

**City of Homestead
Amendment 1:
CARES Act
CDBG Annual Action Plan
FY 2019-2020**



Executive Summary

Amendment 1 to the FY 2019-2020 CDBG Annual Action Plan has been initiated as a result of COVID-19 and the resulting unprecedented events. The COVID-19 pandemic has adversely affected the nation as a whole and the City of Homestead in particular. The City is a majority low-income jurisdiction, and many City residents are suffering economic hardship and uncertainty as the scope of the crisis unfolds. Necessary City services have been stretched to their limits, straining personnel and budgeted resources.

There are confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the City, which has taken swift action to prevent further transmission of the disease. These actions include a curfew from 10 pm to 5 am, closure of City facilities to the public, closure of non-essential businesses, limited public access to parks, and other measures. In addition to City efforts, Federal, State, County, and private and non-profit institutions have responded to the pandemic with similar measures. This has resulted in widespread closures of businesses and other organizations that provide goods, services, and economic opportunity to residents.

The rapid spread of COVID-19 necessitated numerous emergency actions, including:

- March 9, 2020: Florida Governor Ron DeSantis declared a State of Emergency (Executive Order 20-52), pursuant to Article IV, Section(1)(a) of the Florida Constitution.
- March 11, 2020: Miami Dade Mayor Carlos Gimenez declared a State of Local Emergency, pursuant to Section 252.38(3)(a), Florida Statutes.
- March 13, 2020: The President declared a Nationwide Emergency, pursuant to Section 501(b) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief Emergency Assistance Act.
- March 17, 2020: the City Manager of Homestead declared a Declaration of a State of Emergency in the City.
- March 27, 2020, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) was signed into law.

The CARES Act immediately allocated funds through HUD to entitlement communities, and Homestead received \$484,742. The purpose of Amendment 1 to the FY 2019-2020 CDBG Annual Action Plan is to describe the City's proposed uses for these funds.

The City intends to use the funds for the following activities:

Summary of Proposed Activities

Activity	HUD Activity Code	Amount
Utility and Rental Assistance	05Q: Subsistence Payments	\$100,000
Police Overtime Pay for COVID 19	05I: Community Policing	\$312,031
Administration (15%)	21A: General Program Administration	\$72,711
TOTAL		\$484,742

There are no proposed changes to the \$807,257 annual allocation described in the FY 2019-2020 Annual Action Plan at this time.

The City expects the amended CARES Act funds to assist with essential public services that will enhance public safety and provide urgent relief to residents through utility and rent assistance.

Expected Resources

The expected resources for this Amendment is the \$484,742 award described in the April 2, 2020 letter from John Gibbs, Acting Assistance Secretary with CPD, HUD. These funds are in addition to the \$807,257 annual entitlement CDBG.

Goals and Objectives

In addition to the goals and objectives in the Annual Action Plan, the goals and objectives of the CARES Act funding are as follows:

- To provide rental and utility payment assistance to residents adversely impacted by COVID-19.
- To reimburse the City for police overtime incurred because of COVID-19 Pandemic requirements, including social distancing, closures, and curfew enforcement.
- As a result of these projects, the City intends to provide economic relief to impacted residents, prevent homelessness, and suppress the spread of COVID-19.

Projects

The City has identified the following projects for CARES Act funding based on the most urgent needs at this time:

Summary of Proposed Activities

Activity	HUD Activity Code	Amount
Utility and Rental Assistance	05Q: Subsistence Payments	\$100,000
Police Overtime Pay for COVID-19	05I: Community Policing	\$312,031
Administration (15%)	21A: General Program Administration	\$72,711
TOTAL		\$484,742

Each of these projects will assist the City in meeting the challenges presented by COVID-19.

Utility and Rental Assistance: Many residents have been negatively impacted by COVID-19

through job losses. The Utility and Rental Assistance program will provide short-term assistance to qualified City residents. The program will be administered by a Subrecipient and monitored by the City. Program policies and procedures are being developed.

Police Overtime Pay for COVID-19: The City has deployed the police on an emergency basis to enforce COVID-19 requirements, including social distancing, limited use of City parks, closure of non-essential businesses, and a curfew. As a result, police overtime has expanded rapidly. The City intends to cover and reimburse police overtime costs, regardless of the date on which such costs were incurred but not prior to March 9, 2020, as related to the COVID-19 response. Based on an approximate overtime rate of \$53.50 per hour, the program will fund about 5,832 hours of police overtime.

Projects for the approved FY 2019-2020 CDBG Annual Action Plan are unchanged, as noted in the following chart:

Current FY 2019-2020 CDBG Projects (Unchanged)

Proposed Projects	Amount
Section 108 Repayment	\$260,149
Cybrary/Library Construction	\$300,000
Public Services: STEM for LMI Students	\$101,802
Administration (18%)	\$145,306
Total	\$807,257

Public Services Cap Waiver

The projects identified for the CARES Act are public services. Based on HUD guidance, the 15 percent public services cap does not apply to these funds or to FY 2019-2020 or FY 2020-2021 CDBG funds related to COVID-19 activities.

Citizen Participation Process

The City has amended its Citizen Participation Plan to comply with waivers allowable under the CARES Act funding and the CDBG program. The Citizen Participation Process has been:

May 4, 2020: CARES Act Amendment noticed and posted on City website

May 12, 2020: Committee of the Whole Meeting to consider CARES Act Amendment and public meeting

Affordable Housing

CARES Act funding does not directly support Affordable Housing. However, the funds will help low income families maintain their current housing.

Homeless and Special Needs Activities

CARES Act funding will assist homelessness by providing emergency resources to families in need because of COVID-19 economic impacts. While the funding is limited, it will help families remain housed, and may prevent homelessness.

Barriers to Affordable Housing

CARES Act funding will not impact Barriers to Affordable Housing.

Other Actions

The City is not undertaking any other actions related to the CARES Act.

Program Specific Requirements

One activity, Police Overtime Pay for COVID-19, will meet the National Objective of Urgent Need. Based on the amount of funding for this activity, \$312,031, the City will stay within the 30 percent limit on non-low income activities.