

**NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY
CITY OF BATON ROUGE, PARISH OF EAST BATON ROUGE**

In response to the Coronavirus Pandemic (COVID-19), President Trump signed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), Public Law 116-136 on March 27, 2020. The CARES Act provided funding for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Planning and Development Grant Program to be used to respond to the growing effects of this historic public health crisis.

HUD has notified the City of Baton Rouge, Parish of East Baton Rouge (City-Parish) Mayor's Office that it will receive a combined allocation of \$3,257,954 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), and Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS (HOPWA) funding. The City-Parish is undertaking the process of selecting projects to be funded under all allocations to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the Coronavirus (COVID-19).

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program

The CDBG program works to ensure decent affordable housing, to provide services to the most vulnerable in our communities, and to create jobs through the expansion and retention of businesses. The City-Parish will receive an allocation of \$1,932,038 in CDBG funds and is seeking proposals to assist in the following program areas.

- 1. Assistance to Businesses, including Special Economic Development Assistance**
 - a. Preferred economic development projects will focus on:
 - i. providing microenterprise grants or forgivable loans to support new businesses or business expansion to create jobs and manufacture medical supplies necessary to respond to infection disease;
 - ii. providing assistance to avoid job loss caused by business closures related to social distancing by providing short-term working capital assistance to small businesses to enable retention of jobs held by low- and moderate-income persons;
 - iii. providing technical assistance, grants, loans and other financial assistance to establish, stabilize, and expand microenterprises that provide medical, food delivery, cleaning, and other services to support home health and quarantine.

- 2. Public Services**
 - a. Preferred public service projects will serve low- to moderate-income persons by providing new or quantifiably increased public services to:
 - i. carry out job training to expand the pool of health care workers and technicians that are available to treat disease within a community; or
 - ii. provide testing, diagnosis or other services at a fixed or mobile location; or
 - iii. increase the capacity and availability of targeted health services for infectious disease response within existing health facilities; or
 - iv. provide equipment, supplies, and materials necessary to carry-out a public

- service; or
- v. delivery of meals or provide feeding services to quarantined individuals or individuals that need to maintain social distancing due to medical vulnerabilities.

3. Housing Activities

- a. Preferred services in connection with housing projects will serve low- to moderate-income persons by:
 - i. providing income payments that are emergency in nature for tenant rent or household mortgage.
 - ii. Programmatic restrictions will apply for all recipients of this type of grant assistance.

Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Program

The ESG program provides funding to engage homeless individuals and families living on the street, improve the number and quality of emergency shelters for homeless individuals and families, help operate these shelters, provide essential services to shelter residents, rapidly re-house homeless individuals and families, and prevent families and individuals from becoming homeless. The City-Parish will receive an allocation of \$955,859 in ESG funds and is seeking proposals to assist in the following program areas.

1. Homeless Prevention Assistance

- a. Providing homelessness prevention assistance (as authorized under 24 CFR 576.103 or subsequent HUD notices) to any individual or family who does not have income higher than HUD’s Very Low-Income Limit for the Baton Rouge, LA HUD Metro FMR Area and meets the criteria in paragraphs (1)(ii) and (1)(iii) of the “at risk of homelessness” definition in 24 CFR 576.0;

2. Procurement of Goods and Services

- a. Procuring goods and services to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus, notwithstanding 24 CFR 576.407(f) and 2 CFR 200.317-200.326;

3. Treatment and Support Services

- a. Providing treatment and supportive services:
 - i. When necessary to assist vulnerable homeless populations, individuals and families experiencing homelessness.
 - ii. Receiving treatment and supportive services must not be required to receive treatment or perform any other prerequisite activities as a condition of receiving shelter, housing, or other services for which these funds are used, notwithstanding 24 CFR 576.401(e).

Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS (HOPWA) Program

The HOPWA program was established to provide housing assistance and related supportive services for low-income persons living with HIV/AIDS and their families. The City-Parish will receive an allocation of \$370,057 in HOPWA funds and is seeking proposals in the following program areas.

1. **Assistance**
 - a. Assistance to HOPWA eligible households in accessing essential services and supplies such as food, water, medications, medical care, and information;
2. **Education**
 - a. Education for households on ways to reduce the risk of getting sick or spreading infections diseases such as COVID-19 to others;
3. **Transportation**
 - a. 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;
4. **Nutrition**
 - a. Nutrition services for eligible households in the form of food banks, groceries, and meal deliveries;
5. **Lodging**
 - a. Lodging at hotels, motels, or other locations to quarantine HOPWA-eligible persons or their household members; and
6. **STRMU**
 - a. 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.

Request for Proposal Requirements

The Request for Proposal (RFP) package will be posted on City-Parish Office of Community Development and Build Baton Rouge websites. It will be available for download at <https://www.brla.gov/1509/Announcements> and www.buildbatonrouge.org on **Monday, May 4, 2020.**

Proposers requiring Technical Assistance (TA) may contact Tasha Saunders, Grants Director, Build Baton Rouge, via email at tsaunders@buildbatonrouge.org or by phone at 225-387-5606 ext 503. TA will be made available until Friday, May 8, 2020 at 5:00 pm. After this deadline, no further TA will be provided.

Consideration for project funding under the CARES Act will require submittal of a completed RFP package by **Monday, May 11, 2020 at 5:00 pm.**

All proposals must be submitted via email or certified US Postal Mail. Proposals should be mailed to:

City of Baton Rouge-Parish of East Baton Rouge
Sharon Weston Broome, Mayor-President

Office of Community Development
c/o Build Baton Rouge
620 Florida Street
Suite 110
Baton Rouge, LA 70801

Email: tsaunders@buildbatonrouge.org

(*Please Include "CARES Act Funding Proposal" in subject field of email)

Phone: (225) 387-5606 ext 503

TDD: (225) 389-3082



We are pledged to the letter and spirit of U.S. policy for the achievement of equal housing opportunity throughout the Nation. We encourage and support an affirmative advertising and marketing program in which there are no barriers to obtaining housing because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin.