

# **CITY OF BOSTON**

**Substantial Amendment  
To Program Year 2019 Action Plan  
July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020**

**CARES Act: Housing Opportunities for  
Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) Funds**

**Posted May 26, 2020  
for Public Comment**



**Martin J. Walsh, Mayor**

**Sheila A. Dillon, Chief of Housing and Director,  
Department of Neighborhood Development**

The Department of Neighborhood Development (DND) is amending its Program Year 2019 Action Plan, covering the period July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020, to expend a **Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS (HOPWA-CV)** supplemental allocation in the amount of **\$449,562** from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The HOPWA-CV funds are provided under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) and are to be used by HOPWA grantees as additional funding to maintain operations and for rental assistance, supportive services, and other necessary actions, in order to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

DND’s Supportive Housing Division manages the HOPWA program for the Boston EMSA. DND conducted a listening session with its existing network of HOPWA providers to ascertain the COVID-related needs this additional funding can assist with. We received five funding requests to date and based on those requests, we are dividing the funds as shown:

<b>PY19 HOPWA Budget + HOPWA-CV</b>		
<b>Activity</b>	<b>PY19 HOPWA Contracts</b>	<b>COVID Funding</b>
Homeless Prevention: STRMU	\$548,800	\$290,167
Housing Related Supportive Services	\$1,226,992	\$116,908
Housing Information Services	\$837,181	\$29,000
Tenant - Based Rental Assistance	\$3,163,000	\$0
DND Administration		\$13,487

**Citizen Participation Process:** The Substantial Amendment was prepared and submitted in accordance with the HUD waiver granted to expedite actions to respond to COVID-19. Specifically, the Citizen Participation Public Comment Period was 5-days rather than the standard 30-days. The Amendment was posted on the Department’s web page with email and telephone instructions to submit comments.

<https://www.boston.gov/departments/neighborhood-development/hearings-and-public-comment>.

**General Notifications:** DND emailed approximately 340 Policy News subscribers, individuals and organizations, on a list maintained for this purpose; and, notified 10,000 followers on the Department’s Twitter and Facebook feeds. In addition, the Supportive Housing Division hosted a listening session for HOPWA providers to solicit feedback on the needs of HOPWA-eligible households during the COVID-19 public health crisis.

**Summary of Public Comments:** A summary of the public comments received is provided below. Comments are grouped by issue and similar comments may have been combined or paraphrased. There is strong support for utilizing the HOPWA-CV funds for the activities shown on the previous page.

<b>HOPWA-CV FUNDS</b>	
<b>Comment</b>	<b>City’s Response</b>
Assist HOPWA-eligible households impacted by COVID-19 with short-term rental assistance	Investment in Short Term Rental, Mortgage, and Utility Assistance
Provide HOPWA-eligible households with enhanced supportive services to stabilize tenancies during COVID-19	Investment in Housing Related Supportive Services (HRSS)
Provide HOPWA-eligible households with information needed to identify safe housing options	Investment in Housing Information Services (HIS)

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