

**City of Auburn**  
**Community Development Block Grant Program**  
**City of Auburn State CDBG-CV Grant Award**  
**Formal Amendment**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

**Introduction**

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, which was passed by Congress and signed into law by President Trump on March 27, 2020, is an economic relief package to protect the American people from the public health and economic impacts of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

HUD allocated funds to the State of Alabama (State) to expend additional federal grant dollars on health, educational, and economic distress needs incurring throughout the State. Alabama Governor Kay Ivey responded to the COVID-19 Pandemic by issuing a safer-at-home order in April, followed by a stay-at-home (shelter-in-place) declaration, which was later replaced by a safer-at-home that provided more direction to minimizing the impacts of COVID-19. The orders addressed "social distancing," school and university campus closures, business closures, beach closures, emergency healthcare operations, self-quarantines, travel restrictions/reductions, working-from-home/conference-call networking, homeschooling, and an overall slowdown of the U.S. economy.

To prevent, prepare for, and respond to the Coronavirus/COVID-19 pandemic and other infectious diseases, Community Development Block Grant Coronavirus (CDBG-CV) funds are authorized to be expended on activities designated by HUD. Waivers of HUD program requirements may be allowed when requested by the States, except the requirements on "fair housing, nondiscrimination, labor standards, and environmental requirements" that HUD has not waived.

In April 2021, the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA), Community and Economic Development Division (CED) conducted an initial round of accepting grant applications and awarding the State's approximately \$40.4 Million in CDBG-CV grant funds to the 67 counties and 13 entitlement cities in Alabama. The ADECA CED Division has not awarded the entirety of the CDBG-CV grant funds that were made available to be distributed. ADECA presently has approximately \$7 Million in CDBG-CV Recaptured Funds that are available for distribution. Thus, the ADECA CED Division has commenced a second round of accepting State CDBG-CV grant applications from all of Alabama's cities and counties experiencing pandemic-related needs. All cities and counties, including entitlement cities, are eligible to apply for these funds.

Counties and entitlement cities that have already been awarded State CDBG-CV funds from ADECA's initial round of State CDBG-CV grant may request additional CDBG-CV grant funds.

Cities and counties may request these funds in the form of a Formal Amendment to their current State CDBG-CV grant award rather than submitting an entirely new State CDBG-CV grant application for the additional fund amount. The deadline for submitting these grant applications to ADECA is November 1, 2021.

The State allocated the City of Auburn (City), a qualifying entitlement community, \$750,000 in State CDBG-CV Program funds during the initial round. The City is amending its State CDBG-CV Grant Award to request \$140,254 of State CDBG-CV Recaptured Funds.

### **Citizen Participation Process**

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic and with the determination of good cause, HUD waived the following regulatory provision:

- Citizen Participation Plan Comment Period for Consolidated and Action Plans Amendments. This waiver grants a reduction of the required 30-day comment period to no less than five (5) days to provide for public comments on each substantial amendment. Accordingly, the City will provide the citizens with a reduced public comment period of no less than five (5) days.
- Citizen Participation Reasonable Notice and Opportunity to Comment. This waiver grants the City the ability to determine what constitutes reasonable notice and the opportunity to comment given its circumstances outside the adopted Citizen Participation Plan.
- The City's Citizen Participation Plan allows citizens to comment on any proposed amendment to the Consolidated and Annual Action Plans.

Per the Citizen Participation Plan, the City issued a public notice and will conduct a public hearing to allow citizens to comment on the proposed amendment to the City's State CDBG-CV Grant Award.

The City published a public notice in *The Auburn Villager* on September 23, 2021:

- The public notice and proposed amendment to the City's State CDBG-CV Grant Award is posted on the City's website on September 23, 2021, for public review at <http://www.auburnalabama.org/community-development/resources/>;
- The public comment period extends from September 23, 2021, to October 6, 2021; and
- The City's Community Services Department will accept public comments at a public hearing related to the proposed amendment to the City's State CDBG-CV Grant Award. The City will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, October 6, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. at the City's Boykin Community Center Auditorium.

## Amendment

The City proposes to amend its State CDBG-CV Grant Award as outlined below.

### Proposed Actions

Under this Amendment, the City proposes to undertake the following measures to address and minimize the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and other infectious diseases.

