

STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII HOUSING FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT NO. 3 TO THE
PY2019 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), Public Law 116-136, provides \$3 billion under the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s (HUD) Community Development Block Grant, Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), and Housing Opportunities with Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) programs, to immediately assist communities combat the effects of COVID-19. Under the CARES Act, the State of Hawaii, through the Homeless Programs Office of the Department of Human Services (DHS), is eligible to receive supplemental \$1,567,697 in ESG funds and \$39,007 in HOPWA funds, to assist Hawaii’s low-income families and most vulnerable citizens. As the City and County of Honolulu is eligible to receive its own CARES Act funds, DHS will use the state’s funds in the neighbor island counties of Hawaii, Kauai and Maui.

In order for DHS to receive CARES Act funds, the state’s Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation (HHFDC), Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism, must submit, for HUD’s approval, a substantial amendment to the state’s Consolidated Plan, Annual Action Plan for Program Year 2019. This substantial amendment proposes to amend the PY2019 AAP to include DHS’ ESG and HOPWA CARES Act funding and activities.

In collaboration with HUD and Bridging the Gap (the Continuum of Care representing the neighbor island counties), DHS identified the following activities:

CARES Act ESG

DHS will retain \$7,681 from its CARES Act ESG funds for administration and intends to contract the nonprofit Ka Mana O Na Helu to administer the balance of these funds in the neighbor island counties. Ka Mana O Na Helu intends to utilize \$78,385 for administration and distribute \$1,481,631 to the Counties of Hawaii, Maui and Kauai. To provide immediate assistance and support to homeless individuals and families and help them battle the effects of COVID-19, funding will be distributed to provider nonprofit organizations in neighbor island counties for homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing activities, and to support shelter operations and expansion of services in response to CDC recommendations to combat the spread of COVID-19. CARES Act ESG funds will also be used for street outreach to provide essential services and supplies to the unsheltered homeless to reduce the spread of infectious diseases such as the Coronavirus. Community health education and support services to transition into permanent housing will be included in activities. Funds will be distributed as follows:

County of Hawaii: \$666,734. Funds will be used for Street Outreach, including health and social services developed specifically to address the unique needs and circumstances of those experiencing unsheltered homelessness; in emergency shelters to increase the capacity of shelter facilities and services, to combat the effects and spread of COVID-19; and for homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing activities, including rental assistance, financial assistance, and support services.

County of Maui: \$592,652. Funds will be used in emergency shelters to increase the capacity of shelter facilities and services, such as the rental of vacant hotel rooms to provide safety for homeless families while receiving support services to transition to permanent housing, and to assist emergency shelters battling effects of COVID-19; and for homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing activities, including temporary financial assistance for housing deposits, rents, and utilities for those impacted by the COVID-19 crisis.

County of Kauai: \$222,245. Funds will be used for Street Outreach, to provide personal protective equipment, hygiene supplies, and first aid supplies; and for homelessness prevention activities.

CARES Act HOPWA

DHS will retain no administrative funds and will distribute the entire allocation of CARES Act HOPWA funds of \$39,007 to its HOPWA lead agency and project sponsor Maui AIDS Foundation (MAF). MAF will utilize HOPWA funds in the County of Maui, and contract with subrecipients Malama Pono in the County of Kauai and Hawaii Island HIV/AIDS Foundation in the County of Hawaii. All funds will be used for Tenant Based Rental Assistance and supportive services to assist individuals with HIV/AIDS and their families, to help deal with effects of COVID-19.

Other aspects of the PY2019 AAP will remain the same.

On April 24, 2020, a Notice of Public Comment (Notice) was published in the Honolulu Star-Advertiser and posted to HHFDC's website at <http://hawaii.gov/dbedt/hhfdc>, inviting the public to comment on the proposed amendments to the PY2019 AAP. No public comments were received.

A copy of the Notice is attached as Exhibit A.

