



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Rosie Truelove
Neighborhood Housing and Community Development Department

DATE: April 20, 2020

SUBJECT: Update to Agenda Item 77: Public Hearing related to the Fiscal Year 19-20 and Fiscal Year 20-21 Spending Plan for funding available through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

This memorandum serves to provide information related to Agenda Item 77 and actions underway to expedite the funding made available by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) through the four formula grants, and funding that has been signaled by HUD as forthcoming in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Agenda item 77 offers the public an opportunity to provide input on the Fiscal Year 19-20 and Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Spending Plan. Based on public input, Neighborhood Housing and Community Development Department (NHCD) staff will initiate necessary changes to the current Spending Plan to program funding in response to COVID-19 community relief needs.

As is noted on the City of Austin federal funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development [website](#), over the next year, the City of Austin expects to receive approximately \$20.8 million in federal funding through four HUD grants: Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME), Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), and Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA).

These funds include the HUD funding that the City of Austin expects to receive as part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act or CARES Act. The chart below identifies the additional formula awards announced by HUD that is being planned related to the CARES Act.

Community Development Block Grant-CV CDBG20-CV	Emergency Solutions Grant-CV ESG20-CV	Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS-CV HOPWA20-CV
\$4,620,659	\$2,354,866	\$272,065
Funding guidance: May be used to cover or reimburse costs to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus, regardless of the date on which such costs were incurred, when those costs comply with CDBG requirements.	Funding guidance: Prevent the spread of COVID-19; Provide additional support to individuals and families eligible for CoC or ESG assistance who are economically impacted by COVID-19	Funding guidance: Prevent the spread of COVID-19; Provide additional support to individuals and families eligible for CoC or HOPWA assistance who are economically impacted by COVID-19

Public Input Process

Each year, NHCD solicits public comment about community needs and priorities. This input informs funding decisions and outlines how these funds will be spent to address issues related to housing, homelessness, community development, economic development, and public services. To ensure the plan addresses community needs, priorities, and potential service gaps, the City encourages Austinites to submit comments online, allowing for the public the opportunity to view public feedback at the [SpeakUp Austin website](#).

City Council Public Hearing

A key action within the community engagement plan is a public hearing about community needs before the Austin City Council on Thursday, April 23, 2020. Public input will help inform modifications to the Fiscal Year 2019-20 Spending Plan so that funding directly related to COVID-19 may be programmed in the most expeditious manner, while being informed by public input. The City of Austin anticipates receiving its grant agreements for additional allocations of CDBG-CV and ESG-CV in the near future. NHCD will initiate the necessary Recommendation for Council Action (RCA) in order to program these dollars. NHCD anticipates this RCA to be on the May 21 City Council Agenda.

NHCD staff is working with interdepartmental leadership and will recommend activities be funded through coordination with the Directors Economic Recovery Core Panel so funding is optimally positioned to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

I remain available should there be questions.

cc: Spencer Cronk, Austin City Manager
J. Rodney Gonzales, Assistant City Manager