

# **CITY OF BOSTON**

## **Substantial Amendment II To CARES Act Funding: CDBG- CV**

**Posted 4/14/21  
for 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 adding another use to how we program these funds as shown below in the budget table.

<b>CDBG - CV BUDGET (April 2021)</b>				
<b>Program</b>	<b>Use</b>	<b>Existing CDBG-CV</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>Total CDBG-CV</b>
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
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$20,039,341</b>	<b>\$850,000</b>	<b>\$20,039,341</b>

**Housing Production:** We are 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.

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

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

**Citizen Participation Process:** This second Substantial Amendment was 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 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.

Comments: One comment was received from Pine Street Inn in support of the Amendment.

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