



Town of Arlington Community Development Block Grant
Overview of Substantial Amendment of Program Year 45
July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020

Town of Arlington Department of Planning and Community Development
November 12, 2020

Note to Readers

We have created this overview as an executive summary of the Substantial Amendment to the 2019-2020 Annual Action Plan. The full Substantial Amendment can be found at www.arlingtonma.gov/cdbg. If you choose to review the full Substantial Amendment, please note that you will be reading an historic document. The purpose of this Substantial Amendment is to program a special allocation of CARES Act funds received to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. This is the second such allocation, the first of which was programmed through a Substantial Amendment to the 2019-2020 Annual Action Plan, which was approved by HUD in May 2020. Although elements such as dates may make this document appear outdated, making a Substantial Amendment to the 2019-2020 Annual Action Plan is in keeping with guidance from HUD. HUD has directed grantees to use a single Annual Action Plan as the vehicle for all Substantial Amendments which program CARES Act funding.

Program Year 45 Substantial Amendment

The Town of Arlington is amending its 2019-2020 Annual Action Plan to program the September 11, 2020 tranche of CDBG-CV funds. This Executive Summary provides an explanation of the Substantial Amendment. The full Substantial Amendment can be reviewed at this link:

<https://www.arlingtonma.gov/cdbg>.

On March 27, 2020, Congress passed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act). As part of the Act, CDBG entitlement communities were awarded additional allocations of funding known as CDBG-CV. In the initial round of funding, Arlington was awarded \$659,903 to be used in response to the coronavirus pandemic. A Substantial Amendment was approved in May 2020 to program this funding toward microenterprise businesses, tenant assistance, and public services to support those low- to moderate-income residents impacted by the state of emergency related to the coronavirus pandemic.

CDBG-CV3 (Part A) Funds

On September 11, 2020 the third round of CDBG-CV funding was announced, CDBG-CV3 (Part A). Under CDBG-CV3 (Part A), Arlington received \$320,485, which will be programmed as follows:

Program	Subrecipient	2019-2020 CDBG Program Budget	May 2020 Substantial Amendment	Nov 2020 Substantial Amendment	Final 2019-2020 CDBG Program Budget	Goal Outcomes of CDBG-CV3
COVID-19 Business Resiliency Grant Program	Arlington Department of Planning and Community Development	\$0	\$0	\$200,000	\$200,000	3 Low/Mod Jobs created or retained
K-12 Tutoring Program	Arlington School Department	\$0	\$0	\$60,285	\$60,285	54 new Low/Mod Clients supported
COVID-19 Testing Site	Arlington Department of Health and Human Services	\$0	\$0	\$60,200	\$60,200	800 Low/Mod Clients supported
Totals		\$0	\$0	\$320,485	\$320,485	

The COVID-19 Business Resiliency Grant Program is open to small businesses in Arlington with 20 or fewer employees (including the owner) and aims to help businesses sustain services and operations that would otherwise not occur (or occur at a diminished capacity) due to the pandemic. The program meets the national objective of Low-Moderate Job Creation/Retention (LMJ), because financial assistance will support small businesses in creating or retaining low-to-moderate income jobs. The program will have two tracks: 1) provide working capital grants totaling \$180,000 to support up to 18 businesses and 2) offer technical assistance consulting totaling \$20,000 to equip up to 20 businesses. The assistance to each small business will be in the form of a grant or grant and technical assistance of \$10,000, though the Select Board approved the CDBG Subcommittee's discretion in providing grants greater or lesser in size.

CDBG-CV3 funds will also be dedicated to two critical public services. The Arlington School Department will be granted \$60,285 for a tutoring support program for low-to-moderate-income students in the Arlington Public School system. Approximately 54 students will benefit from individualized or small group tutoring sessions. The Arlington Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) will be granted \$60,200 to facilitate one or multiple COVID-19 testing sites with the Arlington Housing Authority (AHA), for AHA tenants. This grant will enable HHS to provide 800 tests and support up to 800 individuals. Both programs meet the national objective of supporting Low-Moderate Income clientele.

Review Process

The Town of Arlington will undertake an expedited review process in order to ensure that the CDBG-CV3 funds can be programmed as soon as possible. The CARES Act loosened certain procedural requirements by providing a waiver of the standard 30 day comment period. The waiver allows a comment period of no less than 5 days in order to program the funding quickly and efficiently.

The comment period will begin on November 12, 2020 and end at 4 PM on November 18, 2020. Public comments may be submitted to Mallory Sullivan, Community Development Block Grant Administrator, at mjsullivan@town.arlington.ma.us. All comments received will be included in the substantial amendment that is submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Following the completion of these steps, the Substantial Amendment will be submitted to HUD for review and approval.