Proposed Substantial Amendments to the FY 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan and FY 2017 and 2019 Annual Action Plans

In accordance with 24 CFR 91.505 and the State of Louisiana Citizen Participation Plan, the Office of Community Development (OCD) proposes the following substantial amendments to the FY 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan and the FY 2017 Annual Action Plan to include revisions to its allocation priorities.

**Summary**

The Division of Administration, Office of Community Development, proposes to amend the section in the FY 2015 – FY 2019 Consolidated Plan for the State of Louisiana, the FY 2017 Annual Action Plan, and the FY 2019 Annual Action Plan to reallocate $1,000,000 from the FY 2017 Public Facilities program to target the elimination or prevention of slums and blight in four municipalities throughout the state. The four cities that have been selected to participate in this pilot program are: Abbeville, Pineville, Ruston, and Sulphur.

In a previous amendment, $40,000 in FY 2019 funds were set aside to allow the Town of Wisner to participate in the Comprehensive Community Development (CCD) Planning Grant Program. The CCD Planning Grant Program will be delayed until the FY 2020 program year and the funds will be reallocated to the Public Facilities Program.

**FY 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan**

The following sections of the FY 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan of the State of Louisiana have been amended:

*SP-25 Priority Needs*

Clearance will be added as a priority for the State. The four cities as eligible to apply for the Clearance pilot program are: Abbeville, Pineville, Ruston, and Sulphur.

Planning will remain as a priority for the State, but the Town of Wisner will not be eligible for a CCD Planning Grant.

*SP-45 Goals Summary*

Clearance will be added as a goal.

**FY 2017 Annual Action Plan**

The following sections of the Annual Action Plan and Method of Distribution have been amended:

*AP-20 Annual Goals and Objectives*

Annual Goals and Objectives will also include up to $1,000,000 set aside for clearance activities. The Clearance pilot program will include only the cities of Abbeville, Pineville, Ruston, and Sulphur.

*AP-25 Allocation Priorities*

Clearance will be added as a priority for the State.

*AP-30 Distribution Methods*

This section refers to the Method of Distribution document available on the Office of Community Development’s website at <https://www.doa.la.gov/Pages/ocd/cdbg/about_lcdbg.aspx>. Changes to this section are shown below.

Method of Distribution

I. B. 2. For activities that eliminate slum and blight on a spot basis, the applicant must identify the structures designated for clearance and the applicant’s legal authority to carry out the demolition and removal. The applicant must describe how the identified structures are “blighted,” a “public nuisance,” “unfit for human occupancy,” “an unlawful structure,” or “abandoned” and how this condition is detrimental to or endangers the public safety, health, or welfare.

If an applicant plans to request funds for an activity claiming that the activity addresses the slums/blight objective, the State’s Office of Community Development must be contacted for the specific requirements for this determination/qualification prior to application submittal.

II.A. Application Process

For the Clearance pilot program, the four selected cities will be required to participate in a pre-application conference with the Office of Community Development to discuss their individual projects. If it is determined that the projects meet the qualifications of the Clearance pilot program, the local governments will be invited to submit applications.

II.B. Eligible Applicants

The eligible applicants for the Clearance pilot program are Abbeville, Sulphur, Pineville, and Ruston.

II.D. Types of Grants

The Clearance pilot program will be used to target the elimination and prevention of slums and blight.

II.E. Distribution of Funds

Up to $1,000,000 will be set aside for the Clearance pilot program. Any of these monies which are not utilized/obligated will be transferred to the public facilities category.

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| **TOTAL FY 2017 CDBG FUNDS ALLOCATED TO LOUISIANA**  $19,892,244 |

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| **Administration/Technical Assistance**  3% + $100,000 |

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| **Economic Development**  $3,000,000 |

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| **LaSTEP Fund**  $500,000 |

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| **Demonstrated Needs Fund**  $1,200,000 |

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| **Clearance**  $1,000,000 |

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| **Remaining LCDBG Funds:**  Public Facilities |

II.F.1. Ceilings

The total set aside for the Clearance pilot program is $1,000,000, and four cities have been pre-selected as eligible applicants. The State reserves the right to exercise its discretion in imposing a ceiling on the funding available per project based on review of the applications.

II.G.2. Capacity and Past Performance

The capacity and performance thresholds do not apply to applicants for economic development, demonstrated needs, LaSTEP, and Clearance pilot program funds with the exception that no award will be made to a previous recipient who (a) owes money to the State unless an arrangement for repayment of the debt has been made and payments are current or (b) is on the State’s sanctioned list, or (c) at the time of funding announcement, the applicant has been on the State of Louisiana’s Legislative Auditor’s Non-Compliance List.

III.A.1. The CCD Planning Grant Program will not be included for FY 2019.

III.C.5. Clearance Program

$1,000,000 will be set aside under the Clearance Program. This is a pilot program designed to target the elimination or prevention of slums and blight. The following four cities have been designated as the only eligible applicants for FY 2017: Ruston, Sulphur, Abbeville, and Pineville. The funds can be used to address the clearance, demolition, and the removal of structures found to be detrimental to or endangering public safety, health, or welfare.

