, 2021 the City has reimbursed \$27,274, which is roughly 9% of the first allocation. The City is currently using CDBG-CV funds for the following projects:

- Jesse Tree of Idaho – Emergency Rental Assistance
- NeighborWorks Boise – Mortgage Assistance
- Terry Reilly – Allumbaugh House

Use of Additional Funds

Staff will use admin funds to reach out to the community and determine the gaps in service that still exist for those affected by COVID-19. Staff will utilize this information to identify targeted service providers to address those needs.

Substantial Amendment

The [2017-2021 Consolidated Plan](#) requires a substantial amendment if there is a change in the allocation plan that redirects more than 20 percent of annual funding to a different activity or if funds will be allocated to a project that was not previously approved. Due to the amount of funding allocated to the City during the third round and the fact that we did not request any funds to be used for admin, this project will require a substantial amendment. This process is similar to the approval of an Action Plan and includes a public comment period, public hearing, approval by Council, and adoption of a resolution.

Summary of Changes

Below is a summary of the changes to the PY19 Action Plan. To see the full PY19 Action Plan with markups, please see link on CDBG Website (link will expire once the public comment period closes, but will be available upon request).

[AP-05 Executive Summary - 24 CFR 91.200\(c\), 91.220\(b\)](#)

Page 1:

1. Introduction

The City of Meridian was awarded CDBG-CV funds under the CARES Act during PY19. Per directives from HUD, all Action Plan amendments related to CDBG-CV funds will be made to the PY19 Action Plan. This includes amendments that occur during future program years.

Page 3-4:

4. Summary of Citizen Participation Process and consultation process

The second amendment was available for public comment from February 26, 2021 to March 23, 2021 with a public hearing being held on March 23, 2021. The City's Citizen Participation Plan requires a minimum five (5) day public comment period when there is a HUD waiver in place as there is now due to COVID-19. The City has exceeded the five (5) day requirement by providing 25 days for the public comment period. The City published legal notices in two local newspapers (Idaho Statesman and Meridian Press Tribune) and posted the draft Action Plan on the City's website on February 25, 2021. Presentations of the draft Action Plan and included projects were provided to the public and City Council on March 16, 2021 and March 23, 2021.

5. Summary of public comments

During the public comment period for the second amendment five (5) comments were received and are summarized below:

- Georgia Konkoly – Commented that it was a well thought out plan.
- John Anderson – Recommended we do not accept the funding, this is part of a bigger issue where we are becoming dependent on the government.
- Councilwoman Perreault – Discussion during first public presentation regarding our ability to spend the funds.
- harris1054@hotmail.com – Comments included confusion over the source of CDBG-CV funding, concerns we have unspent funds, suggestions for incentives for people receiving vaccines, and frustrations that mask requirements are not being enforced in Meridian.
- mommyofboys_2@aol.com – Suggested funding go toward building schools and wanted to ensure accepting this funding would not take away constitutional rights.

Please see the Citizen Participation attachment for the full comments and responses.

AP-15 Expected Resources – 91.220(c)(1,2)

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Introduction

Meridian will receive an additional \$254,197 under the third round of CDBG funding under the CARES Act for a total of \$542,303. All CDBG-CV funds will be used for public services and to administer the additional funding.

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Anticipated Resources

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 1				Expected Amount Available Remainder of ConPlan \$	Narrative Description
			Annual Allocation: \$	Program Income: \$	Prior Year Resources: \$	Total: \$		
CDBG-CV	Public – federal	Other: To prevent, prepare for and respond to the Coronavirus	542,303	0	0	542,303	0	CDBG-CV funds to be used to prevent, prepare for and respond to the Coronavirus.

[AP-20 Annual Goals and Objectives](#)

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Goals Summary Information

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
3	Administration and Fair Housing Activities	2017	2021	Admin			CDBG: \$45,000 CDBG-CV: \$20,000	Other: 0 Other
4	Provide Social Services	2017	2021	Non-Homeless Special Needs Low income services		Improvements in Economic Stability Homeownership Opportunities: 80-120 Percent of AMI Rental Assistance and Affordable Rental Units Improved Housing Options and Supportive Services Rental Assistance Programs and Rental Units Service Programs - Low Income and Special Needs	CDBG: \$53,500 Other – CDBG-CV: \$522,303	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 733 Persons Assisted Homelessness Prevention: 414 Persons Assisted

[AP-35 Projects – 91.220\(d\)](#)

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Projects

#	Project Name
10	CV-Administration

Describe the reasons for allocation priorities and any obstacles to addressing underserved needs

No obstacles have been identified for Administration and Fair Housing (Projects 7, 8, and 10 above).

