

CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, MA
CDBG ACTION PLAN 2019-2020 SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT #1

Jurisdiction(s): Springfield, MA	Contact Person: Cathy Buono Office of Community Development
Jurisdiction Web Address: <i>www.springfield- ma.gov/planning/index.php?id=community- development</i>	Address: 1600 East Columbus Ave Springfield, MA 01103 Telephone: (413) 787-6082 Email: cbuono@springfieldcityhall.com

The major disaster declaration associated with the Massachusetts COVID-19 Pandemic (DR-4496) and the emergency order issued by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, to combat the Coronavirus and their negative economic impact upon Springfield's small businesses community have presented an unprecedented urgent need. The City of Springfield must respond swiftly and decisively by immediately investing directly in our most vulnerable small businesses and doing everything possible we can to keep them operational under the existing orders, or ensure that they remain sustainable to ultimately reopen when these orders are lifted.

This Substantial Amendment makes one change to Springfield's CDBG Action Plan 2019-2020

Change #1: Increase Project Funding

The following Project will be increased using CDBG Carryover funds:

Program Year: 2019

IDIS Project ID: 63

Project Title: Business Support Program

The City of Springfield is allocating \$500,000.00 of CDBG carry-over funding for Direct Financial Assistance to for-profit businesses. These funds will be in the form of a grant, not to exceed \$15,000.00 per business. The funds can be used for rent, utilities, inventory, debt service payments, and payroll. Eligible expenses are as of March 1, 2020. Businesses will be required to provide evidence of expenditures as backup for each grant, and funding will be released in a phased manner with documentation required for each phase.

Allocation for Activity: \$500,000.00

Eligible Applicants: Small businesses located in the City of Springfield that will create or retain 1 Springfield based LMI job. Preference will be given to businesses with less than \$250,000 revenue located in CDBG Eligible areas with additional preference given to businesses located in the Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Areas (NRSA).

Criteria Selection: Applications will be individually reviewed based on criteria outlined in the NOFA.

Geographic Area: City of Springfield

Eligibility: 24 C.F.R. § 570.208(a)(4)

National Objective: LMJ

Outcome: Job Creation/Retention – 35 jobs

State Date: April 1, 2020 **End Date:** September 30, 2020

Schedule: The City’s Office of Planning and Economic Development and Office of Community Development will release a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) in April 2020. The City anticipates awards of funding between April - May and anticipates funds being spent no later than September 30, 2020.

Citizen Participation: The amendment was published as follows:

- Publication on the City’s website.
- Publication on the City’s social media platforms, including Facebook and Twitter.
- A comment period for the required five days from April 2, 2020 – April 6, 2020.
- A virtual Facebook live hearing was held on Friday, April 3, 2020 at 1:00pm and virtual comments submitted by the public throughout the duration of the hearing. Spanish-speaking staff were present and available for translation at the hearing. Presenters informed participants that accommodations for disabilities would be provided upon request.
- Submission of comments were allowed as follows:
 - Electronically on the City’s CDBG website at www.springfield-ma.gov/planning/index.php?id=community-development
 - Written comments mailed to the Office of Community Development, 1600 East Columbus Avenue, Springfield, MA 01103
 - Via email to cbuono@springfieldcityhall.com
 - By telephone contacting 311, the City of Springfield’s main source of government information and non-emergency services or the Office of Community Development at (413) 787-6082.
 - Virtual comments in response to the posted amendment through the City’s social media platforms, including Facebook and Twitter.
- The Facebook live hearing was held on Friday, April 3, 2020: 1,100 view and no comments were received.
- The City received three email questions/comments (attached). The City responded to each of the emails with the following information:
 - Are independent contractor eligible for this program? Unfortunately, our business program will not apply to independent contractors, however our understanding is you may be eligible to apply through the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) programs. I would encourage you to contact the local office. They can be reached at 413-785-0484. <https://www.sba.gov/>

o Small Business – Hair Salon and Day Spa: We will add you to our list of businesses eligible for this program. Applications will be available on Thursday, April 9, 2020. You may also be eligible to apply through the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) programs. I would encourage you to contact the local office. They can be reached at 413-785-0484. <https://www.sba.gov/>

o Small Business – Automobile Dealership/Used Car Lots: We will add you to our list of businesses eligible for this program. Applications will be available on Thursday, April 9, 2020. You may also be eligible to apply through the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) programs. I would encourage you to contact the local office. They can be reached at 413-785-0484. <https://www.sba.gov/>