

TO: Mayor Blad & City Council Members
FROM: Christine Howe, Grants Manager
DATE: Meeting of June 1, 2023
SUBJECT: Program Year 2019 Annual Action Plan Amendment

Neighborhood & Community Services staff proposes an amendment to the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program Year 2019 Annual Action Plan, to allow for CDBG-CV (CARES Act) funding to be used for eligible public facilities projects.

In August 2020, the US Department of Housing and Urban Development, through the CARES Act, provided CDBG entitlement communities with funding to expand CDBG efforts that prevented, prepared for, and responded to the COVID-19 pandemic. The total CDBG CARES Act (CDBG-CV) allocation was \$495,425. All funds must be expended within 6 years of the grant agreement, or by August 6, 2026 for the City of Pocatello.

The City programmed the CDBG-CV funds in its 2019 Annual Action Plan, in accordance with HUD guidelines. These funds were programmed for eligible public service activities, specifically rental/mortgage assistance for qualifying Pocatello residents and grants for local agency partners who were conducting services that respond to, prepare for, and prevent the COVID-19 pandemic. To date, the City has expended \$456,470.

This amendment would allow for the remaining funds to be used for eligible public facilities activities that meet the program requirements. An amendment is required because this is a substantial change according to the CDBG Citizen Participation Plan. The amendment would provide funding for Pocatello Free Clinic facility improvements to create COVID-safe areas throughout the facility including the check-in area, waiting area, clinician rooms, and pharmacy. The facility improvements would allow for proper social distancing and isolation of patients to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and protect other patrons. The CDBG funds would only be used for eligible activity expenses up to the remaining available funding.

The Community Development Block Grant Advisory Committee recommended approval of the amendment at their meeting on March 28, 2023. The written comment period for this amendment began on April 12th at noon and concluded on June 1st at noon. To date, no written comments have been received. The comment period will conclude with the oral comment opportunity at the public hearing at the City Council meeting of June 1, 2023. At the conclusion of the public hearing for the PY19 Annual Action Plan amendment, the City Council may wish to approve the amendment and authorize the submission, including any public comments, to HUD.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 208-234-6186 or chowe@pocatello.gov.

CDBG Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CDBG-CV)

Funding Summary

Tranche 1: \$264,672

Tranche 2: \$230,753

TOTAL: \$495,425

Program Allocations

Rental Assistance

- Total Spent Year to Date: \$236,692.99

Public Service Assistance

- Total Spent year to Date: \$160,804.60

CDBG-CV Administration & Planning

- Total Spent YTD: \$58,971.76

Remaining: \$38,955.65

Proposed

Public Facilities Assistance: not to exceed \$50,000 for the following proposed facility repairs at the Pocatello Free Clinic to prevent, respond to, and prepare for the coronavirus pandemic:

- Front entryway sliding window
- Security door with keypad and secure entry
- Accessible pharmacy door with window

CDBG-CV funds may be used for the approved activities or other similar activities eligible under HUD guidelines.