

Notice of Public Hearing & Public Comment Period
Amendments to 2019 Action Plan
Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

The City of Fargo is considering COVID-related amendments to its 2019 Action Plan, previously approved by City Commission on June 17, 2019 and May, 18 2020. An additional allocation of funding has been released for COVID-related response, prevention, and preparation as part of the CARES Act and must be included in the annual action plan. These proposed amendments are considered substantial amendments and must go through a citizen participation process. The details and timeline for this process are outlined below. Upon City Commission action on August 24, 2020, a recommendation regarding these amendments will be forwarded to HUD for their consideration and approval.

5-Day Public Comment Period: August 20 through 24, 2020

Send written comments or phone: City of Fargo
Planning and Development Department
Attn: Community Development Planning Coordinator
225 4th Street North, Fargo ND 58102
701.476.4144

Electronic Comments: Planning@FargoND.gov

Public Hearing: Monday, August 24, 2020 - 5:15 p.m.
Fargo City Commission Chambers
225 4th Street North, Fargo ND 58102

Final City Commission Consideration: Monday, August 24, 2020

Summary of Proposed Amendments to 2019 Action Plan:

1. Activity Amendment – Previously advertised as:

“Temporary Rental Assistance – \$464,253 CDBG COVID1 granted to the State of North Dakota to assist Fargo residents through its North Dakota COVID-19 Emergency Rent Bridge program or other similar program.”

Proposed changes would expand the project description to not only include assistance for rent, but also for mortgage payments, utilities, security deposits, and other homeless or eviction prevention-type assistance as approved by the City of Fargo, for up to 6-months per household. Emergency payments will be made directly to the provider of items or services on behalf of an individual or household. Additionally, a portion of the funds may be used for operational support to administer these funds promptly and closely screen beneficiaries to prevent a duplication of benefits, which is prohibited with HUD CDBG-CV funds. Also, as part of this proposed amendment (under the previously advertised “or other similar program”), the activity name is revised, partners are identified, and budgets are determined (see below):

Emergency Subsistence Payments [*Eligibility & Regulation Citation: 05Q Subsistence Payments – 24 CFR 570.207(b)(4)*]

- SouthEastern North Dakota Community Action Agency (SENDCAA) - \$205,000
- Presentation Partners in Housing - \$205,000

Several people have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly those who have low income. Many jobs were lost and in some cases, housing was lost. Keeping people housed, rapidly re-housing, or housing people who are currently homeless instantly provides a safe place for quarantine isolation and social distancing. Ultimately, this response reduces the spread of COVID-19 and keeps the community’s hospitals from being inundated.

2. Add Activity – Gladys Ray Shelter Partitioned Bunk Beds [*Eligibility & Regulation Citation: 03C Homeless Facilities (not operating costs) – 24 CFR 570.201(c)*]

Utilize \$50,000 to fabricate and install professionally manufactured bunk beds with solid separation panels. This response reduces the spread of COVID-19 by immediately increasing the separation capabilities of people sleeping in tight shelter dorm rooms.

3. Activity Amendment: Affordable Housing Development at 702 2 St N

Activities will include disposition of City-owned land previously purchased with CDBG funds (to demolish blighted house). This property will be donated to Lake Agassiz Habitat for Humanity to build a new unit which will be occupied by a household earning 80% or less of the Area Median Income. Upon occupancy, the City will record a secondary mortgage for the land value with the homeowner, which shall be repaid upon sale or vacancy. *National Objective: Low to Moderate Income Housing Benefit [570.208(a)(3)]. CDBG Matrix Codes: 02 Disposition and *12 Construction of Housing. Eligibility 24*

*CFR Part 570.201 (b) and 570.201 (m). * CDBG funds will not be used to fund future construction, unless otherwise included in a future amendment involving citizen participation.*

The remaining funds will be used for CDBG-CV administration and/or contingency (\$4,253).

Comments & Suggestions

Comments and suggestions from the public are encouraged through a public comment period and/or at the public hearing. The existing plans are available online at www.fargond.gov/planninganddevelopment/plansandstudies or by request through the Planning and Development Department. See contact information below.

The City of Fargo, in an effort to exercise the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines pertaining to social distancing and gatherings, is encouraging all stakeholders in the Community Development Block Grant and HOME Programs to participate in the public comment period remotely. Comments submitted by email or telephone are preferred. Email: Planning@FargoND.gov, Telephone: 701-476-4144.

The facility is serviced by public transit, accessible and can accommodate persons with disabilities. Alternative formats of this information or reasonable accommodations for persons with hearing loss, vision loss, disabilities or limited English proficiency, including the availability of interpretation and translation services, will be made upon request (48 hours of notice is required). Anyone who requires these services or an auxiliary aid to fully participate in the hearing should contact the Planning and Development Department at 701.241.1474/Planning@FargoND.gov, or the City of Fargo's Section 504/ADA Coordinator Brock Morrison at 701.298.6966 to arrange for services. To access TTY/ND Relay service dial 800.366.6888 or 711. In accordance with Federal regulations and City of Fargo policies, services are provided without regard to race, color, religion, sex, disability, familial status, national origin, age, marital status, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, public assistance, domestic violence, lawful activity, or condition protected by applicable federal and state laws. The City is an equal employment/equal housing opportunity agency.