



City of Auburn, Maine

Economic & Community Development

60 Court Street | Auburn, Maine 04210

www.auburnmaine.gov | 207.333.6601

PUBLIC NOTICE | April 29, 2020

Mayor Jason Levesque, City Manager Peter Crichton, the Auburn City Council, and Auburn's Economic & Community Development Department announce several new programs intended to provide support to families, public service providers, and Auburn's small business community.

The recently enacted CARES Act provides an additional \$334,985 allocation of CDBG funds to the City of Auburn. Auburn's Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC) identified areas of need where CDBG funds could have the greatest impact to residents and small businesses. These funds will be included in the **Community Development PY2019 Annual Action Plan** as an amendment.

A summary of the programs to be offered is provided below. The Auburn CAC reviewed the amendment at their April 21, 2020 meeting and recommended approval. The Auburn City Council was presented with a summary of the proposed amendment at their April 27, 2020 workshop.

The **Food Security Program** is designed to increase Auburn's capacity to provide food to its most vulnerable residents who have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The **Small Business and Microenterprise Assistance Program** will make forgivable loans available for microenterprise and economic development programs. Businesses may apply on the City's Economic and Community Development web page. Specific programs have been developed to assist local business. Details are in the attached, but a public process and public hearing must occur before funds are available. City Council action on the amendment is scheduled for May 5, 2020.

The **Public Service Assistance Program** will make grants available to nonprofit public service providers that have experienced unexpected costs due to their pandemic response.

The income limits associated with job creation/retention by businesses utilizing the programs are noted below:

2020 Income Limits – Auburn								
AMI by Household Size								
# in household	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
80% AMI	\$39,150	\$44,750	\$50,350	\$55,900	\$60,400	\$64,850	\$69,350	\$73,800

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 May 5, 2020. A public comment period will be made available during the Council Meeting before the plan is accepted.

Summary of Available CDBG-CV Assistance

www.auburnmaine.gov

Food Security Program – The City intends to make \$134,985 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. The primary limitation of the activity is refrigeration capacity. Recent power outages have also caused food to go to waste. Funds will be designated for increased refrigeration capacity and back-up generator for the Senior Community Center. Remaining funds may be used to provide vouchers for the Farmer's Market to income eligible households.

Small Business and Microenterprise Assistance – The City intends to make \$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. The programs will 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 \$50,000 of CDBG-CV funds available to provide grants 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.

Materials and guidelines will be posted on the web page as they are developed, and Economic and Community Development staff are working to develop application materials, underwriting criteria, staffing, and the processes to review and act upon applications expediently, while continuing to meet federal regulatory requirements. Loans and grants are contingent upon the availability of funds.