

PUBLIC NOTICE

In accordance with 24 CFR 91.05(c) (2) & (k) and Subpart B of the Federal regulations relative to Citizen Participation for Community Planning and Development Programs and applicable waivers made available to those requirements through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), the City of Fall River is making a Substantial Amendment to the 2015-2020 Consolidated Plan, 2019-2020 Annual Action Plan and Citizens Participation Plan available to the public through this notice.

Public Hearing, Public Comment Period and Process:

A **Public Hearing** is scheduled for Wednesday **May 6, 2020**, at 6:00 P.M. in the Atrium at Fall River Government Center. At this public hearing citizens will have the opportunity to comment on the proposed Substantial Amendment.

This Consolidated Plan, Annual Action Plan and Citizen Participation Plan amendment is available for a 5-day public review and comment period from May 5, 2020, to May 12, 2020. Citizens wishing to submit written comments during the public review and comment period may mail them, postmarked no later than May 12, 2020, to the following:

Fall River Community Development Agency
One Government Center
Fall River, MA 02722
Attention: Michael P. Dion, Executive Director/CFO

You may also email comments no later than May 12, 2020, to Mr. Dion at mdion@fallriverma.org.

Substantial Amendment:

This is an amendment to the 2015-2020 Consolidated Plan and 2019-2020 Annual Action Plan to enable the City of Fall River, MA to receive and administer \$1,723,628 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and \$866,031 of Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) made available through the CARES Act.

The purpose of this funding is to prepare, prevent or respond to the spread of Coronavirus 19 (COVID-19) and facilitate assistance to households economically impacted by COVID-19.

Eligible CDBG activities include grab-and-go/delivery meal programs, business assistance to create employment opportunities and retain employees that are low- and moderate-income, and support of other COVID-19 response services. Eligible ESG activities include street outreach, emergency shelter, homelessness prevention, rapid re-housing, Homeless Management Information System and administration.

Further, eligible CDBG and ESG costs incurred prior to the enactment of the CARES Act, and paid for with nonfederal funds may be repaid with CDBG and ESG funding, including those made under the CARES Act. These pre-award costs will meet all HUD requirements applicable to CDBG, ESG and the CARES Act.

Lastly, as part of this amendment, the City of Fall River, MA has revised the Consolidated Plan's Citizen Participation Plan to include the 5-day comment period as indicated above. The revised Citizen Participation Plan is available for review on the City's website at www.fallriverma.org.

Background on the Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan:

The Consolidated and Annual Action Plans describe the housing and community development needs, as well as activities to address those needs as defined and funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). As required by HUD, the Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan brings together, in one (1) consolidated submission, the planning and application aspects of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME), and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Programs. More information on the Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan is available on the City's website at www.fallriverma.org.

Michael P. Dion, Executive Director/CFO

Paul E. Coogan, Mayor

Fall River Community Development Agency programs and activities do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, age, religion, handicap, disability, sexual orientation, familial status, or national origin and are available on an equal opportunity basis. Restrictions Apply.

Phone: 508-679-0131

VOICE/TDD: 508-679-0131

Section 504/ADA Coordinator: Gary P. Howayeck, Esq. 508-324-2650



Fall River Community Development Agency 2015-2020 Consolidated Plan & 2019-2020 Annual Action Plan

SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT FOR CITIZEN PARTICIPATION PLAN AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM AND EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT (ESG) PROGRAM

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| May 4, 2020 (Mon.) | Proposed Substantial Amendment Public Notice and schedule Public Hearing Notice published in <i>The Herald News and O'Journal</i> |
| May 5, 2020 (Tues.) | A 5-day comment period begins |
| May 6, 2020 (Wed.) | Public Hearing on Proposed Substantial Amendment held in Government Center Atrium at One Government Center |
| May 12, 2020 (Tues.) | Deadline (5 days) for accepting citizens comments on Proposed Substantial Amendment to 2015-2020 Consolidated Plan, 2019-2020 Annual Action Plan and Citizen Participation Plan |
| May 14, 2020 (Thurs.) | Substantial Amendment to the 2015-2020 Consolidated Plan and 2019-2020 Annual Action Plan submitted to U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) |