The four selected cities will be required to participate in a pre-application conference with the Office of Community Development to discuss their individual projects. If it is determined that the projects meet the qualifications of the Clearance pilot program, the local governments will be invited to submit applications. Proposed activities must be eligible under Section 105(a)(4) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended. Each proposed activity must address the national objective of eliminating or preventing slums and blight as listed in Section I of this document.

III.D. Submission Requirements.

Applicants for the Clearance pilot program will use the forms and instructions in the appropriate application package.

**FY 2019 Annual Action Plan**

The following sections of the Annual Action Plan and Method of Distribution have been amended:

*AP-20 Annual Goals and Objectives*

Annual Goals and Objectives will also include up to $1,000,000 of FY 2017 funds set aside for clearance activities. The Clearance pilot program will include only the cities of Abbeville, Pineville, Ruston, and Sulphur.

Annual Goals and Objectives will show the amount set aside for planning only grants reduced to $400,000. The Comprehensive Community Development planning grant program will not be included for FY 2019.

*AP-25 Allocation Priorities*

Clearance will be added as a priority for the State. The $40,000 set aside for the CCD Planning Grant Program will be reallocated to the Public Facilities Program.

*AP-30 Distribution Methods*

This section refers to the Method of Distribution document available on the Office of Community Development’s website at <https://www.doa.la.gov/Pages/ocd/cdbg/about_lcdbg.aspx>. Changes to this section are shown below.

Method of Distribution

II.A. Application Process

No applications will be accepted for the CCD Planning Grant Program.

I. B. 2. For activities that eliminate slum and blight on a spot basis, the applicant must identify the structures designated for clearance and the applicant’s legal authority to carry out the demolition and removal. The applicant must describe how the identified structures are “blighted,” a “public nuisance,” “unfit for human occupancy,” “an unlawful structure,” or “abandoned” and how this condition is detrimental to or endangers the public safety, health, or welfare.

If an applicant plans to request funds for an activity claiming that the activity addresses the slums/blight objective, the State’s Office of Community Development must be contacted for the specific requirements for this determination/qualification prior to application submittal.

II.A. Application Process

For the Clearance pilot program, the four selected cities will be required to participate in a pre-application conference with the Office of Community Development to discuss their individual projects. If it is determined that the projects meet the qualifications of the Clearance pilot program, the local governments will be invited to submit applications.

II.B. Eligible Applicants

The eligible applicants for the Clearance pilot program are Abbeville, Sulphur, Pineville, and Ruston.

No applications will be accepted for the CCD Planning Grant Program.

II.D. Types of Grants

The Clearance pilot program will be used to target the elimination and prevention of slums and blight. The CCD Planning Grant Program will not be included for FY 2019.

II.E. Distribution of Funds

$40,000 will be transferred from the CCD Planning Grant Program to the public facilities category.

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| **TOTAL FY 2019 CDBG FUNDS ALLOCATED TO LOUISIANA**  $21,884,814 |

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| **Administration/Technical Assistance**  3% + $100,000 |

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| **Economic Development**  $2,560,000 |

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| **LaSTEP Fund**  $500,000 |

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| **Demonstrated Needs Fund**  $1,200,000 |

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| **LA SAFE Fund**  $250,000 |

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| **SWMC Planning Grant Fund**  $400,000 |

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| **Remaining LCDBG Funds:**  Public Facilities |

II.F.1. Ceilings

The total set aside for the Clearance pilot program is $1,000,000, of FY 2017 funds and four cities have been pre-selected as eligible applicants. The State reserves the right to exercise its discretion in imposing a ceiling on the funding available per project based on review of the applications.

The CCD Planning Grant Program will not be included for FY 2019.

II.G.2. Capacity and Past Performance

The capacity and performance thresholds do not apply to applicants for economic development, demonstrated needs, LaSTEP, and Clearance pilot program funds with the exception that no award will be made to a previous recipient who (a) owes money to the State unless an arrangement for repayment of the debt has been made and payments are current or (b) is on the State’s sanctioned list, or (c) at the time of funding announcement, the applicant has been on the State of Louisiana’s Legislative Auditor’s Non-Compliance List.

The CCD Planning Grant Program will not be included for FY 2019.

III.A.1. The CCD Planning Grant Program will not be included for FY 2019.

III.C.5. Clearance Program

$1,000,000 will be set aside under the Clearance Program. This is a pilot program designed to target the elimination or prevention of slums and blight. The following four cities have been designated as the only eligible applicants for FY 2017: Ruston, Sulphur, Abbeville, and Pineville. The funds can be used to address the clearance, demolition, and the removal of structures found to be detrimental to or endangering public safety, health, or welfare.

The four selected cities will be required to participate in a pre-application conference with the Office of Community Development to discuss their individual projects. If it is determined that the projects meet the qualifications of the Clearance pilot program, the local governments will be invited to submit applications. Proposed activities must be eligible under Section 105(a)(4) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended. Each proposed activity must address the national objective of eliminating or preventing slums and blight as listed in Section I of this document.

III.C.6 COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (CCD) PLANNING GRANTS

$40,000 will no longer be set aside for the Town of Wisner under the Comprehensive Community Development (CCD) Planning Grant Program. This pilot program will take place in the FY 2020 program year.

III.D. Submission Requirements

Applicants for the Clearance pilot program will use the forms and instructions in the appropriate application package.

No CCD Planning Grant Program applications will be accepted for the FY 2019 program year.