[AP-38 Project Summary](#)

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7	Project Name	Administration
	Target Area	N/A
	Goals Supported	Administration
	Needs Addressed	N/A
	Funding	CDBG: \$35,000

Pages 34-35:

9	Project Name	CV-Public Services
	Target Area	N/A
	Goals Supported	Provide Social Services
	Needs Addressed	Improvements in Economic Stability Improved Housing Options and Supportive Services Service Programs - Low Income and Special Needs
	Funding	CDBG-CV: \$522,303
	Description	CDBG public service projects for activities to prevent, prepare for, and respond to Coronavirus.
	Target Date	9/30/2023
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	533 LMI households who reside in Meridian.
	Location Description	Services will be provided throughout the community and at the offices of providers.

	Planned Activities	Public service activities that will stabilize Meridian households affected by Coronavirus. Priority will be given to projects for services related to homelessness prevention and stabilization, food security, behavioral health (mental health and substance use disorders), and domestic/intimate partner violence and sexual assault.
10	Project Name	CV-Administration
	Target Area	N/A
	Goals Supported	Administration
	Needs Addressed	N/A
	Funding	CDBG-CV: \$20,000
	Description	This project will have activities that relate to the administrative, planning, and technical assistance for the CDBG program for CV funding.
	Target Date	9/30/2023
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	N/A
	Location Description	Administration office is located in Meridian City Hall at 33 E. Broadway Ave. suite 102.
	Planned Activities	(21A) Administration and Planning

[Attachment: Citizen Participation Comments](#)

PY19 Action Plan – CDBG-CV 2nd Amendment

Pages 51-60

Date	Method of Submission	Contributor	Comment	City Response
3/9/21	Email	Georgia Konkoly	Summary (full email below): Commented that it was a well thought out plan.	Summary (full email below): City appreciated feedback.
3/9/21	Email	John Anderson	Summary (full email below): Recommended we do not accept the funding, this is part of a bigger issue where we are becoming dependent on the government.	Summary (full email below): Clarified the type of projects that are currently funded.
3/16/21	Public Hearing	Councilwoman Perreault	1 – Have there been any changes to what the funds can be spent on?	1 – There have been no changes.

			<p>2 – It was a challenge identifying subrecipients previously. Will we have the applicants to use these funds?</p> <p>3 – Are we able to use admin funds for outreach efforts?</p>	<p>2 – We will be using admin funds for additional outreach to identify current gaps and will contact those service providers directly. These funds will also be available over the next several years to deal with the fallout of COVID-19.</p> <p>3 – Outreach is an eligible activity and is the main reason for including admin in the amendment.</p>
3/22/21	Email	harris1054@hotmail.com	<p>Summary (full email below): Comments included confusion over the source of CDBG-CV funding, concerns we have unspent funds, suggestions for incentives for people receiving vaccines, and frustrations that mask requirements are not being enforced in Meridian.</p>	<p>Summary (full email below): Clarified funding source and previously funded projects.</p>
3/22/21	Email	mommyofboys_2@aol.com	<p>Summary (full email below): Suggested funding go toward building schools and wanted to ensure accepting this funding would not take away constitutional rights.</p>	<p>Summary (full email below): Provided clarification on purpose of funds and directed to West Ada School District's Facility Plan webpage.</p>

Crystal Campbell

From: Crystal Campbell
Sent: Tuesday, March 9, 2021 2:36 PM
To: Georgia Konkoly
Subject: RE: PY19 Action Plan Amendment Comment

Categories: Action Plan

Thank you Georgia!

