

## PUBLIC NOTICE

In accordance with 24 CFR 91.105(c)(2), and broader federal regulations relative to adoption of expedited citizen participation for U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Planning and Development Programs, together with applicable waivers and alternative requirements to said regulations through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), the City of Saint Paul (City) is making substantial amendment to the City's Consolidated Plan Annual Action Plan for program year 2019 available to the public through this notice.

### Public Comment Period and Process:

Using the expedited Citizen Participation Process, the Consolidated Plan Annual Action Plan amendment is available for a 5-day public review and comment period from May 16<sup>4</sup>, 2020 to May 21, 2020. Citizens wishing to submit written comments during the public review and comment period may mail them, postmarked no later than May 21, 2020, to the following:

City of Saint Paul  
Julie Hostak, Grants Specialist  
Department of Planning and Economic Development, Grants Administration  
1100 City Hall Annex  
25 West Fourth Street  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Comments may also be emailed no later than May 21, 2020, to Ms. Julie Hostak at [Julie.Hostak@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Julie.Hostak@ci.stpaul.mn.us).

### Substantial Amendment:

This substantial amendment to program year 2019 Consolidated Plan Annual Action Plan for the City is to receive and administer \$4,054,659 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG-CV) and \$2,049,510 in Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG-CV) funding from HUD made available through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) (hereinafter "Initial CARES Act Allocations").

Subsequent additional CDBG and ESG allocations to the City through the CARES Act is unknown at this time, but such subsequent allocations will be used for the same purpose of the Initial CARES Act Allocations to prevent the spread of coronavirus 19 (COVID-19) and facilitate assistance to eligible businesses, households, and persons economically impacted by COVID-19. In addition, the City plans to reprogram up to 12% of program year 2019 CDBG funding as needed to respond to COVID-19.

Eligible CDBG activities include, but are not limited to, assisting low- and moderate-income households with rental assistance for no more than three months, grab and go/delivery meal programs, business assistance to retain employees that are low- and moderate-income, and support of urgent needs of recent origin that are serious and immediate threat to the health and welfare of the community for which the City is unable to finance and carry out on its own, and other COVID-19 response services. Eligible ESG activities include street outreach, emergency shelter, homelessness prevention, rapid re-housing, Homeless Management Information System and administration.

Further, eligible CDBG and ESG costs incurred as of March 27, 2020, (the date which President Trump signed the CARES Act) and paid for with nonfederal funds may be repaid with CDBG and

ESG funding, including those made under the CARES Act. These pre-award costs will meet all HUD requirements applicable to CDBG and ESG, including those under the CARES Act. Unless waived by HUD, CDBG-CV pre-award costs will not exceed 25% of the grant and will be used for the CDBG eligible activities as indicated above.

The City may similarly take rapid action to preserve the financial viability of affordable rental projects previously assisted with HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) program funding that are currently under a HOME program affordability period and deemed troubled or not financially viable. Such rapid action includes the ability to provide recapitalization of operating reserves. The City, accordingly, will provide HOME program funding, for a proportionate share of the operating expenses for this purpose, if the City determines that a HOME-assisted project is experiencing operating deficits related to the economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and that these deficits will not be covered by insurance or other sources.

Public notices regarding future substantial amendments to the Consolidated Plan Annual Action Plans will be printed in a local newspaper of general circulation and posted online on the City's website at <https://www.stpaul.gov/conplan>. Specific activities using ESG-CV funding under the CARES Act will not require a separate public notice but will be posted on the City's website.

#### Background on the Consolidated Plan:

The Consolidated Plan and associated Annual Action Plans describe the housing and community development needs, as well as activities to address those needs through the City's programs, as defined and funded by HUD. As required by HUD, the Consolidated Plan brings together, in one (1) consolidated submission, the planning and application aspects of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME), and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) programs. More information on the Consolidated Plan is available on the City's website at <https://www.stpaul.gov/conplan>.