

The City of Bessemer has been notified by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) that it has received a round three allotment of \$173,711 in CARES Act funding through the Community Development Block Grant, or CDBG, program.

The new allocation brings the city's total Community Development Block Grant Covid-19 funds, or CDBG-CV, to \$521,118.

The allocation was authorized by the **Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act**, Public Law 116-136, which was signed by President Trump on March 27, 2020 to respond to the CO VID-19 pandemic.

The CARES Act made available \$5 billion in CDBG-CV funds. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development allocated \$2 billion on March 27, 2020, based on the fiscal year 2020 CDBG formula, in the first round of funding. A second round of funding was awarded on May 11, 2020 and a third round of funding was allocated by the department on September 11, 2020. The city of Bessemer received \$347,407 in funding in the first round and was notified of the new third round allocation.

The CARES Act adds additional flexibility for both the CDBG-CV grant, and in some cases, for the annual FY2019 and FY2020 CDBG grants. The public comment period is reduced to not less than 5 days. Grantees may use virtual public hearings when necessary for public health reasons and the normal allocation of no greater than 15 percent for public service caps is suspended during the emergency. States and local governments can also reimburse costs of eligible activities incurred for pandemic response regardless of the date.

The CDBG CARES Act Federal Register Notice (FR-6218-N-01) was released on August 10, 2020. The notice describes the allocations and grant procedures applicable to the CDBG-CV grants. It also describes the program flexibilities, waivers, and alternative requirements that apply to the CDBG-CV grants as well as the fiscal year 2019 and 2020 CDBG grants. HUD is also supporting grantees with technical assistance.