

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY AND SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT TO THE METHODOLOGY OF ALLOCATING UNSPENT/UNALLOCATED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT AND HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM FUNDING

Per its Citizen Participation Plan as adopted by the McHenry County Board on June 16, 2020, the Community Development Division of the McHenry County Department of Planning and Development is hereby issuing this NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY (NOFA) with LIMITATIONS ON FUNDING.

The desired outcome is to solicit public comments on changes to the method of allocation of approximately \$71,000 in unspent/unallocated Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds and HOME Investment Partnerships Program funding. This public notice identifies potential changes would result in a substantial amendment to the methodology of awarding this federal grant funding.

Per the Community Development Act of 1974, McHenry County is considered an “Urban County” with a population in excess of 200,000 individuals. This entitles the County to annual allocations of CDBG and HOME funding from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) that may be used for projects consistent with the approved 2015-2019 McHenry County Consolidated Plan and the federal regulations codified under 24 CFR 570 and 24 CFR 92, as amended from time to time.

A Citizen Participation Plan is required in order to document compliance with notifying the community as to the methods by which grant funding allocated to projects that provide a benefit to Low to Moderate Income Individuals, address Slum and Blighted Conditions, and confront Urgent Community Needs. The Plan also documents compliance with the HOME Program requirements of furthering affordable housing.

This change in the method of allocation is being proposed due to the desire to limit the scope of proposals to meet unmet community need; in particular, to plan for, prevent, and respond to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the community.

McHenry County begins the acceptance of grant applications with the development of Concept Papers that are submitted to identify the basic nature of the project(s) for which funding is being requested.

Public comments are being solicited on the method of allocation for one day more than the required five (5) day timeframe from 12:00 NOON CDT on Tuesday, October 13, 2020 and ending at NOON CDT on Monday, October 19, 2020 with the following proposed changes to the method of allocating unspent/unallocated CDBG and HOME funding:

CDBG and HOME Concept Papers will be accepted for a timeframe starting NOON CDT on Tuesday October 13, 2020 through NOON CDT on Friday, October 30, 2020.

The Concept Paper forms will be available no later than NOON CDT on Friday, October 30, 2020 on the County's website at www.mchenrycountyil.gov/cd **Late Concept Papers (those received after NOON CDT on Friday, October 30, 2020) will be rejected.** Organizations and municipalities seeking funding must have a DUNS number and be registered in good standing with SAM.gov.

1. Aforementioned Concept Papers will be included in a special "Mini-Funding Round" meeting being held on or about Tuesday, November 17, 2020.
2. The action of limiting the scope of accepted Concept Papers has the potential of decreasing the pool of applicants for the approximately \$71,000 in available funding. The result of this action is that applicants seeking funding for activities other than the scope limited by this NOFA will not receive funding.
3. Potential subrecipients that drafted these Concept Papers will be required to make a presentation at the Community Development and Housing Grant (CDHG) Commission meeting beginning at on or about Tuesday, November 17, 2020. The order of presentations will be selected at random. In turn, the CDHG Commission will make funding recommendations to the McHenry County Board for approval at its meeting on Tuesday, December 15 at 7:00 pm CDT.
4. The Community Development Division of the McHenry County Department of Planning and Development will solicit public comments on this limited scope NOFA and will factor the comments received into a document provided to the CDHG Commission Members who will be making funding recommendations on or about Tuesday, November 17, 2020.

As previously indicated in this Notice, funding is being proposed to be limited. It will be limited to the following activities (**listed in randomly selected order**) provided they meet the requirements codified under 24 CFR 570 for CDBG and 24 CFR 92 for HOME, as amended from time to time:

- For CDBG, only Public Services projects in the total amount of \$56,000, with a minimum grant of \$5,000, will be eligible. The activities that are priority local responses to the COVID-19 pandemic will be:
 1. Grants to local food pantries based in McHenry County to support the acquisition of items in demand, but unavailable from the central food bank;
 2. Grants to agencies providing legal services for the prevention of homelessness;
 3. Grants to agencies providing financial literacy, credit repair, and credit counseling in response to the negative economic effects of COVID-19;
 4. Grants to agencies or municipalities providing motel vouchers for physical separation of families that are homeless;

5. Grants to agencies or municipalities providing support to vulnerable individuals (such as disabled and elderly) to enable them to remain connected to the community in a safe manner.
- For HOME, \$15,000 in funding is available to agencies that have previous experience working directly with clients that have been participants in the County's motel program in 2020. This especially includes organizations that have significant experience in coordinating landlord relationships and placing more than 10 motel homeless clients in the past six months.

As indicated, public comments will be accepted for a six (6) day timeframe from 12:00 NOON CDT on Tuesday, October 13, 2020 and ending at NOON CDT on Monday, October 19, 2020. Comments may be drafted in email form with the name and contact information of the commenter clearly indicated to hdmach@mchenrycountyil.gov Comments may also be drafted in correspondence form, with the name and contact information of the commenter clearly indicated, to:

Hans Mach
Community Development Administrator
c/o McHenry County Department of Planning and Development, Room 208
2200 North Seminary Avenue
Woodstock, IL 60098

An open meeting will be held from 9:30 am to 10:00am CDT on Wednesday, October 14, 2020, 2020 to review the proposed changes and to accept comments. A GoToMeeting or similar meeting format will be posted on the County's website at www.mchenrycountyil.gov/cd no later than 10:00 am CDT on Tuesday, October 13, 2020. This meeting is open to the public for participation and is accessible to individuals with disabilities. Please advise the Division staff if you need support with accessing this meeting.

The Community Development Division office may be reached by email to hdmach@mchenrycountyil.gov or by phone to (815) 334-4560 with any questions related to this notice.

Requirements under 2 CFR 200.202 are as follows:

United States Department of Housing and Urban Development

Community Development Block Grant Program

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) number 14.218

HOME Investments Partnerships Program

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) number 14.239

Initial Announcement for McHenry County, IL