

PUBLIC NOTICE
FIVE DAY PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD
TOWN OF BROOKHAVEN
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND HUMAN SERVICES

In response to the Coronavirus Pandemic (COVID-19), the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has notified the Town of Brookhaven that it will receive special supplemental allocations to be used to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the Coronavirus (COVID-19). These allocations were authorized by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, Public Law 116-136, which was signed into law on March 27, 2020, to respond to the growing effects of this historic public health crisis.

A Substantial Amendment to the FY 2019-2020 Annual Action Plan is required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to report on the activities the Town will fund with these additional resources. The Community Development Block Grant – Coronavirus (CDBG-CV), Emergency Solutions Grant – Coronavirus (ESG-CV), and Housing for Persons With Aids – Coronavirus (HOPWA-CV) funds allocated under the CARES Act may be used for a range of eligible activities that prevent and respond to the spread of infectious diseases such as COVID-19. The proposed activities must meet the three National Objectives as required by CDBG regulations: benefit low-and-moderate income persons, aid in the prevention or elimination of slums or blight, and meet an urgent need. In addition, and for the purpose of an expedited use of the CDBG-CV funding, the CARES Act eliminates the cap on the amount of funds a grantee can spend on public services, removes the requirement to hold in-person public hearings in order to comply with national and local social distancing requirements and limitations on public gatherings, and allows grantees to be reimbursed for COVID-19 response activities regardless of the date the costs were incurred.

Availability of funds are for the following HUD grants:

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG-CV)	\$1,309,498
Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG-CV)	\$ 672,466
Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA-CV)	\$ 316,249

The Citizen Participation Plan, which was prepared in conjunction with the 2018-2022 Five Year Consolidated Strategy and Plan Submission for Community Development Programs, has also been amended to allow for emergency provisions developed in response to the Coronavirus Pandemic (COVID-19). These provisions allow the Town to conduct public hearings in an appropriate online forum, including the use of video conferencing for attendance and participation by members of the public, if it is determined by Federal, State, or local authorities that public gatherings are not in the best interest of the general public's health, safety and welfare. Also, the usual 30-day public comment period required by HUD for an Action Plan Amendment has been waived. This requirement provided that no less than 5 days are provided for public comments on each Substantial Amendment to expedite the use of this funding.

The draft of the Substantial Amendment to the 2019 Annual Action Plan under its 2018-2022 Consolidated Strategy and Plan Submission for Community Programs will be presented at a virtual public hearing on Thursday, May 28, 2020 at 2:00 pm, being made available to the public and all interested parties at BrookhavenNY.gov/Join, followed by a 5-day comment period. The draft of the Substantial Amendment and the Amended Citizen Participation Plan will be made available for review at www.BrookhavenNY.gov on May 29, 2020. Written comments will be accepted by the Department of Housing and Human Services, One Independence Hill, Farmingville, New York 11738 for 5 days following the public hearing. All public comments will be taken into consideration prior to determining the use of these funds.

EDWARD P. ROMAINE
BROOKHAVEN TOWN SUPERVISOR

