

Office of Community Development
State of Louisiana
Division of Administration

JOHN BEL EDWARDS
GOVERNOR



JAY DARDENNE
COMMISSIONER OF ADMINISTRATION

MEMORANDUM

TO: Parties Interested in the Louisiana Community Development Block Grant Program
FROM: Traci Watts, Director *Watts*
DATE: January 21, 2021
RE: Proposed Amendment to the FY 2019 Annual Action Plan

The State of Louisiana has been allocated a total of \$44,336,196 in Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) Formula Grant funds (\$13,443,720 for CV1, \$18,401,828 for CV2 and \$12,490,648 for CV3). The Division of Administration, Office of Community Development, set aside \$5,000,000 of this allocation toward a program undertaken by the Louisiana Housing Corporation (LHC), the Louisiana Emergency Rental Assistance Program. Subsequently, the U.S. Department of the Treasury launched a \$25 billion Emergency Rental Assistance Program, so the Office of Community Development (OCD) now proposes to reallocate the \$5 million to another program to meet an unmet need in the state as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, a total of \$5 million in program income will be transferred from the Office of Community Development – Disaster Recovery Section to open State CDBG and CDBG-CV grants in order to assist in the State's response to the virus.

Two of the proposed projects are under the Economic Development program. One of these projects proposes a \$3.5 million award for the Emerging Industry and Business Incubator in Lafourche Parish, which will help launch new businesses, diversifying the economy with industries that will strengthen the region which has been impacted by COVID-19. The second will give a total of \$8 million in grants to small businesses throughout the State.

The State also proposes to institute an HVAC Improvements Program which will be available to all units of general local government in Louisiana. According to the CDC, upgrades/modifications to HVAC systems can improve air quality and minimize the spread of airborne infectious diseases. OCD has allocated \$31,000,000 for upgrades to HVAC and ventilation systems in publicly-owned community facilities. \$15,500,000 will be available for large applicants (local governments with populations of 10,000 or more) and \$15,500,000 will be available for small applicants (local governments with populations of 9,999 or less).

The remaining program income will be directed to public facilities projects yet to be determined.

The FY 2019 Annual Action Plan and the notice are available at https://www.doa.la.gov/Pages/ocd/CDBG/about_lcdbg.aspx.

Written comments on the proposed amendment may be submitted beginning January 25, 2021, and will be accepted through February 1, 2021. Comments on the proposed amendment may be mailed to the Office of Community Development, Post Office Box 94095, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-9095, sent via facsimile to 225-342-1947, or emailed to heather.paul@la.gov.

Las personas que no hablan inglés y las personas con discapacidades que requieren adaptaciones especiales deben comunicarse con la Oficina de Desarrollo Comunitario al 225-342-7412 o con LA Relay Service al 711 en la dirección postal o numero de fax que se indica en el párrafo anterior.