Attachment: Exhibit A, Notice of Public Comment

EXHIBIT A
NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT
on Draft Substantial Amendment No. 3 to the
Annual Action Plan for Program Year 2019

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) provides \$3 billion under the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Community Development Block Grant, Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), and Housing Opportunities with Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) programs, to immediately assist communities combat the effects of COVID-19. The State of Hawaii, through the Homeless Programs Office of the Department of Human Services (DHS), is eligible to receive \$1,567,697 in ESG funds, and \$39,007 in HOPWA funds under the CARES Act, to assist Hawaii's low-income families and most vulnerable citizens. As the City and County of Honolulu is eligible to receive its own CARES Act funds, DHS will use the state's funds in the neighbor island counties of Hawaii, Kauai and Maui.

In order for DHS to receive CARES Act funds, the state's Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation (HHFDC), Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism, must submit, for HUD's approval, a substantial amendment to the state's Consolidated Plan, Annual Action Plan for Program Year 2019. The substantial amendment describes how DHS will distribute and utilize CARES Act funds under the state's ESG and HOPWA programs.

In collaboration with HUD and Bridging the Gap (the Continuum of Care representing the neighbor island counties), DHS identified the following activities:

CARES Act ESG

DHS will retain \$7,681 from its CARES Act ESG funds for administration and contract the nonprofit Ka Mana O Na Helu to administer the balance of these funds in the neighbor island counties. Ka Mana O Na Helu intends to utilize \$78,385 for its administrative costs and distribute the balance of \$1,481,631 to the Counties of Hawaii, Maui and Kauai. To provide immediate assistance and support to homeless individuals and families and help them battle the effects of COVID-19, funds will be distributed to provider nonprofit organizations in neighbor island counties for homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing activities and to support shelter operations and expansion of services. COVID-19 funds will also be used for street outreach to provide essential services and supplies to the unsheltered homeless to reduce the spread of infectious diseases such as the Coronavirus. Community health education and support services to transition into permanent housing will be included in all activities.

CARES Act HOPWA

DHS will retain no administrative funds and will distribute the entire allocation of CARES Act HOPWA funds in the amount of \$39,007 to its HOPWA lead agency and project sponsor Maui AIDS Foundation (MAF). MAF will utilize HOPWA funds in the County of Maui, and contract with subrecipients Malama Pono in the County of Kauai and Hawaii Island HIV/AIDS Foundation in the County of Hawaii. All funds will be used for Tenant Based Rental Assistance and support services for individuals with HIV/AIDS and their families.

Pursuant to 24 CFR Part 91, HHFDC gives notice of proposed amendments to its PY2019 Annual Action Plan, to include the above funding and activities. Due to the urgent need to quickly disburse funds in the community to assist Hawaii's most vulnerable citizens, HHFDC is implementing a waiver to the normal 30-day public comment period in favor of a five-day public comment period.

The draft substantial amendment is available for public review on HHFDC's website at <http://hawaii.gov/dbedt/hhfdc>. Due to health and safety concerns caused by the global Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, state and county housing agencies, where the state's substantial amendments would normally be available for public viewing, may be taking precautionary measures by closing their offices to the public. Interested persons are encouraged to view the draft substantial amendment electronically on HHFDC's website (<http://hawaii.gov/dbedt/hhfdc>). You may also call Lisa Wond at (808) 587-3182 to be mailed a copy of the draft substantial amendment.

Interested persons are invited to state their views on the draft substantial amendment in writing no later than April 29, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. to HHFDC at 677 Queen Street, Suite 300, Honolulu, Hawaii, 96813, via email to hhfdc.consolidatedplan@hawaii.gov. All comments received by the deadline will be considered in preparing the final substantial amendment.

Persons with special needs (e.g., needing a copy of the proposed substantial amendment in large print or taped) must immediately contact HHFDC's Human Resources Office at 587-0501, or by written request via email to hhfdchr@hawaii.gov. Prompt requests help to ensure the availability of appropriate accommodations. Persons on the neighbor islands may call the following toll-free numbers:

From Kauai, 274-3141, ext. 70501 From Hawaii, 974-4000, ext. 70501
From Maui, 984-2400, ext. 70501 From Molokai & Lanai, 1-800-468-4644, ext. 70501

HHFDC does not discriminate against any person because of race, color, religion, sex, including gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, disability, familial status, ancestry, age, marital status, or HIV infection.

Denise Iseri-Matsubara, Interim Executive Director

Honolulu Star-Advertiser
April 24, 2020



