

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Virginia Funding Opportunities for COVID-19 Response

DHCD is making available current CDBG funding to small cities, towns, and rural counties to respond to local needs related to COVID-19 response. See pages 62-63 of the 2020 Virginia CDBG Program Design for a listing of eligible localities (www.dhcd.virginia.gov/sites/default/files/Docx/cdbg/cdbg-program-design.pdf).

DHCD is also closely monitoring availability of funding for all localities through the recently passed CARES Act (federal stimulus) and will post additional details when this funding becomes available.

Goals:

1. Assist units of local government and communities respond to the health and economic impact of COVID-19 by supporting Urgent Need recovery activities.
2. Collect best practices and create a network of resource sharing.
3. Provide up to \$6,550,000 in Planning and Open Submission (including urgent need) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding during the 2020 funding cycle to address issues created or worsened by COVID-19.

About the Initiative:

Using Program Year 2020 CDBG funds, in accordance with DHCD’s 2020 CDBG Program Design, DHCD can immediately accept applications for COVID-19 related Planning Grants and for COVID-19 related Open Submission applications, including Urgent Need Applications. All application information in the Program Design applies to the COVID-19 environment, except as noted below with an asterisk (*) and further described at the end of this document.

Planning Grants	Community Organizing, Needs Assessment, Project Planning	\$10,000 - \$45,000 per grant, up to \$1,000,000
Open Submission Program: Urgent Need Grants	Community Service Facilities, and Public Services. Preference for projects that can benefit 51% Low- and Moderate-Income (LMI) benefit.	\$1,000,000 Total. Requests for Community Service Facility grants will not exceed \$800,000.
Open Submission Programs: Innovation Fund, Construction-Ready Water and Sewer, and Community Economic Development Grants	See 2020 Program Design. Focus on solutions to COVID-19-related circumstances and on circumstances made worse by COVID-19. Must document 51% LMI benefit.	Up to \$4,650,000 Total. See Program Design for individual project type caps
	TOTAL	\$6,650,000*

DHCD is particularly interested in supporting communities with their COVID-19 related projects that can be implemented and deliver benefits quickly. Following are examples of projects in which DHCD is hearing of immediate community needs, but please approach DHCD with all project ideas and needs, as these examples are not all-encompassing:

Homelessness and Health Care:

- Construct (longer term) or rehab and retrofit (shorter term) structures that can be used as (for example) shelters for persons experiencing homelessness (especially shelters needing upgrades and retrofits to increase ability to follow social distancing best practices), or testing centers, emergency inpatient health care facilities, outpatient treatment clinics, and quarantine sites;
- Cover acquisition costs for buildings to be used as outlined above;
- Cover acquisition costs for equipment that can be used for telemedicine purposes;
- Provide supportive services, on-site, at supportive housing residences; and
- Provide emergency payment of rent and utilities (paid directly to the landlord and utility provider over a limited period of time) related to homeless assistance.

General Community Support in the COVID-19 Environment:

- Develop programs to keep individuals employed, for example, transitioning food and beverage industry workers into providing delivery services for food banks and pharmacies;
- Repurpose manufacturing equipment or facilities to create Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) products;
- Cover acquisition costs for digital equipment that would allow units of local government to conduct public business online; and
- Create small business assistance grants/loans for communities.

Project Development Notes:

DHCD strongly recommends working with local social service agencies, your Continuum of Care (CoC) homeless providers, health departments, and other providers to identify specific local needs. COVID-19 projects will not 'count' towards local funding caps, although DHCD will closely assess progress on funded projects before committing additional funds. Applications will be submitted through CAMS and will be collected and reviewed bi-weekly or more often if necessary.

Localities planning to apply for COVID-19 CDBG funding are strongly urged to contact Matt Weaver at 804-371-7011 or matthew.weaver@dhcd.virginia.gov early in the planning process and to send a letter of interest to DHCD (attach letters via email to Matt Weaver).

** This is the minimum funds available. DHCD is working to utilize existing funds for this announcement and will evaluate if more current year funds can be provided and what additional funds will be available with CARES Act (Stimulus funds).*

*** Planning and Open Submission applications are accepted through the year until September 30, 2020. Competitive CDBG funding could assist COVID-19 response efforts in addition, including Public Services as described above, although the competitive application closes April 24, 2020. As stated in the 2020 CDBG Program Design, a new second round CDBG Competitive Grant Cycle will be opened September 1, 2020, closing November 30, 2020, if funds are available.*