Fall River Community Development Agency

Substantial Amendment to 2015-2020 Consolidated Plan and 2019-2020 Annual Action Plan

Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) ACT Funding

THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF THE CARES ACT FUNDING IS TO PREPARE, PREVENT OR RESPOND TO THE CORONAVIRUS

A. General Information

Grantee Name	City of Fall River
Name of Entity or Department Administering Funds	Community Development Agency
CDBG/ESG Contact Person (person to answer questions about this amendment and CDBG/ESG)	Michael P. Dion
Title	Executive Director/CFO
Address Line 1	One Government Center
Address Line 2	
City, State, Zip Code	Fall River, MA 02722
Telephone	(508)679-0131
Fax	(508)679-0752
Email Address	mdion@fallriverma.org
Authorize Official (if different from Contact Person)	Paul E. Coogan
Title	Mayor
Address Line 1	One Government Center
Address Line 2	
City, State, Zip Code	Fall River, MA 02722
Telephone	(508)324-2600
Fax	(508)324-2626
Email Address	mayor@fallriverma.org
Web Address where this Form is Posted	www.fallriverma.org

Amount of Substantial Amendment	Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)	\$1,723,628
	Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)	\$ 866,031

B. Activity Names, Narratives and Budgets

I. Proposed COVID-19 CDBG Grant Allocation:

Program Component	Category	Budgeted Amount
COVID-19 Small Business Stabilization Program	Job Creation/Job Retention Services	\$1,228,903
COVID-19 Meals Distribution	Public Service	\$150,000
Administration	Program Administration (20%)	\$344,725
	Total	\$1,723,628

COVID-19 Small and Medium Business Stabilization Program (\$1,228,903):

In accordance with 24 CFR Part 570.208 the City of Fall River will assist businesses with job creation/job retention activities under the Low/Mod Income Jobs and Low/Mod Income Area Benefit National Objectives. Under Section 570.203(b) Special Economic Development and Section 570.201(0)(3) Microenterprise Development, the city will provide assistance to a for-profit business in the form of a loan/grant for the creation and retention of employment opportunities. The purpose of this commitment is to respond to the Coronavirus.

COVID-19 Meals Distribution Program (\$150,000):

In accordance with 24 CFR Part 570.201 Basic Eligible Activities (e) Public Services and 24 CFR Part 570.208 Criteria for National Objectives (a) Activities benefiting Low and moderate income persons (2) Limited Clientele Activities, the City of Fall River will implement a meals distribution program to service low income individuals and families. The subrecipient responsible for the program has not been decided at this time. The purpose of this commitment is to respond to the Coronavirus.

Administration (\$344,725): The CARES Act allows 20% of the grant total to be used for administration of the additional grant funding. This funding will be prorated between several subrecipients and the Fall River Community Development Agency. The purpose of this commitment is to respond to the Coronavirus.

II. Proposed ESG Grant Allocation:

Program Component	Category	Budgeted Amount
Emergency Shelter	Renovation/Essential Services/ Operations	\$200,000
Street Outreach	Essential Services	\$116,000
Homeless Prevention	Short/Medium Term Rental Assistance	\$400,000

Rapid Re-housing	Short/Medium Term Rental Assistance/Financial Assistance	\$ 53,428
Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)	Data Collection	\$ 10,000
Administration	Program Administration (10%)	\$ 86,603
	Total	\$866,031

Emergency Shelter (\$200,000):

24 CFR Part 576 – 576.102 Emergency Shelter Component (a) General (2) Renovation

Renovations (\$50,000): Because of COVID-19 the City's main shelter, the First Step Inn (Single Male/Female Shelter) is at full capacity and has been in a lockdown capacity. The First Step Inn has not accepted any new homeless guests since the early part of March 2020. Over the past several weeks, a guest has tested positive for the Coronavirus therefore requiring the entire shelter to quarantine. Because of this situation the City being proactive contracted with Solomon's Porch to use their building at 371 Bay Street as an additional shelter. For the last six years Solomon's Porch provided shelter services for the City's homeless population for the cold winter months. To prepare for the building to be used as a COVID-19 shelter four rehabilitation projects needed to take place:

