

**City of Pawtucket, RI**

**Community Development Block Grant-CV  
Round (3)**

**Substantial Funding Amendment  
to**

**Pawtucket's 2019-2020 Annual Action Plan**

**Issued: JUNE 4, 2021**

**Public Comment Due: JUNE 11, 2021**

**Please direct all questions and comments  
about this Substantial Amendment request to:**

**Edward Soares  
CDBG Program Manager  
Pawtucket Department of Planning and Redevelopment  
Pawtucket City Hall  
137 Roosevelt Avenue, Pawtucket, RI 02860**

**Phone: 401-728-0500, Ext. 441**

**Email: [esoares@pawtucketri.com](mailto:esoares@pawtucketri.com)**

## Narrative Summary of the Substantial Funding Amendment to the City of Pawtucket's 2019-2020 Annual Action Plan

HUD has awarded the City of Pawtucket \$576,448 additional Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds under the "Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act" (CARES Act) to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19. These funds are called "ESG-CV" funds.

The use of ESG-CV funds constitutes a substantial amendment to the FY 2019-2020 Annual Action Plan covering the use of the funds in regular (non COVID-19 related) CDBG funds from HUD.

Typically, if the City substantially amends its Annual Action Plan, HUD regulations and the City's Citizen Participation Plan, concerning citizen involvement in CDBG planning, require a 30-day public comment period. However, the CARES Act permits the City to shorten the public comment period to minimum of five days.

Documents are available for public review both by contacting the Pawtucket Department of Planning and Redevelopment at the contact information shown on the cover sheet or by accessing the City of Pawtucket's web page at <http://www.pawtucketri.com/planning-redevelopment>

### Comments:

The City of Pawtucket is providing a 5-day public review and comment period on this document from Friday, June 4, 2021 to Friday, June 11, 2021. Comments may be submitted in writing or by emailing [esoare@pawtucketri.com](mailto:esoare@pawtucketri.com) before 4:30 PM on Friday, June 11, 2021 to:

Edward G. Soares, Community Development Program Manager, City of Pawtucket, Dept. of Planning and Redevelopment, 137 Roosevelt Avenue. Pawtucket, RI 02860. 401-728-0500, Ext. 441

Email: [esoares@pawtucketri.com](mailto:esoares@pawtucketri.com)

**City of Pawtucket, RI**  
**2019-2020 Substantial Funding Amendment Summary**  
**Issued: JUNE 4, 2021**

**Public Comment Due by: JUNE 11, 2021 4:30 PM**

**Community Development Block Grant (CDBG-CV) Substantial Funding Amendment Total  
CDBG-CV Funds Available \$ 576,448**

**PUBLIC SERVICE CATAGORY**

Pawtucket Soup Kitchen- Operation of the Pawtucket Soup Kitchen	\$32,159
Blackstone Valley Emergency Food Center – Food Pantry	\$20,000
Blackstone Valley Community Action Program – Food Pantry	\$ 5,000
The Elisha Project – Food Security box delivery in response to Covid19	\$100,000
Boys and Girls Club of Pawtucket – Camp Ramsbottom Scholarship Program	\$23,000

**ACTIVITY CATEGORY**

**FACILITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS**

Leon Mathieu Senior Center – Upgrades to 120 Main Street to reopen to Covid Safety Standards	\$150,000
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**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Pawtucket Business Development Corporation- Small Business loan/grants to respond to Covid19	\$131,000
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**ADMINISTRATION**

City of Pawtucket Admin Set-aside	\$ 115,289
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## CARES Act amendments to the City of Pawtucket's Citizen Participation Plan

### A. Disaster Response Exemption for Substantial Amendment

In the event there is an emergency or disaster, in which a state of emergency has been declared either at the federal, state, or local level, the consultation and citizen participation requirements – public hearing and public comment – related to the adoption of a substantial amendment shall be waived to allow for a timelier response to the emergency or disaster. All other requirements for a substantial amendment shall remain in effect.

On March 27, 2020, President Trump signed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), Public Law 116-136. Not only does the CARES Act allocate additional FY20 CDBG and ESG dollars to allow municipalities to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus (COVID-19), but the CARES Act also adds additional flexibility for the use of PY20 (July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020) CDBG-CV funds in some cases, for the annual PY21 (July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021) CDBG funds during these unprecedented times.

Waivers provided by HUD related to the Citizen Participation Plan and Consolidated Plan for the City of Pawtucket were issued on May 4, 2020.

### B. Citizen Participation Public Comment Period for Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan Amendments

A HUD CPD grantee may amend an approved consolidated and annual action plan in accordance with 24 CFR 91.505. Substantial amendments to these plans are subject to the citizen participation process in the grantee's citizen participation plan (CPP). The citizen participation plan must provide citizens with 30 days to comment on substantial amendments.

Given the need to expedite actions to respond to COVID-19, HUD has waived this requirement in order to balance the need to respond quickly to the growing spread and effects of COVID-19 with the statutory requirements to provide reasonable notice and opportunity for citizens to comment on substantial amendments concerning the proposed uses of CDBG, HOME, or ESG funds.

Waiver: This 30-day minimum for the required public comment period is waived for substantial amendments, provided that no less than 5 days are provided for public comments on each substantial amendment.

Timeframe: This waiver shall be in effect from May 4, 2020 through the end of the recipient's 2020 program year (June 30, 2021)

### C. Citizen Participation Reasonable Notice and Opportunity to Comment

For substantial amendments to the consolidated and annual action plan, HUD's regulations require the recipient to follow its citizen participation plan (CPP) to provide citizens with reasonable notice and opportunity to comment, and must also state how reasonable notice and opportunity to comment will be given.

Given governmental orders to limit public gatherings, HUD has provided waivers to allow grantees to determine what constitutes reasonable notice and opportunity to comment given their circumstances.

Waiver: This waiver provides that grantees may amend citizen participation plan to establish expedited procedures to draft, propose, or amend consolidated plans. Expedited procedures must include notice and reasonable opportunity to comment of no less than 5 days. The 5-day period can run concurrently for comments on the consolidated plan and annual action plan amendment and amended citizen participation plans.

In-person public hearings are not required. Grantees may meet public hearing requirements with virtual public hearings if:

1. National/local health officials recommend social distancing and limiting public gatherings for public health reasons.
2. Virtual hearings provide reasonable notification and access for citizens in accordance with the grantee's certifications, timely responses from local officials to all citizen questions and issues, and public access to all questions and responses.

Timeframe: This waiver shall be in effect from May 4, 2020 through the end of the recipient's 2020 program year (June 30, 2021)

Given governmental orders to limit gatherings and the need for expedited decision making related to the use of CDBG-CV funds, the following paragraph describes the efforts to notify the public of public meetings and public hearings during this time:

- Notices for public hearings for amendments to the use of funds proposed in the Consolidated Plan and/or Annual Action Plan will be emailed to neighborhood organizations.
- Notice will be posted on the City website and social media accounts.
- Notice shall be sent to the Planning and Redevelopment Department's email list of agency/organization representatives that operate in Pawtucket.

During this time, public meetings and public hearings shall be conducted virtually to ensure public safety and maintain social distancing. Public hearings will allow for questions in real time, with answers coming directly from officials and planning staff with responses available for all attendees; via a virtual hearing method or platform that provides accessibility for persons with disabilities and/or Limited English Proficiency will be made available to the greatest extent possible.