

## Memorandum

**To:** Community Development Committee

**From:** Caroline Gregerson

**Date:** 5/5/2020

**File ID:** 20-0632

**Re:** Action to Allocate CDBG Cares Act Funds

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### Background:

Since the approval of the 2020 Consolidated Plan, the Covid-19 epidemic emerged. During the Common Council approval of the 2020 Consolidated Plan, the Action Plan (approved by CDC) was then amended by Council, to re-allocate \$50,000 out of Housing Revolving Loan to fund housing or emergency shelter services for people who are homeless.

In addition, \$150,000 was allocated towards the operation of a Small Business Grant Relief Program. A summary is available here: [www.cityoflacrosse.org/businessrelief](http://www.cityoflacrosse.org/businessrelief).

The City was notified by HUD that it will receive \$518,988 and to receive those funds, it will need to substantially amend its 2019 Consolidated Plan. A second Council resolution was put forth to allocate an additional \$174,000 towards this program, pending necessary approvals by HUD and this Committee. This vote will occur Thursday, May 14.

**Needs Analysis:** Staff have reviewed data collected pre-Covid 19 and collected informal data through interviews of key stakeholders of the needs of LMI communities: agencies that make up the La Crosse Collaborative to End Homelessness, discussion with Couleecap, the La Crosse Area Family Collaborative, La Crosse County Public Health Department, La Crosse Human Services Department, a review of initiatives nationally, results of business surveys and business roundtables, interviews with child care agencies and after-school programs, interview with Head Start, review of existing federal and local incentive programs.

**Action:** Staff is requesting approval to proceed with a 5-day public comment period, Council Action with a public hearing at F and P, to notify the public of its intention to amend its 2019 Action Plan and allocated the following resources to the following programs:

<u>Title</u>	<u>Summary</u>	<u>Recipient of Funds</u>	<u>Amount:</u> <u>Cares Act</u>
<b>Small Business Relief Grants</b>	Small grants to businesses affected by Covid-19 and staff costs to administer program.	Staff manage program, with policies and procedures, with oversight from Economic Development Commission. 100 business has been identified.	\$174,000 (in addition to \$150,000 previously allocated)
<b>Child Care and After-School /Summer Program Grant Relief</b>	Small grants to <b>non-profit</b> organizations that provide child care or after-school programming and have been affected by Covid-19. These funds would go towards ensuring they can re-open operate safely (cleaning costs, increased operating costs due to limited class sizes). Cover losses during epidemic.	City of Staff manage program with policies and procedures, with oversight from Community Development Commission. Anticipate multiple awards to non-profit organizations. Approval of policies and procedures at June CDC meeting.	\$90,000
<b>Housing for the Homeless and Emergency Payments to Prevent Homelessness</b>	Case management and operations to support permanently housing homeless individuals or families, vulnerable to Covid-19. Shelter is a high risk location and permanent housing is the best solution. Fund emergency payments (rent or mortgage) for families at-risk of homelessness as a result of Covid-19 (3-months).	City to release a specific Request for Proposals to agencies that are licensed users of the Homeless Management Information system. For example: Catholic Charities, Coulecap, Independent Living Resources, Salvation Army, YWCA, La Crosse Area Family Collaborative, CCEH. City staff may directly administer rent/mortgage payments.	\$200,000 (in addition to \$50,000 previously allocated)
<b>Preventing the spread of Covid-19 among unsheltered population</b>	Support for emergency shelter for people experiencing homelessness (and are healthy) and/or to quarantine/isolate individuals who are homeless and tested positive for Covid-19.	La Crosse County Public Health Department or designated partner agency	\$25,000
<b>Victory Garden-Kane Street Garden</b>	Expansion of Kane Street Garden to support Victory Garden Efforts	City of La Crosse, on behalf of Kane Street Garden and Victory Garden Initiative	\$9000
<b>Administration and Planning</b>	Staff time to oversee additional funds. Tools to collect citizen input and implement programs during social distancing. Data collection and planning for Covid-19.	City of La Crosse	\$20,988

**Total: \$518,988**

## **Anticipated Timeline**

**May 12** Approval of Substantial Amendment by Community Development Committee

**May 15** Notice of Substantial Amendment in the newspaper and on website, invite public to comment

**June 4** Public Hearing on Substantial Amendment at Finance and Personnel

- Any feedback received on the Substantial Amendment shared with Committee (and appropriate amendments made to the plan if needed)

**June 9**

- Community Development Committee Approves Request for Proposals for “Covid-19 Homelessness”
- Coordination with La Crosse County Public Health Department to cover costs related to sheltering homeless individuals
- Community Development Committee approves policies and procedures for Child Care/After School Program Grant program

**June 11** Approval of Substantial Amendment by Common Council

**June 12** Substantial Amendment submitted to HUD

Release of RFP and Grant Announcement for Child Care/After-School Grants

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