1. Installation of a commercial washer and dryer - allowing shelter guests to clean and disinfect their clothing. (Washer and Dryer will be donated)
2. Installation of two handicapped shower stalls - allowing shelter guests to bathe. This installation also allows for the discontinuance of the cost of daily shower passes to the YMCA. (YMCA is currently shut down because of the pandemic.) The City obtained procurement bids for the rental of showers from several facilities at a cost of \$2,500-\$3,000 per week. All shower rentals were procured by area hospitals.
3. Installation of wifi to allow medical personnel to provide medical information on COVID-19 clients to other healthcare facilities. Also will allow Solomon's Porch to input guest demographics into the HMIS computer system as required by HUD ESG funding.
4. Purchase of a computer and television.

The purpose of this commitment is to prepare and respond to the Coronavirus.

24 CFR Part 576 – 576.102 Emergency Shelter Component (a) (3) Shelter Operations

Services (\$130,000): Funds will be provided to the First Step Inn (Single Male/Female Shelter) and Our Sister's Place for operations of both shelters. Shelter Operations include security, utilities, overtime payroll, hazard pay, food, furnishings, and supplies necessary for the operation of the shelter. The purpose of this commitment is to respond to the Coronavirus.

24 CFR Part 576 – 576.102 Emergency Shelter Component (a) (3) Shelter Operations

Hotels (\$20,000): If no appropriate emergency shelter is available for a homeless family or individual, the FRCDA will provide a motel voucher to the Capri Motel in Dartmouth, MA for that family or individual. This practice is always done as a last resort and is monitored by Steppingstone Inc. The FRCDA has a special discounted rate with the Capri Motel and this motel does not require a credit card. The purpose of this commitment is to respond to the Coronavirus.

24 CFR Part 576 – 576.101 Street Outreach Component

Street Outreach (\$116,000): Implement a street outreach program to provide essential services to the street homeless. The program will reach out to unsheltered homeless individuals and families, connecting them with emergency shelter, housing, critical services, and providing them with urgent non-facility-based care. Street outreach will include engagement, case management, emergency health and mental health services and transportation. The outreach program will consist of a part-time coordinator, part-time driver, van rental and a monthly budget for food and supplies. Transportation will be provided with the rental of a 15 passenger van. Outreach will be provided twice during the week and once on weekends. The purpose of this commitment is to respond to the Coronavirus.

24 CFR Part 576 – 576.103 Homelessness Prevention Component

Homelessness Prevention (\$400,000): Catholic Social Services will provide housing relocation and stabilization services (i.e., case management, last month's rent, security deposit) and/or short/medium-term rental assistance (i.e., arrears, rent) to prevent an individual or family from moving to an emergency shelter, a place not meant for human habitation, or another place described in paragraph (1) of the homeless definition. Homelessness Prevention is necessary to help the program participant regain stability in their current housing or move into other permanent housing and achieve stability in that housing. The purpose of this commitment is to respond to the Coronavirus.

24 CFR Part 576 – 576.104 Rapid Re-housing Component

Rapid Re-housing (\$53,428): Catholic Social Services will provide housing relocation and stabilization services (i.e., case management, last month’s rent, security deposit) and/or short/medium-term rental assistance (i.e., arrears, rent) to help individuals or families living in shelters or in places not meant for human habitation move as quickly as possible into permanent housing and achieve stability. The purpose of this commitment is to respond to the Coronavirus.

24 CFR Part 576 – 576.107 HMIS Component

Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) (\$10,000): ESG funds will pay for the costs of participating in and contributing to data collection through the Caseworthy HMIS System. The proposed budget (\$10,000) is for the purchase of three new computers at \$1,500 per computer and additional costs for Caseworthy HMIS Computer System. The purpose of this commitment is to respond to the Coronavirus.

24 CFR Part 576 – 576.108 Administration

Administration (\$86,603): The CARES Act allows 10% of the grant total to be used for administration of the additional grant funding. The purpose of this commitment is to respond to the Coronavirus.

