

# CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION



**MEETING DATE:** January 11, 2022

**ITEM NUMBER:** 10.B

**SECOND READING:**

{{customfields.ResoOrdNumber}}

**TYPE OF ITEM:** Public Hearing and/or Second Reading

**PRESENTED BY:**

**Molly O'Donnell, CDBG, Molly.O'Donnell@longmontcolorado.gov**

**SUBJECT/AGENDA TITLE:**

Public Hearing To Consider Action On Amendment No. 20-04 To The 2020 CDBG Action Plan

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

This proposed Amendment is to change the eligible activity and number of beneficiaries under the 2020 Community Development Block Grant – COVID Relief (CDBG-CV) funding from the COVID Recovery Center Project to Individual Assistance to Households to implement “Fresh Start,” the City of Longmont’s COVID-19 Residential Utility Bill Assistance Program.

CDBG-CV funds were originally intended to contribute towards operation of COVID Recovery Center. The eligible activity was Community Investment, which was estimated to benefit six City residents. The COVID Recovery Center ended up receiving FEMA funding and so CDBG-CV funding was no longer needed.

COVID-19 has heavily impacted many of the City’s low- and moderate-income residents’ ability to pay utility bills due to a loss of income or an increase in expenses, including higher utility bills while staying home. City utility accounts in arrears for greater than 37 days currently total approximately 2,200 accounts for a total past due of approximately \$1.5 million, an amount that is extraordinary compared to pre-COVID times.

Utility bill assistance is a CDBG-CV-eligible activity under Individual Assistance to Households. The \$70,000 in funding swapped from the COVID Recovery Center could serve about 46 households with an average balance in arrears of \$1,330. This funding would be added to the existing CDBG-CV available funding for Individual Assistance to Households for a total of \$584,998.60 in utility bill assistance, serving approximately 440 households in total.

As required by the City’s Citizen Participation Plan if there is a change to the eligible activity or the number of beneficiaries to be served, a public hearing must be held to solicit citizen input to the proposed changes to the 2020 Action Plan. A Public Notice was published in the Times-Call on December 11, 2021, allowing for a 30 day comment period including the Public Hearing to be held tonight. If Council approves this Amendment, staff will submit the Amendment to HUD on January 14, 2022.



Amended Projects	Approved CDBG Funding	Amended CDBG Funding	Current Estimated Beneficiaries	Change to Estimated Beneficiaries	Activity
Community Investment – COVID Recovery Center	\$70,000	\$0	6	0	05M Health Services 03C Homeless Facilities
Housing Stabilization – COVID Individual Assistance to Households	\$0	\$70,000	0	52	05Q Subsistence Payments
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$150,000</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>52</b>	
<b>Change</b>		<b>(\$0)</b>		<b>46</b>	

## COUNCIL OPTIONS:

1. Approve Amendment #2020-04
2. Suggest changes to the proposed recommendation

## RECOMMENDED OPTIONS:

Approve Amendment #2020-04 changing the eligible activity from Community Investment – Health Services and Homeless Facilities to Housing Stabilization – Subsistence Payments.

## FISCAL IMPACT & FUND SOURCE FOR RECOMMENDED ACTION:

There is no impact to the General Fund. All funding is contained within the CDBG program.

## BACKGROUND AND ISSUE ANALYSIS: NA

## ATTACHMENTS:

Att 1 - Summary of Proposed Changes through Amendment #2020-04