



Angela D. Alsobrooks  
County Executive

# PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

## OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

April 14, 2021

The Honorable Calvin S. Hawkins, II  
Chairman  
Prince George's County Council  
County Administration Building  
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772

Dear Chair Hawkins:

Enclosed for the County Council's consideration is a Resolution for the purpose of amending the Prince George's County (the "County") Fiscal Year ("FY") 2020 Annual Action Plan ("AAP") for Department of Housing and Community Development ("DHCD") in order to allow a change in the use of Emergency Solutions Grants COVID-19 (ESG-CV) Program funds, in the amount of three million dollars (\$3,000,000), from one existing activity to other existing eligible activities in any category within the applicable Program. These eligible activities were originally funded and described in the FY 2020 Annual Action Plan, as modified on June 16, 2020.

As you know, the U.S. Congress recently enacted the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security ("CARES") Act, part of which attempts to address a wide variety of needs including providing shelter to homeless individuals, increasing affordable housing options, and maintaining crucial public services during the current public health outbreak through a formula grant allocation. As part of the effort, Congress designated funding to federal entitlement programs, allocated through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

In order to provide an immediate response to the rapidly evolving needs of County residents, HUD asserts that the grantees must amend their FY 2020 (Federal FY 2019) recent Annual Action Plan. Additionally, on March 31, 2020, HUD issued a notice indicating that given the need to expedite actions to respond to COVID-19, the statutory requirement to provide reasonable notice and opportunity for citizens to comment on substantial amendments concerning the proposed uses of CDBG, HOME, or ESG funds is waived. Specifically, HUD provided that grantees may reduce its comment period to no less than five (5) days on each substantial amendment, pursuant to 24 CFR 91.105(c)(2) and (k), 91.115(c)(2) and (i). Additionally, the requirement for in-person public hearings was also waived.

This Resolution requires at least one (1) public hearing because the proposed amendment to the FY 2020 Annual Action Plan would constitute a "substantial change" under the FY 2021-2025 County Citizen Participation Plan, as described in the County's FY 2021-2025 Consolidated Plan. However, pursuant to the above-referenced HUD waiver, an in-person public

hearing is not required. Rather, HUD suggests that public hearing requirements may be met with use of a virtual public hearing if the following conditions are met: 1) national/local health authorities recommend social distancing and limiting public gatherings for public health reasons; and 2) virtual hearings provide reasonable notification and access for citizens in accordance with the grantee's certifications, timely responses from local officials to all citizen questions and issues, and public access to all questions and responses.

The Council's favorable consideration of this legislation is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact my office or Aspasia Xypolia, Director, Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), at (301) 883-5531.

Sincerely,



Angela D. Alsobrooks  
County Executive

Enclosures