



**Public Hearing on the City's FY 2020-2021
Annual Action Plan and Substantial Amendments
and CARES Funding Virtual Meeting
April 30, 2020**

CHAT Questions & Responses

1. How will organizations apply for those COVID-19 funds; is there an application process?

Yes, right now we are in the process of obtaining citizen input. Based on the particular program that we will carry out (i.e. a program to assist with homeless persons, businesses, or individuals and households that were impacted through a particular program that provides housing assistance such as our TBRA program), then we will provide information on application intake. We will advertise those funds officially via social media outreaches, newspaper ads, and the City's Public Information Office. We will provide some type of press release to ensure that the public is aware that those funds are available. So yes, there will be an application process.

2. What is the timeframe on the application process?

As it relates to CDBG and HOME programs for the activities that are specific to the Coronavirus, this process that we are undertaking is a part of that process. We will make presentations to our Board of City Commissioners on May 5, 2020 and again bring to them our FY 2020-2021 Annual Action Plan and those Proposed Substantial Amendments to include those activities that will address Coronavirus.

3. Is the funding going to be implemented before the end of the fiscal year?

Yes, HUD is allowing us to be able to expeditiously carry out those programs and activities. We are currently going through the public hearing process. Next, we will go before our Commissioners to get approval and then we will submit those action plans to HUD and undergo a review period. Once the plans have been approved by HUD, we can begin with program implementation.

CHAT Questions and Comments Continued

4. I am a small business that needs funding.

The COVID-19 funding (\$523,987.00) that we are proposing can be used to assist those small businesses. Right now, we are in the middle of crafting a program that will enable us to provide assistance to small businesses. Right now, those small businesses are defined as those that have approximately 15 or less employees with anywhere between \$250,000 and \$500,000 in annual gross receipts. The funding will be in the form of a grant; it will not be a loan of any sort. The eligibility requirements to apply for the funding, outside of having 15 employees or less, are as follows: The business must be a sole proprietorship, a limited liability company or a S-Corporation. The owners will need to provide financial information and a copy of their business license. We will be tracking to see if owners are in the middle of receiving any other sources of funding. The funding will complement, not take the place of, but rather complement whatever other additional funding owners will be getting. This funding will be anywhere from \$2500 - \$10,000 depending on the businesses' needs. As noted at the beginning of the presentation, this funding source allows us to be able to assist with up to 3 months of operating costs. Owners will need to provide a list of liabilities, copies of their financial statement and their 2018 tax return. More details will be sent out about this particular process very soon. The application will be available on our website which will allow you to be able to apply online, upload the required documents and submit the application directly to our office.

5. Do we yet know if the COVID-19 funding will be a reimbursable grant?

Most of our programs require that funding be on a reimbursable basis. However, we realize that based upon certain partners, businesses and subrecipients that we will likely partner with; we may need to consider alternate methods to be able to provide that funding. So, we will be in conversation with HUD to see what acceptable practices can be considered.

6. What is the email address to apply for the funding?

The email address will be available on our website. Since we are in the middle of crafting the program right now, please feel free to continue to check on our website. We do understand that the need is there, so we are making every effort to try to get that information out there as quickly as possible.

CHAT Questions and Comments Continued

7. Is the Section 3 training funding just for one particular agency or is this funding available for any agency that is able to provide this training?

In the past, we have partnered with Albany Second Chance. However, we do not want to say that there are no other agencies that could administer job training to very low income residents. The same is similar to what the Housing Authority does with their particular Section 3 program. There could be a partnership with other agencies as long as they are serving residents to say particularly the Housing Authority or those individuals that are very low income.

8. Will there be a formula for the Coronavirus Pandemic grants?

The allocation that we received from HUD is already based on a formula allocation. As we obtain citizen input and information from those that are at the grass roots levels, we will identify those priority needs. This information will go before the Board of City Commissioners. At that time, we will identify which activities we will be able to undertake with that funding and how much is available for each activity. Then, it will be awarded based on the programs that we carry out.

9. Will this be publicized for others if they are not on this call to be able to do comments or be a part of the comment process of this hearing?

We advertised the meeting, but we had a shorter time span this time due to the shelter-in-place guidelines. We were not able to go out and conduct meetings as we normally do and advertise with flyers, etc. So, if you are aware of any other community meetings such as the one that we joined last night, please provide us with the information and contacts. We will continue to utilize our social media outlets and newspaper outlets as best we can. Again, the comments must be submitted to us by May 5, 2020 via email or by phone.

10. On the 24 months and security deposit, is that coming from the HOME funds or is that coming from the CDBG dollars?

That funding is coming from our HOME funds. Tenant Based Rental Assistance is a program that we carry out every year. This year it is a little bit different in that we are adding additional funds to that program. We talked about reprogramming those funds and adding it to the Tenant Based Rental Assistance Program because we know that there will likely be a need for low and moderate income individuals who may have been impacted by the Coronavirus. There may be individuals who have been furloughed or unemployed at this time and are having challenges and need rental assistance.

CHAT Questions and Comments Continued

11. Can you give us the website address to your office?

<https://www.albanyga.gov/about-us/city-departments/community-economic-development>

12. Is that rental assistance only for City owned properties?

No, it is not. For the Tenant Based Rental Assistance Program, the applicant must identify a property located within the City limits. Those properties are required to be located within the City limits because we are an entitlement community and the use of CDBG and HOME funds are restricted to the City limits. After applicants identify a proposed property, we will take the necessary steps to do our due diligence, conduct inspections, and determine a rent reasonableness for that particular unit. Rental assistance is not solely for City-owned properties but if an applicant desires to reside within the City's properties, it can be utilized. Again, we can't steer applicants to our properties but they are able to rent properties located within the City limits.

13. Was this particular meeting advertised?

We are required to advertise in our local newspapers. Ads were published in the Albany Southwest Georgian the week of March 16, 2020 and the week of April 22, 2020. Ads were also published in the Albany Herald on Sunday, March 15, 2020 and Wednesday, April 22, 2020. We also sent out the press release through the City's Public Information Office which advertised the CARES funding that was given in the upcoming Public Hearing.

14. Will notes from this call/meeting be shared with the group?

Yes, as a part of this public hearing process we are required to identify information, priority needs and questions as they were posed throughout the presentation. This presentation is also being recorded so we will make the slide presentation as well as the recording available on our website for public viewing and access.