C. Responsible Sub-Recipient Organizations:

CDBG Sub-recipients:

Jobs for Fall River, Inc.
139 South Main Street
Fall River, MA 02721
Kenneth Fiola, Jr. Esq.
Executive Vice-President
(774)357-0027
Email: kenfiolajr@aol.com

ESG Sub-recipients:

Steppingstone Inc.
522 North Main Street
Fall River, MA 02720
Kathy Clark
Executive Director
(508)674-2788

Email: kclark@steppingstoneinc.org

Our Sisters Place – The Women’s Center
209 Bedford Street
Fall River, MA 02720
Pamela MacLeod-Lima
Executive Director
(508)996-3343
Email: PMLima@thewomenscenter.com

Solomon’s Porch
397 Bay Street
Fall River, MA 02722
Tom Mello
Pastor
(774)301-4702
Email: ptmello41@gmail.com

Catholic Social Services
1600 Bay Street
Fall River, MA 02724
Susan Mazarella, M.A., L.S.W.
Executive Director
(508)674-4681
Email: smazarella@cssdioc.org

D. Citizen Participation and Public Comment:

- 1. Summary of the public comments regarding this substantial amendment. Include a summary of any comments or views not accepted and the reasons for non-acceptance.**

E. Authorized Signature

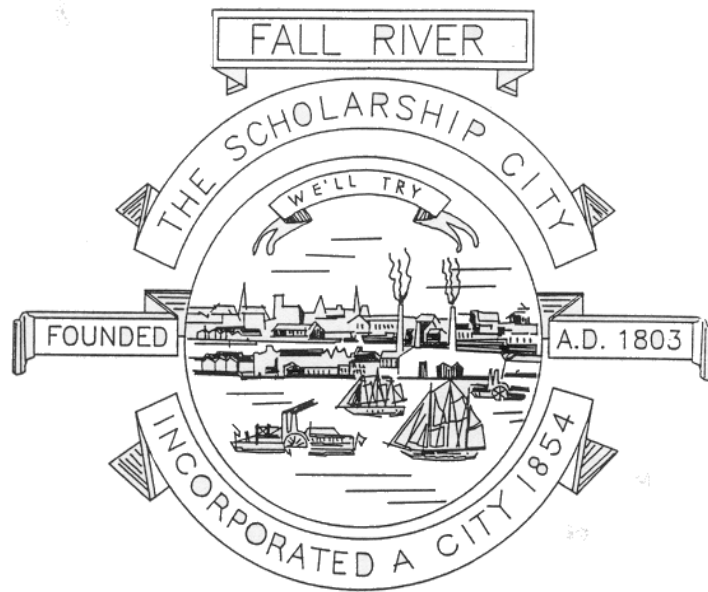
By signing this application, I certify (1) to the statements contained in the list of certifications and (2) that the statements herein are true, complete, and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I also provide the required assurances and agree to comply with

any resulting terms if I accept an award. I am aware that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or claims may be subject to criminal, civil, or administrative penalties. (U.S. Code, Title 218 Section 1001)

Signature/Authorized Official

Date

Title



City of Fall River, Massachusetts

Citizen Participation Plan

*Community Development Block Grant Program
Home Investment Partnership Program
Emergency Solutions Grant Program*

**Amendment No.1
April 30, 2020**

Amendments

- Include virtual hearings as an allowed method for citizen participation;
- Include the types of declared disasters or emergency events to include terrorism and infectious diseases, such as the recent Coronavirus 19 (COVID-19) pandemic, that may necessitate expedited substantial amendments;
- Provide details on possible actions, including reprogramming of funding and types of possible activities that may be undertaken in response to the COVID-19 pandemic;
- Includes provisions relative to Consolidated Plan citizen participation, Community Development Block Grant, HOME Investment Partnerships and Emergency Solutions Grant waivers made available under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

Please be advised that if virtual hearings are used, real-time responses and accommodations for persons with disabilities and/or with Limited English Proficiency will be made available to the greatest extent possible.

For development of the
City of Fall River, Massachusetts
CONSOLIDATED PLAN
And
ANNUAL ACTION PLAN

The **U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)** has implemented a planning and application development process that has consolidated the submission requirements for the **Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)**, **HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME)**, **Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG)**, and **American Dream Downpayment Initiative (ADDI)** formula programs with the **Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy (CHAS)** into a single document, the *Consolidated Plan*.

