



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
WASHINGTON, DC 20410-7000

ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR
COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

April 2, 2020

The Honorable Andrew Ginther
Mayor of Columbus
90 W Broad Street
City Hall, 2nd Floor
Columbus, OH 43215-9000

Dear Mayor Ginther:

I am pleased to inform you of your jurisdiction's Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS (HOPWA) supplemental allocation in the amount of \$205,452 provided under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act ("CARES Act") (Pub. L. No. 116-136), which was signed into law on March 27, 2020. The supplemental funds provided under the CARES Act are to be used by HOPWA grantees as additional funding to maintain operations and for rental assistance, supportive services, and other necessary actions, in order to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus.

This supplemental award may be used to reimburse allowable costs incurred prior to the receipt of your supplemental award provided such costs were to prevent, prepare for, or respond to coronavirus. Activities for which grantees may use the supplemental grant funds include, for example:

- assisting HOPWA eligible households in accessing essential services and supplies such as food, water, medications, medical care, and information;
- educating assisted households on ways to reduce the risk of getting sick or spreading infectious diseases such as COVID-19 to others;
- providing transportation services for eligible households, including costs for privately-owned vehicle transportation when needed, to access medical care, supplies, and food or to commute to places of employment;
- providing nutrition services for eligible households in the form of food banks, groceries, and meal deliveries;
- providing lodging at hotels, motels, or other locations to quarantine HOPWA-eligible persons or their household members; and
- providing short-term rent, mortgage, and utility (STRMU) assistance payments to prevent homelessness of a tenant or mortgagor of a dwelling for a period of up to 24 months.

In addition, the Office of Community Planning and Development has provided certain regulatory waivers to offer additional flexibility to program participants to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and to facilitate assistance to eligible communities and households economically impacted by the virus. Grantees should consult the ["Availability of Waivers of Community Planning](#)

[and Development \(CPD\) Grant Program and Consolidated Plan Requirements to Prevent the Spread of COVID-19 and Mitigate Economic Impacts Caused by COVID-19” memorandum](#) for more information on the availability of waivers related to COVID-19.

Formula Grantees should follow existing requirements for development of substantial amendments to their action plans that describe the amount of funding in the supplemental allocation and the planned use of funds. Please note, however, that the 30-day minimum for the required public comment period is waived for substantial amendments, provided that no less than five (5) days are provided for public comment on each substantial amendment. This waiver is available through the end of each grantee’s 2020 program year.

A new grant agreement for this allocation will be issued through your local HUD field office. Within fourteen (14) days of executing their grant agreements with HUD, grantees will also be expected to execute new project sponsor agreements addressing how the supplemental funding will be used. Further guidance pertaining to the administration of the supplemental allocation, including eligible uses of the grant funding and reporting requirements, is forthcoming.

The Office of Community Planning and Development is looking forward to working with you as you implement critical actions to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19 in your community. If you or any member of your staff have questions, please contact your local CPD Office Director.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Gibbs', written in a cursive style.

John Gibbs
Acting Assistant Secretary
for Community Planning and Development
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development