**Equipment.** The virus that causes COVID-19 can land on surfaces. People can become infected if they touch those surfaces and then touch their nose, mouth, or eyes. Routine cleaning and disinfection of potentially contaminated surfaces are recommended, among other infection control activities, to limit the spread of the disease. One way to clean and disinfect large surface areas, including hard-to-reach spots, quickly and effectively that are frequently touched by many people is the use of an electrostatic sprayer (ESS).

The City will also use State CDBG to purchase ESS to efficiently and rapidly apply disinfectants to surfaces, i.e., especially those contaminated with the SARS-CoV-2 virus in public buildings. The City will target those public buildings in Low- and Moderate-Income Persons (LMI) Census tracts where at least 51% of households have incomes at or below 80% of the area median income.

**Public Services.** Support individuals or families temporarily displaced because of COVID-19. The City will also use State CDBG-CV funds to provide emergency assistance to those temporarily displaced by COVID-19. As the country confronts COVID-19, an utmost priority is to help citizens stay safe and healthy while meeting families and youth's educational, social, and emotional needs. To help ease the emerging challenges this pandemic presents, the City will use State CDBG-CV funds to support non-profits that provide resources, tools, and information to youth and families. Many families are navigating work schedules, teaching and learning at home, food insecurities, and mental health challenges amid a pandemic.

### Activity Description

The City proposes to use State CDBG-CV funds for eligible activities that serve LMI persons and or urgent needs. These activities are either new or an expansion of current activities. They also are not substituting for existing activities or replace other funding for existing activities or services.

In the event there are unspent State CDBG-CV funds that were allocated to the City, the following activities will utilize the additional funds:

Equipment and Food Distribution (Food Bank of East Alabama)

Below is a summary of the City’s proposed program activities under this Amendment that prevent, prepare for, assist with, and respond to infectious diseases, such as COVID-19:

#	Activity	State CDBG-CV Program Funds
1.	Equipment	\$ 70,254
2.	Public Services	\$ 70,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$ 140,254</b>

**Activity Name:** Equipment  
**Subrecipient:** City of Auburn  
**State CDBG-CV Funds:** \$70,254

**Description:** State CDBG-CV funds will support the City's purchase of sanitizing equipment (\$57,549) and disinfectant cleaner (\$1,920), to efficiently and rapidly apply disinfectants to surfaces, i.e., especially those that may be contaminated with the SARS-CoV-2 virus in public buildings. The City proposes to place the sanitizing equipment in those public buildings located in low- and moderate-income census tracts where at least 51% of households have incomes at or below 80% of the area median income. The City also proposes to use State CDBG-CV funds (\$10,785) to purchase personal protective equipment (PPE).

Equipment	Number	Amount
Clorox Total 360 Electrostatic Sprayer	10 Sprayers	\$ 45,000
Clorox Total 360 Propack Electrostatic Sprayer	5 Sprayers	\$ 11,475
Infrared Wall or Stand Thermometer with Hand-Sanitizer Gel Liquid Dispenser	6 Units	\$ 1,074
Clorox Total 360 Disinfect Cleaner	15 Cases	\$ 1,920
Personal Protective Equipment		\$ 10,785
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$ 70,254</b>

**Activity Name:** Public Services  
**Subrecipients:** Esperanza House, True Deliverance Afterschool Program, and City of Auburn  
**State CDBG-CV Funds:** \$70,000

**Description:** The City will use State CDBG-CV funds (\$20,000) to provide emergency shelter assistance to individuals and families displaced by COVID-19. Before the COVID-19 pandemic, the typical person seeking homeless assistance was a single-person household, chronically homeless, and requesting 1-2 nights of emergency shelter at a local hotel. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the typical person seeking homeless assistance is head of a household of 3-5 people, recently homeless, and requesting a minimum of 7 nights of emergency shelter at a local hotel.

The City will use State CDBG-CV funds (\$25,000) to support Esperanza House, which provides resources, PPE, and information to help families navigate work schedules, teaching and learning at home, food insecurities, and mental health challenges relating to COVID-19.

The City will use State CDBG-CV funds (\$25,000) to support the True Deliverance Afterschool Program, which has expanded its services to youth during the COVID-19 pandemic. Services tutorial program, educational materials, online information for youth, mentoring programs, and teens' counseling sessions.