

CITY OF BOSTON

Proposed Amendment to

CARES Act Funding: CDBG- CV

**Posted 4/14/21
for 5-Day Public Comment**



Kim Janey, Mayor

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

The Department of Neighborhood Development (DND) previously amended the Program Year 2019 Action Plan, to program and expend a total of **\$20,039,341** in special **Community Development Block Grant (CDBG-CV)** program funds from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The CDBG-CV funds are authorized by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) and are to be used to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus pandemic.

At this time, we are proposing to add another use to how we program these funds as shown below in the budget table.

CDBG - CV BUDGET: April 2021 Proposed Budget				
Program	Use	Existing CDBG-CV	Proposed Change	Total CDBG-CV
Housing Stability + Homeless Prevention	Emergency Rental Payments	\$18,000,000	(\$850,000)	\$17,150,000
Housing Production	Creation of Permanent Housing for the Homeless	\$0	\$850,000	\$850,000
Management of Program & Administration of Grant Funds		\$2,039,341	\$0	\$2,039,341
TOTAL		\$20,039,341	\$850,000	\$20,039,341

Housing Production: We propose using \$850,000 of CDBG-CV funds to support the renovation of 41 New Chardon Street to add four units to the existing 16 units to serve women experiencing homeless. Specifically, the CDBG-CV funds will be used for a fire suppression system and upgrades to the fire alarm system allowing for these 20 units to be converted to permanent supportive housing. A fire suppression system is required for multi-unit properties per Boston building code regulations. The property is owned by the City of Boston and leased to Pine Street Inn, who will manage the property and provide services to the residents.

Project Name	Housing Production
Goals Supported	Rehabilitation: Other Publicly Owned Residential Buildings (14D)
Needs Addressed	Permanent Supportive Housing for the Homeless
Funding	CDBG-CV \$850,000
Description	Creation of permanent supportive housing
Estimate of the number of households assisted	20 units of permanent housing

Housing Stability & Homeless Prevention: The CDBG-CV funds are currently dedicated to supporting housing stability and homeless prevention activities through the **Rental Relief Fund (RRF)** launched in April 2020. The RRF helps income-eligible tenants achieve housing stability by providing direct financial relief to assist with rental payments. In addition to CDBG-CV, the RRF is supported by federal Coronavirus Relief Fund and Emergency Rental Assistance Program revenue. As of 3/31/21, 1,940 households have received assistance through the RRF. CDBG-CV funds have helped 250 of those households achieve housing stability. The RRF is managed by DND’s Office of Housing Stability and three nonprofit partners, Metro Housing|Boston, Neighborhood of Affordable Housing (NOAH) and Project Hope. Complete information on the RRF is posted here: <https://www.boston.gov/departments/neighborhood-development/office-housing-stability/rental-relief-fund>.

Project Name	Rental Relief Fund
Goals Supported	Public Services (05Q)
Needs Addressed	Housing Stability, Homelessness Prevention
Funding	CDBG-CV \$17,150,000
Description + Number Served	Provide direct financial relief to assist with rental payments to households.
Estimate of the number of households assisted	Approximately 2450 households.

Citizen Participation Process: The Substantial Amendment is prepared in accordance with the HUD waiver granted to expedite actions to respond to COVID-19. Specifically, the Citizen Participation Public Comment Period is 5-days rather than the standard 30-days. The Amendment is 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>).

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