



CITY OF MERIDIAN

# PY19 ACTION PLAN AMENDMENT

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FEB 2021// PREPARED BY CRYSTAL CAMPBELL

## Contents

Purpose.....	3
CDBG-CV Progress.....	3
Use of Additional Funds.....	3
Substantial Amendment.....	3
Summary of Changes.....	4
Page 3:.....	4
Page 23:.....	5
Page 24:.....	8
Page 26 and 27:.....	9
Page 33:.....	10
Page 34-35:.....	10
Attachments:.....	10
Next Steps.....	10

## 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).

Page 3:

### **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**

Date	Method of Submission	Contributor	Comment	City Response
3/9/21	Email	Georgia Konkoly	Looks like a well thought out plan!	The City expressed appreciation for the support.
3/9/21	Email	John Anderson	<p>1 – 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.</p> <p>2 – 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?</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>1 – Thank you for your feedback, I include your comments in the final plan and make sure Council is aware of your views.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>2 – Thank you Mr. Anderson for sharing your perspective.</p>

		<p>The real cost of this is two-fold, and I use COVID as my case study.</p> <p>1. Loss of our state, 10th Amendment sovereignty</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>2. Loss of our God-given rights to make our own decisions and to be left alone by our government.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	
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			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.	
3/16/21	Public Hearing	Councilwoman Perreault	<p>1 – Have there been any changes to what the funds can be spent on?</p> <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>1 – There have been no changes.</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>

Page 23:

**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.

Page 24:

**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.



Page 26 and 27:

**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

Page 33:

<b>7</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	Administration
	<b>Target Area</b>	N/A
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	Administration
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	N/A
	<b>Funding</b>	CDBG: \$35,000 CDBG-CV: \$20,000

Page 34-35:

<b>9</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	CV-Public Services
	<b>Target Area</b>	N/A
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	Provide Social Services
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	Improvements in Economic Stability Improved Housing Options and Supportive Services Service Programs - Low Income and Special Needs
	<b>Funding</b>	CDBG-CV: \$522,303
	<b>Description</b>	CDBG public service projects for activities to prevent, prepare for, and respond to Coronavirus.
	<b>Target Date</b>	9/30/2023

Attachments:

The attachments will be updated to provide public participation information, updated SF-424 (application for funding), and resolution.

## 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.