

**CITY OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF CITY PLANNING
MAYOR'S OFFICE OF OPERATIONS
MAYOR'S OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY TO REVIEW APPLICATIONS FOR
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDING FROM THE
NEW YORK STATE OFFICE OF COMMUNITY RENEWAL
AND
NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING**

TO ALL AGENCIES, COMMUNITY BOARDS, GROUPS, AND PERSONS:

The City of New York (the City) will hold a public hearing and comment period for the purpose of hearing comments on the City's community development needs, and to discuss the submission of several Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) applications for the 2021 program year.

The New York State Community Development Block Grant Program (NYS CDBG) is a federally funded program administered by the NYS Office of Community Renewal (OCR). OCR has made available to eligible local governments approximately \$60 million for the 2020 program year for housing, economic development, public facilities, public infrastructure, and planning activities, with the principal purpose of benefitting low/moderate income persons and preventing, preparing for, and responding to COVID-19. Additional funds are expected to be made available in a subsequent funding round.

NYC intends to apply for \$4 million of NYS CDBG funding for three coronavirus-related projects, which are summarized at the end of this notice. Beginning Wednesday, July 28, 2021, the City's proposed applications will be available for review through the Department of City Planning's website at www.nyc.gov/planning. Readers will be able to translate the documents into various languages including, but not limited to, Spanish, Russian, and Chinese (simplified). Due to the COVID-19 emergency, the documents will not be printed.

Additionally, the City will hold a virtual public hearing on Thursday, August 5, 2021 at 12:00PM. The hearing will provide information about the CDBG program and allow for interested parties to discuss the applications. Comments on the proposed projects will be received at this time. If special accommodations are needed for persons with disabilities, those with hearing impairments, or those in need of translation from English, those individuals should email Con-PlanNYC@planning.nyc.gov at least three days in advance of the hearing date to allow for necessary arrangements.

The hearing is being conducted pursuant to 24 CFR § 570.486 in compliance with the requirements of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended and 24 CFR § 91.105(c) of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Consolidated Plan regulations. Pursuant to waivers issued by HUD given the ongoing pandemic, the City will not hold in-person hearings and has instead created an online platform that allows the public to review the proposed submissions, provide comments, and view responses by the City to the comments received. The online platform may be accessed from the following web address: <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/planning/about/consolidated-plan.page>. You may also email comments to Con-PlanNYC@planning.nyc.gov. If you are unable to access email, please submit your comments to Lisa Rambaran, Consolidated Plan Program Manager, Department of City Planning, 120 Broadway 31st Floor, New York, New York 10271.

Comments must be received by close of business August 5, 2021.

The NYC Mayor's Office of Operations is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Virtual Public Hearing for the City's Proposed Applications for NYS CDBG Funding
Thursday, August 5, 2021: 12:00PM-1:00PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83078813650?pwd=UndCd1hERm9uY3JzbnFNSnk2bzhaUT09>

Meeting ID: 830 7881 3650

Passcode: 783672

One tap mobile

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+13017158592,,83078813650# US (Washington DC)

Project Summaries

- 1. Furnishing Affordable Housing Units for Former Shelter Residents:** Since the onset of COVID-19, the NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) has significantly increased the number of households moving from shelter to permanent, HPD-assisted affordable housing in order to ensure households had safe places to isolate, maintain social distance, and take care of their health. The City proposes to use NYS CDBG funds to provide furnishings to these households, which affords stability and reduces the likelihood they return to homelessness and the dangers of COVID in the shelter system. HPD would contract with a non-profit provider to purchase and deliver furniture based on unit size and unique needs. Amount to be requested: \$1 million.
- 2. Expanding Internet Access for Housing Voucher Recipients:** The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the critical need for universal internet access. A survey of housing voucher clients revealed that nearly half of the households do not have internet access at home. Many buildings in the low-income neighborhoods the City primarily serves are physically disconnected from necessary infrastructure. In response, HPD proposes to use NYS CDBG funds for a pilot program to expand internet access via a “mesh” WiFi network. Amount to be requested: \$1 million.
- 3. Expanding Access to Mental Health Services for Older Adults:** COVID-19 has intensified the need for accessible and culturally appropriate mental health services for older adults. Social distancing requirements and stay-at-home orders have exacerbated underlying pre-existing conditions, created new mental health needs, increased social isolation, and increased prevalence of elder abuse and elder crime. The NYC Department for the Aging (DFTA) proposes to use NYS CDBG funds to expand access to bilingual and bicultural licensed mental health clinicians for older adults living in the most impacted, vulnerable, and underserved communities. DFTA’s Geriatric Mental Health program would be expanded to Older Adult Centers in these areas. Amount to be requested: \$2 million.

City of New York: Marisa Lago, Director, Department of City Planning

Jacques Jiha, Ph.D., Director, Mayor’s Office of Management and Budget

Date: July 28, 2021