

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS
Office of Homeless and Special Needs Housing**

**Substantial Amendment to the 2018-2022 Consolidated Plan and 2019 Action
Plan; Changes to the Citizen Participation Plan**

Friday, May 15, 2020

CARES Act Method of Distribution for ESG and HOPWA

On March 27, 2020, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) (Pub.L. No. 116-136) was signed into law to respond to the growing effects of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) public health crisis. The CARES Act provides special allocations to the State of Georgia under the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) and Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS (HOPWA) programs to be used to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19.

Annually the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) prepares its Action Plan which outlines the methods of distribution for Federal formula grant funding received by the State of Georgia through the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Notice is hereby given that the 2018-2022 Consolidated Plan will now include the CARES Act funding for the previously mentioned programs which will be known as ESG-CV and HOPWA-CV. In addition, the 2019 Annual Action Plan will be amended to add the new programs' Methods of Distribution which constitute a significant change in the distribution of funds under the plan and thus necessitate a substantial amendment to the original Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan. In accordance with a waiver of regulatory authority, approved by HUD on April 8, 2020, to the normal citizen comment period, DCA will hold a 5-day citizen comment period starting on Friday, May 15, 2020, until Wednesday, May 20, 2020.

The proposed amendments for the 2019 Annual Action Plan are as follows:

ESG-CV: \$15,920,176

- DCA is accepting simplified proposals from targeted non-profit agencies, Coordinated Entry leads, and local governments exhibiting the capacity to administer ESG-CV funds in large, multi-county regions throughout Georgia, and also in communities highly impacted by COVID-19 based on data published twice daily by the Georgia Department of Public Health.
- While ESG funds can support HUD Entitlement and Non-Entitlement communities, DCA will prioritize the distribution of funds to non-entitled communities over entitled ones. DCA will collaborate closely with Entitlements to avoid duplication of efforts and maximize the impact of ESG-CV funds in those jurisdictions.
- All applicants must demonstrate their participation in Continuum of Care and Coordinated Entry planning processes, and that their proposals are consistent with the strategies to address homelessness as outlined by the local Continua of Care.
- While DCA will accept proposals for all ESG eligible project types, with the strain on homeless shelters and the impact of loss of wages on people's ability to make timely rent and

utility payments, DCA anticipates the greatest initial need for funding will be in emergency shelter and homeless prevention activities. In the longer term, DCA is also anticipating a high demand for rapid rehousing assistance as people exit out of short-term non-congregate shelters. Anticipated percentages of ESG-CV funding by eligible project types are as follows:

Homeless Prevention	40%
Rapid Rehousing	30%
Emergency Shelter	20%
Street Outreach	10%

Note that Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and Administrative costs are incorporated within the aforementioned project types.

- For all applicants, no match is required.
- No program expenditure caps such as, no maximum emergency shelter request or minimum rapid rehousing threshold, will be added.
- DCA has requested the use of all ESG waivers identified by HUD. Those waivers went into effect on April 8, 2020.

HOPWA-CV: \$562,987 (Excludes City of Atlanta and City of Augusta EMSA)

- DCA will allocate the HOPWA-CV funding based on a simplified request for proposal process from the twelve existing regional HOPWA project sponsors. Additionally, the cities of Atlanta and Augusta receive separate allocations directly from HUD and therefore no DCA HOPWA-CV funds will be distributed in those EMSAs.
- DCA has requested the use of all HOPWA waivers identified by HUD and those waivers went into effect on April 8, 2020.
- All eligible HOPWA activities apart from Technical Assistance will be considered for funding through DCA’s HOPWA-CV allocation, including Tenant Based Rental Assistance; Facility-Based Housing; Short-Term Rent, Mortgage and Utility Assistance; Permanent Housing Placement; Housing Information & Referral Services; Resource Identification; and Supportive Services. Anticipated percentages of HOPWA-CV funding by eligible project types are as follows:

Tenant Based Rental Assistance	30%
Facility-Based Housing	20%
Short-Term Rent, Mortgage and Utility Assistance	20%
Permanent Housing Placement	10%
Supportive Services	10%
Housing Information & Referral Services	5%
Resource Identification	5%

Note that Administrative costs are incorporated within the aforementioned project types.

Modification to the citizen participation process for the State of Georgia's 2018-2022 Consolidated Plan and 2019 Annual Action Plan:

The CARES Act allows for a grantee to adopt and use expedited procedures to prepare, propose, modify or amend its statement of activities to the Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 and FY 2020 grant and new CARES Act funding related to the use of funding to address emerging COVID-19 response.

As long as national or local health authorities recommend social distancing and limiting public gatherings for public health reasons, grantees do not need to hold in-person public hearings but "shall provide citizens with notice and a reasonable opportunity to comment of no less than 5 calendar days."

Public Review and Citizen Comment

The substantial amendment to the 2018-2022 Consolidated Plan and 2019 Annual Action Plan is available on DCA's web site at www.dca.gov. The substantial amendment is available for public comment from May 15, 2020, through May 20, 2020.

Public Comment

Comments on the substantial amendments to the 2018-2022 Consolidated Plan and 2019 Annual Action Plan and Citizen Participation Plan for the Consolidated Plan may be electronically submitted to DCA by means of email.

Questions or comments regarding DCA's ESG-CV funding should be submitted to ESG@dca.ga.gov.

Questions or comments regarding DCA's HOPWA-CV funding should be submitted to HOPWA@dca.ga.gov.

Written comments may be submitted to:

John Sherekis
Department of Community Affairs
Office of Homeless and Special Needs Housing
60 Executive Park South, NE
Atlanta, GA 30329

All comments must be received by 5 p.m. on May 20, 2020.