



City of Auburn, Maine

Economic & Community Development

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PUBLIC NOTICE | December 2, 2020

Mayor Jason Levesque, City Manager Phil Crowell, the Auburn City Council, and Auburn's Economic & Community Development Department announce amendments to CDBG COVID relief programs intended to provide support to families, public service providers, and Auburn's small business community.

In the first round of funding provided by the CARES Act through HUD provided a \$334,985 allocation of CDBG funds to the City of Auburn. The Citizen's Advisory Committee identified areas of need where CDBG funds could have the greatest impact to residents and small businesses. HUD is releasing a third round of CARES Act funds and Auburn is to receive an additional \$137,932. These funds will be included in the **Community Development PY2019 Annual Action Plan** as an amendment.

A summary of the programs offered is provided below. The Auburn Citizen's Advisory Committee reviewed the amendment at the November 10th meeting and recommended approval. The Auburn City Council was presented with a summary of the proposed amendment at their November 16, 2020 workshop.

Food Security Program – The City intends to make an additional \$65k of CDBG-CV funds available to increase its capacity to provide food to its most vulnerable residents who have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Senior Community Center, in coordination with the PAL Center, have been preparing and distributing meals to residents in need during this crisis. Previous funds have gone towards expanding refrigeration capacity at the Senior Community Center. Additional funds will be designated for increased refrigeration capacity and back-up generator for the PAL Center which is also distributing food. Funds have also been used to provide vouchers for the Farmer's Market to income eligible households and to pay for salaries of staff running the food distribution program.

Small Business and Microenterprise Assistance – The City originally allocated \$100,000 of CDBG-CV funds available to provide forgivable loans to Auburn small businesses and microenterprises that have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. To date, \$27,500 in forgivable loans has been approved, \$72,500 remains available. No additional funds are being proposed for Economic Development. The programs provide needed working capital, operating expenses, and equipment costs to Auburn businesses who have experienced income losses or additional expenses due to a widespread emergency. Businesses or microenterprises must create or retain at least one job made available to low- to moderate-income individuals to be eligible. Assistance may not duplicate funds received through other federal, state, or local programs, such as the Payroll Protection Program.

Public Service Assistance Program – The City intends to make an additional \$42,000 of CDBG-CV funds available to provide funds to eligible public service providers who have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The program will assist essential public service providers to cover expenses of pandemic related costs. Eligible costs include but are not limited to purchase of PPE, equipment purchases, payroll

of extra staff, etc. Current funds have been designated for planned services provided by Auburn Rec department.

Administration – The City intends to make an additional \$30,932 of CDBG-CV funds available to cover costs related to administration of CDBG-CV funds. Costs would include salary and benefits of staff performing general admin duties related to CDBG-CV funds, as well as commercial underwriting fees and other external admin costs.

| Program | Description | Allocation_Rd1 | Allocation_Rd3 | Total CARES Act |
|----------------------|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Food Security | Senior Center Kitchen, PAL Center, Farmer Market vouchers for low/mod. | \$134,985 | \$65,000 | \$199,985 |
| Public Service | Grants to local public services responding to pandemic | \$50,000 | \$42,000 | \$92,000 |
| Economic Development | Grants to low/mod microenterprises affected by pandemic-targeted to gaps in PPP | \$100,000 | | \$100,000 |
| Administration | Salary and benefits of staff performing general admin duties related to CARES Act funds | \$50,000 | \$30,932 | \$80,932 |
| | Total | \$334,985 | \$137,932 | \$472,917 |

Inquiries/questions and comments may be directed to Auburn’s Economic & Community Development Department at (207) 333-6601 ext. 1336, or zlenhert@auburnmaine.gov. City Council action on the amendment is scheduled for December 7, 2020. A public comment period will be made available during the Council Meeting before the plan is accepted. availability of funds.