As required by law, the City of Fall River (the City) has developed this *Citizen Participation Plan* that contains the City's policies and procedures for public involvement in the *Consolidated Plan* and *Annual Action Plan* process and the related use of CDBG, HOME, ESG, and ADDI funds.

By consolidating the submission requirements for these programs and the CHAS, communities now have a better chance to do the following: shape these and other programs into effective, coordinated neighborhood and community development strategies for revitalization; create the opportunity for strategic planning and citizen participation to take place in a comprehensive context; and, reduce duplication of effort at the local level.

The statutes of the grant programs set forth three basic goals: provide decent housing, provide a suitable living environment, and expand economic opportunities. Each goal must primarily benefit low and very low-income persons. The consolidated strategy and plan furthers these statutory goals through a collaborative process whereby a community established a unified vision of community development actions.

The consolidated process in effect in Fall River places heavy reliance upon the following: program beneficiaries, other city residents, and service providers; the identification of needs and problems; and, the development of strategies and activities/projects to address those needs and problems.

Definitions

CDBG: Community Development Block Grant, a HUD grant which provides funds for a variety of community development programs that benefit low and moderate income persons.

HOME: HOME Investment Partnerships Program, a HUD grant that provides funds to expand the supply of decent affordable housing for low income households.

ESG: Emergency Solutions Grant, a HUD grant that provides funds for homeless shelters, supportive services, homeless prevention and rapid re-housing.

HOPWA: Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS, a HUD grant that provides funds for housing and support services for low income persons living with AIDS and their families.

HUD: the Federal United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Consolidated Plan: a five-year strategic plan related to the use of the above grant funds.

Annual Action Plan: the annual allocation plan related to the above grant funds.

Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER): the annual assessment of performance related to the above grant funds.

Administrative Responsibilities and Contact Information

The responsibility of administering, coordinating and planning, development, and submission of the *City of Fall River Consolidated Plan* and *Annual Action Plan* was assigned by **Mayor Paul E. Coogan** to the Fall River Community Development Agency (FRCDA). The City of Fall River is the **Recipient** of all the grant funds listed above and directs FRCDA to responsibly administer these grants.

CDBG, HOME, ESG, ADDI: Fall River Community Development Agency

One Government Center

Fall River, Massachusetts 02722

508-679-0131

Michael P. Dion

Executive Director/Chief Financial Officer (CFO)

Encouraging Public Participation

It is the intent of the City of Fall River to encourage and facilitate the participation of residents in the formulation of priorities, strategies and funding allocation related to the *Consolidated Plan* process, emphasizing involvement by low and moderate income persons; especially those living in low and moderate income neighborhoods. Fall River also encourages participation of diverse populations, including people who do not speak English and persons with disabilities. This overview of the Consolidated Planning process is available in Portuguese and Spanish; the languages of residents who comprise a significant portion of Fall River's low and moderate-income neighborhoods. Residents needing materials in other languages are encouraged to contact the Fall River Community Development Agency at One Government Center, Fall River 508-679-0131.

Citizen Participation

Citizens participation in all stages of development of the *City of Fall River Consolidated Plan, Annual Action Plan*, amendments to the Plans, and performance reports is encouraged, especially among the following groups: very low and low-income persons, particularly those living in slum and blighted areas and in areas where program funds are proposed to be used including minorities; non-English speaking persons; persons with mobility, visual, or hearing impairments; residents of public and assisted housing; and, other low-income residents of target revitalization areas where public housing is located.

Information relative to the *City of Fall River Consolidated Plan* and *Annual Action Plan* development process and activities is forwarded to the Fall River Housing Authority in order that it may be made available to residents of public and assisted housing.

Federal regulations specify that funding to the City may be made by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development only if the City certifies that it is following a detailed plan for citizen participation.

In compliance, the City has prepared this *Citizen Participation Plan* which describes meaningful involvement procedures. Copies of the *Citizen Participation Plan* are made available for public review and comment through the Office of the Mayor, Fall River Community Development Agency, Main Public Library, or will be made available by calling the FRCDA at 508-679-0131. Citizen comments and views of the *Citizen Participation Plan* and any amendments are encouraged.