Crystal Campbell | Community Development Program Coordinator
(Pronouns: She/Her)
Why pronouns matter
City of Meridian | Community Development
33 E. Broadway Ave., Meridian, Idaho 83642
Phone: (208) 489-0575 | Email: ccampbell@meridiancity.org

-----Original Message-----

From: Georgia Konkoly <gjkonkoly@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 9, 2021 11:38 AM
To: Crystal Campbell <ccampbell@meridiancity.org>
Subject: PY19 Action Plan Amendment Comment

External Sender - Please use caution with links or attachments.

Looks like a well thought out plan!

Sent from my iPhone

Crystal Campbell

From: Crystal Campbell
Sent: Friday, March 12, 2021 12:28 PM
To: 'John Anderson'
Subject: RE: PY19 Action Plan Amendment Comment

Thank you Mr. Anderson for sharing your perspective.

Have a great weekend.

Crystal Campbell | Community Development Program Coordinator

(Pronouns: She/Her)

[Why pronouns matter](#)

City of Meridian | Community Development

33 E. Broadway Ave., Meridian, Idaho 83642

Phone: (208) 489-0575 | Email: ccampbell@meridiancity.org

From: John Anderson <jandidaho@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 9, 2021 4:22 PM
To: Crystal Campbell <ccampbell@meridiancity.org>
Subject: Re: PY19 Action Plan Amendment Comment

External Sender - Please use caution with links or attachments.

Crystal,

Thank you for your reply and explanation. I read your documents and I fully understand how you intend to use the money we received from the Federal government. However, to be clear, my comments were less about helping this or that constituency who suffers from this or that problem. My comments are directed at whose responsibility it is to help these people. Is it the government, or is it we, the people and our private entities?

Our disconnect today, which has been put on auto-drive and warp speed by this manufactured COVID crisis is accelerating our dependence on government programs or funds for virtually everything. A crisis will come and it will go, but a government program remains, primarily because politicians cannot step away from feeding at the federal trough. This current crisis is just that.

This all creates a culture of dependency for our people and for our state and local governments. Uncle Sam is like a loan shark. They are ready with free cash to the states, but at a very high cost, not the least of which is our dependency on their money. Once addicted, Idaho and Meridian, by example, become addicts who cannot live without that money. Politicians like that money because it makes their job easier. They don't have to make tough decisions about what we, as a state or municipality can afford. They are not problem-solvers. They just ask "Big Daddy" for more.

The real cost of this is two-fold, and I use COVID as my case study.

1. Loss of our state, 10th Amendment sovereignty

COVID was used as an excuse to shut the country down. Our governors went along with it. That triggered a massive spending of our grandchildren's money to prop up businesses we closed unnecessarily. That also elevated bureaucrats, incompetent ones at that, to chase everyone into their homes and create a sense of fear that had no relation to reality. Once again, our governors went along with it. The end result was that governors, who cannot make law, created law from whole cloth and once again, local government enforced laws that were totally unconstitutional and trampled on our state sovereignty and the civil rights of our citizens.

Instead of us pushing back, refusing all the cookies the federal government offered up, we gorged on it. That dependency has now complicated the legislature's ability to limit Governor Little's illegal power to play God with all of us. What is their obstacle? Federal money we might lose if they do that. Where is the moral courage to do what best serves our state sovereignty and our citizens. It doesn't exist in our politicians, who view everything through a re-election lens. There is no other calculus, in my view, having worked with our legislators before.

2. Loss of our God-given rights to make our own decisions and to be left alone by our government.

The state is no longer the ally of the U.S. or Idaho Constitution. They are the "wholly-owned subsidiary of a bloated, all powerful and centrally planned federal government." Our citizens are increasingly dependent on free money to solve problems that need to be solved by us, by churches, by non-profits and state and local governments, as is the dictate of our Constitution. If we don't take some step to regain Idaho's ability to say "NO" to the federal government, even if they withhold funds from us, we are no longer sovereign, nor are we free.

I'm not confident that anyone will actually consider, in a thoughtful way, what I've said here, but alas, I have tried to show where our concern comes from. I am an American, born free and who sincerely desires to stay free. My political ideology is simple. I am of the party who believes our Founders had it right, and who is convinced that the further we stray from their design, the less free, safe and prosperous we will become.

Two common sayings we should eliminate from our vocabulary. One, "There ought to be a law against that". Two, "The government needs to do more". Self-reliance and industry are qualities we should promote, not deter.

