

Proposed CARES Act Funds – Amendment

The State of Louisiana has been allocated a total of \$44,336,196 in Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) Formula Grant funds (\$13,443,720 for CV1, \$18,401,828 for CV2 and \$12,490,648 for CV3). The purpose of this amendment is to request the CV3 funds allocated for the State and to reallocate a portion of the prior rounds of CDBG-CV funds.

Economic Development

Business Assistance Program – Removed

Public Facilities

Parks Program (New)

This amendment proposes to allocate \$16,750,000 to a park program for units of general local government that are predominantly low to moderate income based on HUD summary data. This allocation amount includes \$12,490,648 from CV3 and \$1,740,648 from the HVAC Improvement Program. The amount of funds directed to the HVAC Improvements Program has been reduced to a total of \$25,000,000 (\$12,500,000 for large applicants and \$12,500,000 for small applicants). The remaining CDBG-CV funds not already allocated as well as any CDBG-CV funds that are returned or not utilized will be distributed to any qualifying established program administered by the Office of Community Development – Local Government Assistance (OCD-LGA) as deemed necessary by the OCD-LGA.

The allocation for parks is for the development or rehabilitation of outdoor fitness and recreational parks in jurisdictions that meet the National Objective requirements of Low to Moderate Income Area Benefit [24 CFR 570.208(a)(1)(i) and 570.483(b)(1)(i)], to provide suitable space for activities to encourage physical distancing and support social distancing guidance. \$6,750,000 will be available on a non-competitive basis to parishes that have been determined to have a population of at least 51% low/mod persons, based on HUD summary data, and \$10,000,000 will be available on a competitive basis to municipalities that are at least 51% low/mod, based on HUD summary data. More information about this program can be found at <https://www.doa.la.gov/oa/ocd-lga/lcdbg-cv/>.

Allocations are as follows:

Entitlement Parish: \$1,500,000

Non-Entitlement Parishes: \$5,250,000

Municipalities by Population (Based on HUD Low Mod Summary Data 2011-2015):

5,000 or more: \$3,700,000*

1,000-4,999:	\$4,000,000*
1-999:	\$2,300,000*

**Allocation amounts are based on the number of municipalities in each population range (Based on HUD Low Mod Summary Data 2011-2015).*

Per Entity Grant Maximums (including Administration costs):

Entitlement Parish:	\$1,500,000
Non-Entitlement Parishes:	\$750,000
5,000 or more:	\$400,000
1,000-4,999:	\$225,000
1-999:	\$125,000

OCD-LGA reserves the right to make adjustments to allocations as needed in order to fully fund a project.

Eligible Activities:

Public Facilities Improvements – 24 CFR 570.201(c)

- Construction, reconstruction, or rehabilitation of a park, playground, or greenspace owned or to be owned by the applicant, where the service area is primarily residential and serving an LMI area, to provide outdoor recreation and fitness opportunities to residents while enabling appropriate social distancing to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Acquisition – 24 CFR 570.201(a)

- Property must be vacant prior to application.

Clearance & Demolition – 24 CFR 570.201(d)

Administration – 24 CFR 570.206

- Up to \$50,000
- Pre-agreement not allowed

Parishes

Parishes invited to apply must complete the application document provided in the invitation and conduct a public hearing in conformance with LCDBG Citizen Participation requirements (available at <https://www.doa.la.gov/media/o2kik355/citizen-participation-requirements-for-lcdbg-applicants.pdf>). The completed application and documentation of the published notice for the public hearing must be submitted to the OCD-LGA by emailing the documents to Traci.Watts@la.gov by September 3, 2021.

Municipalities

Municipalities identified by HUD low/mod summary data (available at <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/acs-low-mod-summary-data/acs-low-mod-summary-data-local-government/>) as having at least 51% low to moderate income persons must complete the attached eligibility form/letter of intent and conduct a public hearing in conformance with the LCDBG Citizen Participation requirements (available at <https://www.doa.la.gov/media/o2kik355/citizen-participation-requirements-for-lcdbg-applicants.pdf>). The completed eligibility form/letter of intent and documentation of the published notice for the public hearing must be submitted to the OCD-LGA by emailing the documents to Traci.Watts@la.gov by 4:30 PM on September 10, 2021. Information needed in the eligibility form/letter of intent can and should be provided by the local government without assistance from consultants/engineers, if the applicant intends to use CDBG-CV funds to pay for professional services. Municipalities that submit eligibility forms/letters of intent and meet the Performance Threshold Criteria will be scored and ranked based on the following Scoring Criteria:

1. Applicant currently owns property to be developed (5 points).
2. Blighted structures currently located on property to be developed (5 points).
3. Applicant currently has no recreation parks or facilities (5 points).
4. Administration costs to be paid by the applicant (2 points).
5. All design and construction administration costs to be paid by the applicant (2 points).
6. Low/Moderate Income Percentage.
7. Fully completed eligibility form (5 points).

The highest ranking applicants will be invited to submit a full application in consideration of the funds that are available. Technical assistance will be provided to the applicants regarding citizen participation, procurement requirements, and program guidelines. Application packages will be posted on the OCD-LGA website. A plan for sustaining the facility will be required as part of the full application package. Documentation verifying the scoring criteria as stated in the eligibility form/letters of intent will also be required in the full application package. Final determination of awards will be based on documentation provided in the application package.

All program income earned as a result of the project must be documented and annual reporting to the OCD-LGA will be required. Further information regarding reporting requirements will be provided to grantees during project implementation.

HVAC Improvement Program (Change)

OCD has reduced the amount set aside for this program from \$31 million to \$25 million for upgrades to HVAC and ventilation systems in publicly-owned community facilities. \$12,500,000 will be available for large applicants (local governments with populations of 10,000 or more) and \$12,500,000 will be available for small applicants (local governments with populations of 9,999 or less).

According to the CDC, upgrades/modifications to HVAC systems can improve air quality and minimize the spread of airborne infectious diseases. In an effort to assist local governments with funding for the response to the pandemic, OCD is accepting applications from units of general local government for projects to upgrade/modify HVAC and ventilation systems in an effort to reduce the spread of the virus. Applications will be accepted on a first come, first served basis until August 30, 2021, or until all funds have been obligated through an online portal.

Program Income (Change)

Of the \$5 million in program income transferred in the previous amendment from the Office of Community Development – Disaster Recovery Section to the annual State of Louisiana Community Development Block Grant program administered by the OCD - LGA, \$1.5 million was to be directed to other public facilities projects yet to be determined at that time. This amendment also proposes to allocate \$600,000 of the remaining \$1.5 million to a community center public facilities project in Opelousas. The remaining \$900,000 will be allocated towards an eligible LCDBG public facility project in a non-entitlement area in the state to be determined by the OCD – LGA at a future date.