Access to Public Hearings and Populations with Unique Needs

All public hearings are held at locations accessible to people with disabilities. If non-English speaking or hearing impaired residents request assistance to participate in a public hearing, the City will provide appropriate assistance to the greatest extent possible.

Consolidated Plan Development

The planning process for development of the *City of Fall River Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan* begins with publications of the **Citizen's Guide**, which makes residents, public agencies, and other interested parties aware of the following: the amount of Federal funds that are available; the range of activities that may be undertaken; the estimated funding to benefit lower-income persons; plans to minimize displacement and the types and levels of assistance available to persons displaced by program activities; the availability of technical assistance in the preparation of proposals; and, the planning and submission timetable, including the schedule of public hearings to be held in the development of the *City of Fall River Consolidated Plan*.

Testimony expressed at the public hearing held for soliciting citizen views on housing and community development needs and proposals is utilized in preparation of the *Proposed Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan Summary*, which is published in order to provide citizens the opportunity to examine and to comment on its contents.

Technical assistance is available through the Fall River Community Development Agency to groups that are representative of persons of very low and low-income that request such assistance in developing proposals for funding support under any of the programs covered by the plan.

Citizens receive written acknowledgement of their participation at the public hearing and are assured that their testimony and/or proposal is taken into consideration in development of the summary of the proposed plan.

A summary of the *Proposed Consolidated Plan* and *Annual Action Plan* is published for comment in *The Herald News* and *O'Jornal* newspapers. The proposed plan, which describes the contents and purposes of the *Consolidated Plan* and *Annual Action Plan*, is made available for examination at the Fall River Community Development Agency, the City Clerk's Office and the Main Public Library. Upon request, copies of the *Proposed Consolidated Plan* and *Annual Action Plan* are made available.

During times of a natural disaster or pandemic such as COVID-19, advertisements and public notices may be solely on the City's website.

Residents are encouraged to review the proposed plan and to submit comments on its contents at a second public hearing scheduled for that purpose, with the assurance that comments received are given careful consideration during the preparation of the *City of Fall River Consolidated Plan* and *Annual Action Plan* that is to be submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development by the Mayor. A period of thirty (30) days from the date of publication of the summary is set aside for accepting citizen comments on the proposed plan. A summary of comments and views received is included in the *City of Fall River Consolidated Plan* and *Annual Action Plan*.

Substantial Amendments to the Consolidated Plan and/or Annual Action Plan

In accordance with the provisions of 24 CFR 91.505, the City will amend the *City of Fall River Consolidated Plan* and *Annual Action Plan* whenever a substantial change is to be effected. The following are defined as *Substantial Amendments* by the City and will require public notice and provision of a public comment period:

Consolidated Plan:

1. An addition or deletion of a priority; or
2. A change in the method of distribution of the funds received through the Consolidated Plan Process.

Annual Action Plan:

1. Not to carry out a described activity;
2. To carry out an activity not previously described;
3. To change the purpose, scope, location, or beneficiaries of a described activity;
or
4. To reallocate funding in excess of 15% of the total grant.

Public Notice and Public Hearing for Substantial Amendments

The City will provide reasonable notice of a proposed *Substantial Amendment* so that residents will have an opportunity to review and comment on it. Notice will be made according to the procedures described in “Public Notice” of this *Citizen Participation Plan* and will allow a 30-day period for public comment. In preparing a final *Substantial Amendment*, due consideration will be given to all comments and views expressed by the public. The final *Substantial Amendment* will have a section that presents all comments and explains why any comments were not accepted.

During a natural disaster or pandemic such as COVID-19 the comment period for residents to review and submit comments should be no less than (5) days and in person public hearings will not be required. Virtual public hearings would be acceptable.

Performance Reports

Notice is also published in *The Herald News* and *O’Jornal* of a period of not less than fifteen (15) days set aside for the review and comment on reports of performance of *City of Fall River Consolidated Plan* and *Annual Action Plan* programs, including the *Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER)*. Documents are made available for examination at the Fall River Community Development Agency. All comments and views received are considered in preparation of final reports and are summarized as an attachment to the report.