Thanks Crystal. I appreciated your response.

God Bless,

John Anderson
jandidaho@gmail.com
208-869-1300

On Tue, Mar 9, 2021 at 2:48 PM Crystal Campbell <ccampbell@meridiancity.org> wrote:

Thank you for your feedback, I include your comments in the final plan and make sure Council is aware of your views.

These funds are currently being used to provide rent and mortgage assistance. This amendment is to add additional funding so we can continue to assist our residents with services like this. If you would like additional information please let me know.

Crystal Campbell | Community Development Program Coordinator

(Pronouns: She/Her)

[Why pronouns matter](#)

City of Meridian | Community Development

33 E. Broadway Ave., Meridian, Idaho 83642

Phone: (208) 489-0575 | Email: ccampbell@meridiancity.org

From: jandidaho <jandidaho@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 8, 2021 8:37 PM
To: Crystal Campbell <ccampbell@meridiancity.org>
Subject: PY19 Action Plan Amendment Comment

External Sender - Please use caution with links or attachments.

Money that wasn't solicited by Meridian will either be wasted on pet projects or squandered in other ways. We have had it with insane COVID "cookies" from the federal government. Send the money back. End all mention of COVID. Public health is complicit in this virus crushing businesses, jobs and community wellness. Take them off of your website, end this charade. Tell public school teachers to get back to work and fully open schools or lose their jobs. We are sick of all of this. Federal money, incompetent bureaucrats and weak politicians have cost we citizens far more that this virus has and the numbers don't lie.

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

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Crystal Campbell

From: Crystal Campbell
Sent: Tuesday, March 23, 2021 12:29 PM
To: Flip Flop
Subject: RE: PY19 Action Plan Amendment Comment

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: Action Plan

Good morning and thank you for reaching out. My goal is to involve the community in making decisions about the CDBG program so your comments are much appreciated.

I wanted to clarify a couple of things. Meridian's CDBG Program goes through a planning process every five years to make sure the goals of the program are relevant to the current needs of our community. We then create Action Plans for each of the Program Years (PY) to let the community know how we will be addressing the previously identified goals in the upcoming year. We submit the annual Action Plan to HUD and this acts as our application for funding. To accept/receive any funds we must submit the Action Plan to HUD, or in this case, amend our previous Action Plan to include the funds in our overall plan for the year. When the CARES Act funds were allocated to our program we were in the middle of PY19, so I had to amend the PY19 plan. In an effort to reduce confusion, HUD has given the direction that all CARES Act funds will live within the PY19 plan and any amendments that are made related to the CARES Act funds will require an amendment to the PY19 Action Plan.

During the first round of funding Meridian received under the CARES Act we allocated the following:

- Jesse Tree Rental Assistance \$31,250
- NeighborWorks Boise Mortgage Assistance \$163,333
- Terry Reilly Allumbaugh House Case Management \$16,366

This left \$77,157 of the original funds unallocated so we could use it for another project if there was a need identified or one of the previously funded projects showed a need for additional funds. I'm sure you saw in my update that we were surprised these funds were not used more quickly.

We intend to use this second round of funding to identify gaps that are not being met so we can more effectively get these funds into the community in a way that will help prepare, prevent, and respond to COVID-19.

The City does not have the capacity to provide the services directly, so we work with community providers to enhance the work they are already doing and serve additional community members with CDBG funding. We are currently working with an organization in the hope that they will be able to use our funds to stand up a mobile vaccine clinic that will provide the vaccine to low to moderate income Meridian residents. I think you have a great idea to offer incentives to people to get the vaccine and I will be sure to pass your ideas along.

I do understand where your frustration is coming from and I want to thank you for doing everything you can to reduce the infection rates. These are scary times with so many unknowns when you are doing everything you can and it still doesn't always seem like it is enough. I know you are making a personal sacrifice every day and at times it's difficult to not be frustrated when you see people not making the same sacrifices as you. We will continue to work toward a healthier community and always appreciate your involvement.

