



**City of Danbury**  
**Community Development Block Grant**  
**2018-2022 Consolidated Plan**  
**and**  
**2019-2020 Action Plan**  
**First Amendment**  
**for**  
**CARES Act Funding**

## **I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This is the first amendment to the second Annual Action Plan under the City of Danbury's 2018-2022 Consolidated Plan (ConPlan) for the Community Development Block Grant program. The (ConPlan) is the City's five-year strategic plan addressing housing and community development needs. This first amendment is for the 2019-2020 Annual Action Plan and is specifically intended to address funding available from the State of Connecticut Department of Housing Small Cities program.

In accordance with the CARES Act, funds are being applied for from the State of Connecticut Department of Housing under the SC CDBG-CV2 federal funding, to assist individuals and families in the prevention and spread of COVID-19 and to facilitate assistance to eligible communities and households economically impacted by COVID-19.

## **II. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION**

In response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the City of Danbury ("the City") amended its Citizen Participation Plan, to promote and support "social distancing" while continuing to offer the public an opportunity to provide valuable citizen input and insight into funding allocations under the Community Development Block Grant program.

The Draft 19-20 Action Plan First Amendment – CV Funding for the Community Development Block Grant program, is posted on the City's website, along with a notice identifying the availability of the amendment. The Notice includes the opportunity to provide electronic and written comment for the required period of not less than five days between October 22, 2020 – October 26, 2020, and information on participation in a "virtual public hearing" to be held on October 26, 2020.

The Public Notice was published in the News-Times.

Comments received, either at the virtual public hearing or during the public comment period will be considered by the City before the final amended action plan is submitted.

### **III. FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS**

#### **A. Resources**

In accordance with the CARES Act, Federal resources are being distributed to address some of the needs being created by COVID-19. This 2019-2020 Annual Action Plan Amendment outlines the City's proposed use of the funding being made available by the State Department of Housing under the Small Cities program (CDBG-CV2).

While the City cannot anticipate what other public or private funds may become available to support the crisis, the City will endeavor to maximize and leverage the use of any such resources as they become available

#### **B. Activities**

The CDBG-CV2 funding, made available through the State of Connecticut Department of Housing is being offered to both entitlement and non-entitlement communities. The City plans to apply for funding in the amount of \$4,656,400 for the acquisition of an appropriate facility to assist homeless persons in the City. The use of these funds for an appropriate homeless facility will reduce the amount of congregate housing utilized for serving the homeless population, and will serve this population in a manner that will help prevent, prepare for, and respond to, coronavirus (COVID-19).

#### **C. Homelessness and Other Special Needs Populations**

The funding made available by the State Department of Housing, SC CDBG-CV2, funding, will be utilized for the prevention, preparation for and response to the COVID-19 pandemic, with a priority to assist individuals and families who are homeless or receiving homeless assistance; and to support additional homeless assistance and homeless prevention activities to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19.

## The Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (as amended)

The primary objective of the Act, as amended, is the development of viable urban communities by providing decent housing, a suitable living environment and expanding economic opportunities, principally for families and persons of low- and moderate-income. In order to meet these objectives, the federal government has established three National Objectives for the CDBG-SC Program. Every activity must meet one of the three national objectives listed below:

- To benefit low- and moderate-income families;
- To aid in the prevention or elimination of slums or blight; and
- To alleviate existing conditions that poses a serious and immediate threat to the health or welfare of the community (Urgent Need).

Communities can meet a national objective through one of the following:

- Low- and Moderate-Income Benefit:
  - Area benefit (e.g., streets and sidewalks<sup>1</sup>), where at least 51% of the population in the defined area is of low- and moderate-income; or
  - Limited clientele (e.g., seniors or persons with disabilities<sup>2</sup>); or
  - Direct benefit (e.g., housing rehabilitation and job creation<sup>3</sup>).
- Slum and Blight:
  - Prevention or elimination on an area basis; or
  - Prevention or elimination on a spot slum and blight basis.
- Urgent Need:
  - Sudden and unexpected need;
  - Threat to the health and welfare of the community;
  - Occurred within 18 months; and
  - No other funds available.

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<sup>1</sup> The items mentioned represent a limited set of examples of activities that qualify under eligible area benefit activities. This limited set has been provided for illustrative purposes only and does not indicate or imply any imposed limitations. For a complete definition of eligible area benefit activities please refer to Title 24, Part 570, Sub-Part C, Section 570.208 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

<sup>2</sup> The items mentioned represent a limited set of examples of activities that qualify under eligible limited clientele activities. This limited set has been provided for illustrative purposes only and does not indicate or imply any imposed limitations. For a complete definition of eligible limited clientele activities please refer to Title 24, Part 570, Sub-Part C, Section 570.208 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

<sup>3</sup> The items mentioned represent a limited set of examples of activities that qualify under eligible area benefit activities. This limited set has been provided for illustrative purposes only and does not indicate or imply any imposed limitations. For a complete definition of eligible area benefit activities please refer to Title 24, Part 570, Sub-Part C, Section 570.208 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

## **VI. PROPOSED ATTACHMENTS TO THE 2019-2020 ACTION PLAN**

### **Attachment A – Citizen Participation**

- Attachment A-1 Amended Citizen Participation Process
- Attachment A-2 Outline of Activity for Virtual Public Hearing/Public Comment
- Attachment A-3 Summary of Public Comments Received and City Response (Comments and responses to be included upon receipt and prior to final submission to the Department of Housing.)

### **Attachment B – Citizen Participation Documents**

- Attachment B-1 Legal Notice for Virtual Public Hearing and Public Comment Period for the development of 2019-2020 Annual Action Plan Amendment
- Attachment B-2 Written Comments