

ANNUAL ACTION PLAN SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT
For
Community Development Block Grant Urban County Partnership
Fiscal Year 2019-2020
County of Santa Barbara

Introduction

The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) awards Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program funds annually to County of Santa Barbara Urban County Partnership for the development of viable urban communities, for providing decent housing and a suitable living environment, and expanding economic opportunities, principally for persons of low and moderate income. The County Community Services Department (CSD), Division of Housing and Community Development (HCD) is the lead agency for the CDBG Urban County Partnership, which includes the County and the cities of Buellton, Carpinteria, and Solvang.

In response to the Coronavirus pandemic, on March 27, 2020, the United States Congress enacted the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act to provide economic relief and assistance. The CARES Act included special allocations of CDBG funds, known as CDBG-CV.

Santa Barbara County has been awarded \$741,038 in CDBG-CV funds through the U.S. Department of Urban Development (HUD) to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus.

Santa Barbara County, Community Services Department, Division of Housing and Community Development (HCD) oversees HUD CDBG entitlement funding and, as program administrator, intends to utilize the CDBG-CV funding to provide emergency rent assistance to qualifying county residents.

In response to the Coronavirus pandemic, on April 10, 2020, the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development issued Suspensions and Waivers to Facilitate Use of HOME-Assisted Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) for Emergency and Short-term Assistance in Response to COVID-19 Pandemic effective through December, 31, 2020.

Santa Barbara County, Community Services Department, Division of Housing and Community Development (HCD) oversees HUD HOME entitlement funding and, as program administrator, intends to utilize the HOME Suspensions and Waivers to administer a TBRA program to qualifying City of Goleta residents.

HUD requires that the proposed uses of federal funds be included in an Action Plan or substantial amendment to an Action Plan and made available to the public for input prior to the public hearing at which the County Board of Supervisors (Board) approves the Action Plan and funding awards. The CARES Act and HOME Suspensions and Waivers provide a 5-day expedited public comment period when amending a 2019 or 2020 Annual Action Plan.

Public Comment Period

A public notice was published in local newspapers and on the County's website at www.countyofsb.org/housing five (5) days prior to the scheduled public hearing of the Board. This

substantial Action Plan amendment also was available for public review on the County's website at www.countyofsb.org/housing.

The public may provide comments on this substantial Action Plan amendment at the County Administrative Public Hearing on June 15, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. *via* videoconference/teleconference, pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order N-29-20, at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88207248622>, or join by phone at 1 669 900 6833, Meeting ID: 882 0724 8622. Written comments may be submitted in advance to County CSD by mail to, 123 E. Anapamu St, Suite 202, Santa Barbara, CA 93101, or e-mailed to HCD@co.santa-barbara.ca.us. The public also is invited to address the Board directly during the public hearing by email or phone. Follow the directions posted at <https://www.countyofsb.org/ceo/cob.sbc>. The Board will consider all public comments and take action on HCD recommendations to approve the substantial Action Plan Amendment at a public hearing on June 16, 2020.

Amendment to FY 2019-2020 Action Plan

The Action Plan for FY 2019-2020 is being amended to award \$152,622 in HOME funds and \$741,038 in CDBG-CV funds to implement a rent assistance program for qualifying households who lost income or employment due to COVID-19 as approved by the County Board of Supervisors.