

Public Comments and Responses Received

Proposed Amendment #3 CDBG Annual Action Plan (AAP), Including CDBG COVID-19

Pursuant to 24 CFR 92.220

May 20, 2020 Staff Led Public Comment Opportunity Virtual Session

Summary and Link: A staff led virtual public comment opportunity was held at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, May 20, 2020. The session was recorded on the City's YouTube Channel at: <https://youtu.be/nnzGqYWHp9w>.

The staff presented an overview of the amendments via PowerPoint. The participants were allowed the opportunity to ask questions. A comment from Julie Hambuchen, representing Marion Polk Food Share regarding the need for the additional Wheels on Meals support (found at 18:18 of the recording). Tiffany Ottis, a member of the general public, asked about Island Boys Camp (IBC) and staff provided background information on the organization and why the organization was asked to serve as a community provider (found at 20:50 of the recording).

Written Comments Received:

From: Paul Tigan <paultigan@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, May 22, 2020 2:51 PM

To: CityRecorder <CityRecorder@cityofsalem.net>

Subject: 2018/2020 CDBG Comment for Tuesday

At the FY2021 Budget Committee meetings it was mentioned that CDBG funds stemming from the CARES Act were going to be available to address immediate needs in the Salem Community stemming from the fallout of the coronavirus and the economic impact of our society's efforts to slow the spread of the disease. I am heartened to see this funding come through and city staff working on proposals to distribute it into the parts of the community that need it most.

I would recommend that there be additional consideration given to other funds coming online at nearly the same time for many of the same purposes the city has identified. (as mentioned in the Salem Reporter: <https://www.salemreporter.com/posts/2418/struggling-to-pay-rent-new-state-funds-expected-to-help-600-families>) The need may be so great to justify both programs, but are there other disadvantaged communities that this funding can reach by working with other qualified partners? Or, can the city redeploy some of these funds to more strategic efforts to make up for the lackluster approach by the federal government in the PPP program? Listening to the public comment conversation, I was again heartened to hear that these funds could provide capital for small, service-sector companies to make the transition to meeting customers expectations for physical safety when we

open up further. These types of investments in businesses could increase the likelihood that that more survive the quarantine period.

I also appreciate that considerations of equity will be prioritized when distributing these funds. What does that look like? How will we know whether that priority has been met? Again, I think that many of the reports that we have seen about the unequal distribution of the CARES Act programs makes this so critical and makes me very thankful that it is being prioritized at the city level.

Thanks for the opportunity to review the 2018 allocations and the 2020 CDBG covid-19 program funds. Thoughtful distribution of these funds helps our community a great deal.

Paul Tigan
Ward 1 Budget Committee Member

Response: Thank you for the comment. Please find our response below:

- **Rent Payments:** We are working with our partners to determine the need for rent and other supportive services. HUD has provided guidance to prevent duplication of service. The CDBG funds will be paid directly to the landlord / property management firm / mortgage company. We know that there are some businesses that have not been able to access the Payroll Protection Program. We will be targeting businesses that have not accessed other financial programs, to ensure these funds go to those with the greatest need. HUD requires that there be no duplication of federal funds.
- **Small Business Assistance:** We know that there are some businesses that have not been able to access the Payroll Protection Program. We will be targeting businesses that have not accessed other financial programs, to ensure these funds go to those with the greatest need. HUD requires that there be no duplication of federal funds. We are designing a robust outreach strategy and identifying community partners to raise awareness of the business grant program to our diverse population. The outreach strategy is not yet finalized. HUD requires that applicants provide information to prove income eligibility of the business and business owner's family. We are also required to ask applicants to identify their race and ethnic background. What does success look like? Information is distributed broadly about the program. We provide funding to businesses that have not received other financial assistance and with our help are able to re-open or continue operating safely, providing jobs and services in our community.

Comment: From: Paul Tigan <paultigan@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, May 22, 2020 2:54 PM

To: Shelly Ehenger <Sehenger@cityofsalem.net>

Subject: 2018/2020 CDBG Comment for Tuesday

Thanks again for the opportunity to review this Shelley. Seems like your group is doing really good work to get the money where it needs to go as fast as you can. I was happy to see other funds coming in from the state as well on rental assistance, etc. and just re-stated that in my comment. I know the public works said they also have some flexibilities/program for city utility customers during the budget hearings, and I'm glad to see that as well.

This is also such a good time to remind people - when you say that the amount was determined by a formula - to remind everyone that *the formula* is census-derived and those numbers translate directly into funding like this when the time comes.

Hope you have a good weekend,

Paul

Response: Thank you for the comment. We will be sure to emphasis this during future opportunities.