

AMENDMENT TO THE CITY OF BUFFALO'S 2019 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN PROPOSED CHANGES

The City will generally amend its Annual Action Plan whenever it makes one of the following decisions: to make a change in its allocation priorities or the method of distributing funds; to carry out an activity using funds from any program covered by the Consolidated Plan (including program income) not previously described in the Action Plan; or to change the purpose scope, location and/or beneficiaries of the activity.

HUD had determined that grantees may amend FY2019 plans to include the CDBG-CV, ESG-CV, and HOPWA-CV funding. Therefore, the allocation of the Cares Act funding is being done through an amendment to the 2019 Annual Action Plan even though it represents new funding and not a reallocation of existing funds.

Because the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has identified the urgent need to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and assist eligible individuals and families who are economically impacted at this time, and has thereby allowed a change to public participation. A virtual public hearing will be held on Friday May 22, 2020 at 4:00 pm at <https://buffalony.webex.com/buffalony/j.php?MTID=mdb12ff539f996114310be4fcb1b9a71e>. A 5 day comment period will start Friday, May 22, 2020 and end at the end of the day Tuesday, May 26, 2020. The City of Buffalo will place documents detailing its amendments on a public website on Thursday, May 21, 2020 at: <https://www.buffalony.gov/324/Consolidated-Plan-Documents> The City will consider any comments or views of citizens submitted by email to HUDAdministrator@city-buffalo.com received by the end of the day Tuesday, May 26, 2020. The City will respond by email to any comments made on these amendments. The amendments will be submitted to HUD along with a summary of any comments received, the City's written response, and a summary of any comments not accepted and the reasons therefore.

ESG-CV PY 2019 Buffalo CARES Act Amendment

Funded Amount \$4,152,910

The City of Buffalo has been specially allocated \$4,152,910 in funding according to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development on April 2, 2020 as special ESG-CV funds to be used to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19) among individuals and families who are homeless or receiving homeless assistance; and to support additional homeless assistance and homelessness prevention activities to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19.

The COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent shut down of the economy have created the need for significant intervention to get and keep low income homeless individuals sheltered and stably housed in the recovery phase of the pandemic. Buffalo's low income renters are significantly rent burdened with many families living on the edge of homelessness. Suddenly job loss, COVID infections and quarantine, reduced hours and the inability to work due to schools being closed, has moved those already on the edge closer to falling off.

In response to social distancing guidelines, some homeless shelters are operating at reduced capacity, requiring a need for both increased funding for shelters, and increased shelter opportunities for the homeless. The COVID challenge has found new individuals reporting to homeless centers for food, access to services and shelter. There were 380 literally homeless individuals on the Rapid Rehousing By-Name waiting list prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the Homeless Alliance of Western New York counts approximately 649 individuals noted as homeless in the HMIS system as of 4/20/2020. Homeless Youth wait for housing as well. Over 100 people attend the Flickinger/Holy Cross shelters daily, and ECDSS has placed homeless individuals and families in hotels and motels throughout the region. Once the stay at home and other PAUSE and use of CARES Act restrictions are lifted, we will be overrun with the housing needs of these individuals housing need. Low income and homeless individuals are facing food insecurity, and with many soup kitchens closed, some individuals are turning to emergency homeless shelters for meals and personal care needs.

The following summarizes the interventions recommended by City of Buffalo programs and the local Continuum of Care/Emergency Solutions Grant/Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS partners to respond to the financial impact of the Coronavirus on our community.

This round of funding equaling \$4,152,910 is to be allocated in two phases:

Phase 1 – increase funding for current contracts with Shelters, Rapid Rehousing and Homelessness Prevention providers

Phase 2- RFQ for specific interventions to provide the services as described

Rapid Rehousing: “Soft Touch” Rapid Rehousing for literally homeless families and individuals. The focus of “soft touch” will be those individuals who have lingered in homelessness on the Rapid Rehousing list, or are newly homeless but have a job and income. The touch will be in providing first month rent and security deposit, along with housing stability case management to those may need a small amount of assistance to secure housing.

Traditional Rapid Rehousing will continue, using the Coordinated Entry by- name list, to focus on meeting the housing needs of the most vulnerable, including youth.

Homeless Prevention: Providing short-term assistance to stabilize families and individuals is more cost effective and less expensive financially and emotionally than allowing households to become homeless.

Emergency /shelters: Since the beginning of the pandemic, Emergency shelter have and continue to focus on the competing priorities of quickly moving people from shelter to housing, maintaining social distancing measures inside shelters, maintaining local shelter capacity and creating more shelter options for those currently unsheltered, and

staff capacity, protection for staff and clients, and hazard pay. To support these efforts, in addition to aforementioned Rapid Rehousing initiatives, we will provide funding for:

Shelter Support: Existing shelters who had to provide social distancing will receive a fixed amount of funding to cover costs associated with social distancing, reduced health and sanitation needs of clients.

Food Availability for Shelter and At Risk: An additional allocation will be directed at supporting agencies providing food to homeless and at risk clients, including shelters, rapid rehousing clients, prevention clients, etc. during the Coronavirus emergency.

Emergency Shelter:

- Continue providing 24 hour/7 day per week shelter for homeless individuals at the Flickinger Center, thru July, 2020.
- Continue to provide overnight overflow shelter at Holy Cross, thru June 13, 2020
- Focus all shelter efforts on moving individuals to permanent housing or, through diversion, diverted housing

ESG-CV PY 2019 Buffalo
CARES Act Amendment

Households To Be Served	ESG-CV PY 2019 Buffalo CARES Act Allocation
	\$ 4,152,910.00

Project Components:

Soft Touch Rapid Rehousing	180	\$ 428,450.40
Rapid Rehousing (Traditional)	225	\$ 1,695,000.00
Homeless Prevention	298	\$ 922,824.00
Shelter Support	100	\$ 38,735.60
Food Availability for Shelter and At Risk	175	\$ 37,500.00
Emergency Shelter	270	\$ 620,400.00
City of Buffalo Administration	1248	\$ 410,000.00

HOPWA-CV PY 2019 Buffalo CARES Act Amendment

Funded Amount \$119,215

The City of Buffalo has been specially allocated \$119,215 in funding according to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development on April 2, 2020 as special HOPWA-CV funds to maintain operations and for rental assistance, supportive services, and other necessary actions, in order to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus.

The following summarizes the interventions recommended by City of Buffalo programs and the local Continuum of Care/Emergency Solutions Grant/Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS partners to respond to the financial impact of the Coronavirus on our community.

The HOPWA COVID-19 STRMU (Short-Term Rent, Mortgage, and Utility Assistance) program will utilize HOPWA-CV funds to provide immediate rental subsidy assistance for persons living with HIV/AIDS, who have been affected by the COVID-19. A 24 month rental subsidy accompanied by case management will work to stabilize each client's housing and subsequent health related issues. The rental assistance and case management interventions will last 24 months. All data for clients will be entered in to HMIS. Clients are required to contribute 30% of their income toward rents. Given the variations in rental costs and incomes, there will be some flexibility in numbers served, and some clients may not need the full allotment.

This project is targeted to serve at least ten HOPWA eligible clients each year for a two year period. Rental subsidies in an amount up to \$500 per month will be provided. Client income will be reviewed annually.

HOPWA-CV PY 2019 Buffalo
CARES Act Amendment

<u>Households To Be Served</u>	<u>HOPWA-CV PY 2019 Buffalo CARES Act Allocation</u>
	\$ 119,215.00

Project Component:

Short term Tenant Based Rental Assistance	10	\$ 119,215.00
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