

**May 2020**  
**City of Kalamazoo**  
**Department of Economic & Community Development**  
**Community Development Division**  
**Summary of PY2019 Consolidated Plan and Action Plan Amendments**  
**In Response to COVID-19**

**The following information addresses the areas of the Citizen Participation Plan, PY2019-2023 Consolidated Plan and 2019 Action Plan amended in response to the Coronavirus Pandemic (COVID-19):**

In compliance with HUD Memo, issued April 9, 2020, amendments to the approved Citizen Participation Plan, 2019 Consolidated Plan and action Plan were limited to the following sections:

**CITIZEN PARTICIPATION PLAN**

· **Citizen Participation narrative addition:** Citizen Participation Reasonable Notice and Opportunity to Comment. Hud recognizes the efforts to contain COVID-19 require limiting public gatherings, such as those often used to obtain citizen participation, and that there is a need to respond quickly to the growing spread and effects of covid-19. Therefore, HUD waives 24 CFR 91.105(c)(2) and (k), 24 CFR 91.115(c)(2) and (i) and 24 CFR 91.401 to allow these grantees to determine what constitutes reasonable notice and opportunity to comment given their circumstances. The county constitutes a public meeting as a public hearing that may take place in a physical location, virtual web meeting or teleconference. This authority is in effect through the end of the 2020 program year.

Availability of waivers of Community Planning and Economic Development (CPED) Grant Program and Consolidated Plan Requirements to prevent the Spread of COVID-19 and mitigate economic impacts caused by COVID-19. This 30-day minimum is for the required public comment period is waived for substantial amendments, provided that no fewer than 5 days are provided for public comments on each substantial amendment. The waiver is available through the end of the recipients 2020 program year and is amended throughout the Citizen Participation Plan, a section of the 2014-2019 Consolidated Plan.

Any comments received, either at the virtual public hearing or during the public comment period will be considered by the City before the final amended action plan is submitted to HUD. A summary of the comments and the agency's responses will be an attachment to the final amended action plan.

This amended citizen participation plan will itself be made available to the public for a five- day public comment period prior to implementation, and any interest groups may review and comment accordingly.

**PY2019 CONSOLIDATED PLAN and 2019 ACTION PLAN**

· **Needs Assessment narrative addition:** It is anticipated, due to the global pandemic of the coronavirus (COVID-19), that basic needs are the upmost need in the community. At the time of the amendment to this plan, the most three prevalent needs were food, housing, and safety for our citizens.

Agency needs are staffing, operating costs, and limited interaction with citizens due to lack of virtual platforms/access.

- **Priority Needs narrative addition:** In response to COVID-19, the City of Kalamazoo is adding Economic Development as a Priority Need, with a high priority level, for Small Business Assistance throughout the city limits. Associated goals will be to ensure that small businesses of for-profit and non-profit microenterprises within city limits, are provided financial assistance to purchase supplies and materials that will assist their business in re-opening to the public and maintain clean/social distancing environments.
- **Anticipated Resources addition:** CDBG-CV funds in the amount of \$958,737 with \$25,000 of uncommitted 2019 funds for a total of \$983,737 to be used in response to COVID-19
- **Goals and Goal Description addition:** of “Provide relief in response to COVID-19 Pandemic” to support 100 Small Businesses and benefiting 1,000 persons with public services per grant.
- All grants will be evaluated using equity criteria to ensure hardest hit and underserved populations are prioritized.

#### **PY2019 Action Plan Projects Additions:**

##### **Reprogrammed Funds - Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) -\$ 20,000**

The City is reprogramming \$20,000 of PY2019 prior year’s CDBG funding from Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) to United Way of the Battle Creek and Kalamazoo Region for administrative support to the Continuum of Care. These funds may be **used in response to the Coronavirus Pandemic (COVID-19)**.

##### **Senior Services, Inc. – \$25,000- CDBG-CV**

The City is programming \$25,000 of unallocated CDBG funding to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic by providing meals on wheels to quarantined individuals or individuals that need to maintain social distancing due to medical vulnerabilities. The purpose of the program is to aid in the form of meals for City of Kalamazoo senior residents for up to three months. Funding will be made directly to the Senior Services, Inc., on behalf of the qualified resident. Eligible residents include those living in households with incomes at or below 80% AMI, can provide documentation of need and the applicable impact of COVID-19, etc. FY 2020-2021 CDBG funds already allocated to the Senior Services, will be used for home repairs.

**Rental Assistance Program \$719,052.75 - CDBG-CV** The City of Kalamazoo will partner with United Way of Battle Creek and Kalamazoo Region and Housing Resources, Inc., to provide rental assistance funding that will complement the City's "Eviction Diversion Program". The purpose of this funding is to assist qualified households that have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic according to United Way of Battle Creek and Kalamazoo Region, Housing Resources, Inc., HUD and the City of Kalamazoo agreed upon guidelines.

**Small Business Assistance (25%) \$239,684.25** The City of Kalamazoo will be working with small businesses to purchase supplies and materials that will assist their business in re-opening to the public and maintain clean, social distance environments.