Best,

Crystal Campbell | Community Development Program Coordinator

(Pronouns: She/Her)

[Why pronouns matter](#)

City of Meridian | Community Development

33 E. Broadway Ave., Meridian, Idaho 83642

Phone: (208) 489-0575 | Email: ccampbell@meridiacity.org

From: Flip Flop <harris1054@hotmail.com>

Sent: Monday, March 22, 2021 3:18 PM

To: Crystal Campbell <ccampbell@meridiacity.org>

Subject: PY19 Action Plan Amendment Comment

External Sender - Please use caution with links or attachments.

Sir: (I write this biting my check quite deeply)

If this is the, why aren't you calling it the "Rescue Plan Act"? Only two plans were passed under the "Cares Act", and they were both in 2020.

*Just wondering: "Meridian will receive an additional \$254,197 under the **third round of CDBG funding under the CARES Act for a total of \$542,303.** All CDBG-CV funds will be used for public services and to administer the additional funding".(p33)*

*Idaho is not a trailblazer in any logistics you set us up against, yet we still have money from the **funding** for us all to stick our two cents in! Why don't you have a mobile vaccination center at every public event(ie) Meridian speedway event. Free admission with 1st or 2nd shot or vaccine card. Free admission to Hawk's game with your vaccine card or sit down and get your shot. We've got a lot of a lot of hesitancy in Idaho, and it's not the black and brown type. It's the red hat type. I've been in quarantine for 12 months. I now have both shots, but guess what's rising in Idaho? Cases! New Variants! Rare Variants! What good does it do me if Masks are not required, I still wear mine, and I if I get the Brazilian variant (which is here), and CDC is not so sure I can't be infected by this strain even though I've been vaccinated and mask up!!!!!! Should I isolate again until all the red hatters are inoculated? (my dear old friend is a red hatter)*

Gee, you still have your MONEY left, that you didn't want to spend in the first place.

Crystal Campbell

From: Crystal Campbell
Sent: Monday, March 29, 2021 11:30 AM
To: mommyofboys_2
Subject: RE: PY19 Action Plan Amendment Comment

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: Action Plan

Good morning,

Thank you for your comments. With the growth in South Meridian I can definitely see how this would be a concern for you. West Ada School District is the entity that builds schools and is likely looking into the needs of the community as we speak. [Here is a link](#) to the West Ada School District's Facility Plan webpage that includes capacity at each of the schools. I'm sure they would appreciate your input.

CDBG funds are directed toward low to moderate income (LMI) households. We do not receive enough funds to do major projects like building schools, but if we did we would only be able to do it in an area that would benefit an [LMI Area](#) and that area of Meridian does not qualify. Additionally, the specific funds addressed in this amendment are being allocated under the CARES Act so they must be used to prepare, prevent, or respond to COVID-19.

I have noted your concern for not taking away any of our constitutional rights. Thank you again for taking the time to comment on our plan, your involvement helps to ensure we can use these funds in a way that will benefit the whole community.

Best,

Crystal Campbell | Community Development Program Coordinator

(Pronouns: She/Her)

[Why pronouns matter](#)

City of Meridian | Community Development

33 E. Broadway Ave., Meridian, Idaho 83642

Phone: (208) 489-0575 | Email: ccampbell@meridiacity.org

From: mommyofboys_2 <mommyofboys_2@aol.com>

Sent: Monday, March 22, 2021 1:26 PM

To: Crystal Campbell <ccampbell@meridiacity.org>

Subject: PY19 Action Plan Amendment Comment

External Sender - Please use caution with links or attachments.

Will and of the federal money be going to building schools. For example south Meridian near hillsdale elementary area is need of junior high.

Also I hope nothing is being voted that takes away any of our amendment rights.

Attachment: Public Notice

Pages 80-83

Included images of legal notices and announcement on CDBG website.

Attachment: Resolution

Page 87

Included copy of signed resolution.

Attachment: SF 424's and Certifications

Pages 108-118

Included copy of signed forms.

Next Steps

The Action Plan is open for public comment from February 26, 2021 to March 23, 2021. There will be presentations of the Action Plan during the Council workshop on March 16, 2021 and at the regular Council meeting on March 23, 2021. At the end of the presentation on March 23, 2021 there will be a public hearing. The finalized plan will be submitted to Council for approval and adoption of the resolution on April 6, 2021. The plan will then be submitted to HUD by April 9, 2021.