Public Hearings

The Fall River Community Development Agency conducts two (2) Public Hearings each year for the purpose of:

1. Obtaining the views of residents on housing and community development needs, the needs of the homeless, the development of proposed activities, and review of program performance; and
2. Providing residents the opportunity to comment on the proposed *City of Fall River Consolidated Plan* and *Annual Action Plan*.

All notices of public hearings are published at least ten (10) days prior to the hearing in the non-legal section of *The Herald News* and *O'Journal* and indicate that the hearings are held at a convenient hour in the City Council Chambers at the Government Center or at another location that allows for the following: handicap accessibility, convenient access to people actually or potentially affected by the programs, translation assistance for non-English speaking persons and interpreter assistance for hearing impaired persons made available if requested at least 48 hours prior to the hearing.

To further facilitate citizen participation, prepared statements and/or Requests For Funding (RFF) are accepted at the Office of the Mayor or the Fall River Community Development Agency office up to the close of the business day following a public hearing or other designated day, and are considered to be an official submission of the public hearing.

Availability to Public

The *City of Fall River Consolidated Plan*, *Annual Action Plan*, *Substantial Amendments*, *Performance Reports*, and *Citizen Participation Plan* are made available for public examination at the Fall River Community Development Agency at One Government Center daily during regular business hours or are made available, upon request, to persons with disabilities.

Access to Records

Citizens, public agencies, and other interested parties are afforded access to information and records related to the *City of Fall River Consolidated Plan* and *Annual Action Plan*, and the City's use of associated Federal funds at the offices of the Fall River Community Development Agency at One Government Center daily during regular business hours.

Places Where Standard Documents Are Available

Standard documents will be available as the following locations: FRCDA at One Government Center, Fall River, Office of the City Clerk at One Government Center, Fall River, and the Main Public Library at 104 North Main Street in Fall River.

Annual Action Plan

The planning process for development of the *Annual Action Plan* requires that all applicants for the Fall River Community Development Agency-administered HUD Program funds complete the Request For Funding (RFF) application and submit it to the Fall River Community Development Agency no later than designated date. Copies of the RFF are available at the Fall River Community Development Agency at One Government Center upon request daily during regular business hours.

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance is available through the Fall River Community Development Agency to groups that are representative of persons of very low and low income that request such assistance in developing applications for funding support under any of the programs covered by the Plan.

Comments and Complaints

All written comments relative to the programs covered in the *City of Fall River Consolidated Plan* and *Annual Action Plan* are answered within fifteen (15) days.

Written comments and complaints from the public about the City's *Citizen Participation* process or the *Consolidated Plan* process will receive careful consideration and will be answered in writing within 15 working days. Written comments and complaints should be sent to:

Fall River Community Development Agency
Michael P. Dion, Executive Director/CFO

One Government Center
Fall River, MA 02722

Comments and complaints may also be sent to:

City of Fall River
Office of the Mayor
One Government Center
Fall River, MA 02722

Eligible Projects or Activities

Among the activities eligible for financial assistance under the **Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program** are as follows (see **24 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 570** for a complete listing of eligible CDBG activities and requirements):

1. Acquisition by purchase, lease, donation, or otherwise, of real property for eligible public purposes;
2. Disposition of real property acquired with CDBG funds or its retention for public purposes;
3. Acquisition, construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, or installation of public facilities and improvements (except buildings or portions of buildings used predominantly for the general conduct of government) carried out by the City or other public-private non-profit entities;
4. Clearance, demolition, and removal of buildings and improvements;
5. Public services including, but not limited to, those concerned with the following: employment, crime prevention, child care, health, drug abuse, education, fair housing counseling, energy conservation, welfare, or recreational needs;
6. Interim assistance when immediate action is necessary to address deterioration and when permanent improvements will be carried out as soon as practicable and to alleviate emergency conditions threatening the public health and safety;

