

# Community Development Block Grant Briefing

**Special Federal Allowance per COVID-19**

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# Direction Needed from Council

1. Direct staff to prepare legislation to appropriate CDBG-CV and prior CDBG funds for approval at a future meeting.
2. Direct staff to draft amended associated HUD Action Plan and HUD Citizen Participation Plan for approval at a future meeting.



# Agenda

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1. Federal action to increase CDBG per COVID-19
2. Purpose and outcomes of CDBG
3. What the local data say about needs
4. Staff recommendation



# Bellevue Human Services Funding



City Council recently authorized \$450,000

- Pressing need: emergency financial assistance
- It is the City's money per rules of the City.
- The City acted quickly.

It is not CDBG money with federal rules.



# COVID-19 and Special CDBG-CV

## 1. Supplemental Congressional funding

- a. \$489,623 of CDBG to the City of Bellevue for direct reimbursement of costs going forward due to COVID-19

## 2. Expanded allowances for use of the funds

- a. Removal of 15% cap
- b. Now applicable to 2018-2019 CDBG funds  
The City of Bellevue has \$506,934 available.

New CDBG-CV	\$489,623
Prior CDBG	<u>506,934</u>
Total Available	\$996,557



# CDBG-CV Target Outcomes

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CDBG-CV dollars must be used for future activities directly related to COVID-19

And must meet 1 of 3 eligible HUD objectives

1. Provide a service/product to low/moderate income people.
2. Prevent and eliminate of slums and blight.

No neighborhoods in Bellevue meet the HUD definition.

3. “Meet urgent needs.”

We are waiting for HUD to provide guidance to determine how COVID-19 may meet this objective.



# CDBG-CV Target Constituencies

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Under HUD Objective 1: provide a service or product to low- and moderate-income people

1. Low/moderate income **residents** below 80% of area median
2. Low/moderate income **neighborhoods** as determined by Census: **no Bellevue neighborhoods meet this criterion**
3. Low/moderate income business **owners** and/or low-moderate income **employees** of small businesses



# CDBG-CV Process

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Approving agencies for CDBG services takes about 6 months.

Step 1: Process service provider applications

Advertise for applications, screening, HSC review, 30 day public comment period, HSC recommends to Council

Step 2: Council approves appropriation ordinance

Step 3: HSC recommends HUD Action Plan and HUD Citizen Participation Plan

Step 4: HUD approves both plans

Step 5: Contracts are signed with service providers



# CDBG-CV Process continued...

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HUD has already modified its process:

1. Public comment period of 5 days reduced from 30 days
2. HUD plans review period of 5 days reduced from 45 days

The City may also modify its process:

1. Reduce timeline to decide service allocations
2. New contracts could be awarded sooner to agencies with existing contracts
3. Shorter advertisement period for new applications



# Principles for Allocation

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1. Target the greatest and urgent needs
2. Find best value for the investment
3. Seek expedient approval of service providers
4. Reach traditionally underserved populations with specialized focus on cultural and linguistic diversity



# Principles 1 and 2

## What are the greatest local needs?

### 1. Data sources

- a. Bellevue Human Services Needs Assessment
- b. Bellevue direct community agency reporting
- c. Outside verified data collection (county, state, federal sources)

### 2. Top needs

- a. Homeless services
- b. Emergency financial assistance
- c. Child Care
- d. Legal services / domestic violence



# Principles 3 and 4

## Summary of Service Options



1. Options with early award potential
  - a. Services where there are few providers
  - b. Entities already vetted by Human Service Fund contract process
2. Options with more lead time
  - a. Expanding services to specialized trusted messengers
  - b. Services where there may be many providers
  - c. New services not currently programmed under CDBG



# Staff Recommendation

- ✓ Meet all four principles
- ✓ Target the top four service needs

Homeless Services                      \$489,623

*Congregations for the Homeless and The Sophia Way*

Financial Assistance                      \$206,934

*Hopelink and a [new provider](#) that focuses on traditionally underserved communities*

Childcare                                      \$150,000

*Bellevue School District and Child Care Resources*

Legal Assistance/DV                      \$150,000

*Lifewire, Consejo, and Eastside Legal Assistance Program (ELAP)*

# Staff Recommendation

- ✓ Meet all four principles
- ✓ Target the top four service needs

Amend the Citizen Participation Plan

Amend the 2019 Action Plan to add CDBG-CV funds and projects, specifically

Amend the 2019 Action Plan to reallocate prior year funds to the new projects



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