

Legislation Text

File #: 2020-3817, **Version:** 1

Public Hearing: Substantial Amendment (2) to the 2020-21 Annual Action Plan

In 1994, Lee's Summit was designated as an Entitlement Community under the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). This designation gives the City the authority to administer the grant funds within our City. As an Entitlement Community, the City is required to adopt an Annual Action Plan for each program year that summarizes local actions being taken to address specific needs within the community. The City's most recent Action Plan for program year 2020-21 was adopted by ordinance in May 2020.

Due to COVID-19, the City received a special allocation of \$219,061 in CDBG funding from the CARES Act to provide relief to low-to-moderate-income individuals affected by the pandemic. These funds were approved by ordinance in July 2020. In continued response, the City has been awarded a second allocation of CDBG-CV funding in the amount of \$352,711. This funding must be allocated to activities associated with the preparation, response and/or prevention of COVID-19, and must be used within the city limits of Lee's Summit or provide services to Lee's Summit residents. With this special allocation, the City is proposing a second substantial amendment to the 2020-21 Annual Action Plan.

This amendment includes the following changes:

- Eliminate the 15 percent cap on the amount of grant funds that can be used for public services activities
- Reimbursement of COVID Related Costs - Allow City staff to administer and allocate funding to qualified agencies as needs arise within Lee's Summit through an open application process. These proposals must meet HUD requirements and fall within the established priority needs, which include: rental relief, mental health efforts, food assistance and testing/vaccine partnerships. Other eligible proposals may be discussed if the need arises.

The proposed amendment has been prepared through a public process, which included a press release, and dialogue within the community to establish an open application process to address needs as they arise.

Following the Public Hearing there will be a 5-day public review and comment period.

Staff recommends that CEDC recommend that the City Council approve the Substantial Amendment to the 2020-21 Annual Action Plan by ordinance.

Sarah Tilbury, CDBG Administrator

Amy Koeneman, Administration Manager

Ryan Elam, Director of Development Services