7. Payment of the cost of completing an urban renewal project funded under Title I of the Housing Act 1949, as amended;
8. Relocation payments and other assistance for permanently or temporarily displaced individuals, families, businesses, non-profit organizations, and farm operations where required by Federal regulations or otherwise determined appropriate;
9. Payment to housing owners for losses of rental income incurred in holding, for temporary periods, housing units to be utilized for the relocation of individuals and families displaced by program activities;
10. Special projects directed to remove materials and architectural barriers which restrict the mobility and accessibility of elderly or handicapped persons;
11. Acquisition, construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, or installation of distribution lines and facilities of privately-owned utilities;
12. Rehabilitation of privately-owned buildings and improvements for residential purposes, low-income public housing and other publicly-owned residential buildings and improvements, and non-residential buildings and improvements otherwise eligible for assistance, and manufactured housing that is part of the permanent housing stock;
13. Code enforcement in deteriorating or deteriorated areas where such enforcement, together with public improvements, rehabilitation, and services to be provided, may be expected to arrest the decline of the area;
14. Rehabilitation, preservation, and restoration of publicly or privately-owned properties listed in or eligible to be listed in the National Register of Historic Places, a state or local inventory of historical places, or designated as a state or local landmark or historic district by appropriate law or ordinance;

15. Renovation of closed school buildings for use as an eligible public facility, commercial or industrial facility, or housing;
16. Special activities determined as necessary or appropriate to carry out an economic development project, excluding the construction of housing;
17. Improvements to increase the use of energy and water;
18. Support to neighborhood-based non-profit organizations or entities; organized under Section 103(d) of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, and Local Development Corporations (LDCs) to carry out a neighborhood revitalization, community economic development, or energy conservation project;
19. Planning, policy, management, and capacity-building activities; and
20. Administrative costs related to planning and execution of community development activities financed by CDBG funds and housing activities covered in the *City of Fall River Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan*.

Home Investment Partnerships (HOME) Program funds may be used to provide incentives to develop and support affordable rental housing and homeownership affordability by paying the following (see **24 CFR Part 92** for a complete listing of eligible HOME activities and requirements):

1. The actual cost of constructing or rehabilitation of housing;
2. Costs of acquiring improved or unimproved real property, including acquisition by first-time homebuyers;
3. Other reasonable and necessary costs associated with the financing and/or development of new construction, rehabilitation, or acquisition of housing;
4. Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO) project-specific assistance, operating expenses and capacity building;
5. Relocation payments and other relocation assistance to persons, families, businesses and organizations displaced by HOME Program-supported projects;
6. Tenant-based rental assistance and security deposit payments; and

7. Eligible administrative and planning costs.

Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) Program funds may be used for the following activities relating to emergency shelters for the homeless and rental assistance (see **24 CFR Part 576** for a complete listing of eligible ESG activities and requirements):

1. Renovation, major rehabilitation, or conversion of buildings for use as emergency shelters for the homeless;
2. Provision of essential services to the homeless;
3. Payments of shelter maintenance, some operational costs, rent, repair, security, fuels, and equipment, insurance, utilities and furnishings;
4. Developing and implementing homeless prevention activities;
5. Administrative costs; and
6. Payment for rental units for homeless prevention and rapid re-housing.

Amending the Citizen Participation Plan

This *Citizen Participation Plan* can be amended only after the public has been notified of the City's intent to modify it and only after the public has had a reasonable chance to review and comment on proposed substantial changes.

Disaster/Emergency events that may require expedited substantial amendments:

It may be necessary to expedite substantial amendments to the Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan in the event of a declared disaster or emergency. There are three types of disasters/emergency events that may necessitate an expedited substantial amendment including (1) Man-Made-disasters, (2) Natural disasters, and (3) Terrorism. Man-made disasters can include chemical spills, mass rioting, power outages, dam failure, plant explosions, etc. Natural disasters can include earthquakes, tsunamis, hurricanes, tornadoes, wild fires, flooding and public health issues such as wide-spread disease such as the recent Coronavirus disease of 2019 (COVID-19). Terrorism events include bomb threats, biochemical attacks like the spread of anthrax, or cyber-attacks like hacking, phishing, and virus distribution, etc. These expedited substantial amendments may include funding new activities and/or reprogramming of funds including canceling activities to meet needs resulting from a declared disaster or emergency. Therefore, the City of Fall River may utilize CDBG, HOME, and ESG funds to meet these needs with a 5-day public comment period instead of a 30-day public comment period which is otherwise required for substantial amendments. For CARES Act funding, Fall River may provide 5-day notices for public comments as allowed under the HUD waiver.