

**CITY OF HOLYOKE OFFICE FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDS
SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENTS**

In accordance with federal regulations relative to citizen participation for Community Development Programs, the City of Holyoke is making an amendment to its 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan, and Annual Action Plan for Program Year 2021.

The City of Holyoke, MA, is a federal entitlement community that receives annual allocations of Community Development Block Grant funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The City is required to prepare an Annual Action Plan detailing the uses of entitlement funds to meet its affordable housing and community development goals as outlined in its Consolidated Plan. When there is a substantial change to the scope, location, beneficiary, or increase in funding, the City is required to undertake an amendment process to solicit public comments.

2020-2024 Consolidated Plan

The purpose of the Consolidated Plan Substantial Amendment is to adjust the estimates for expenditures over the five-year period in two goal areas. Every five years, the City produces a Consolidated Plan which estimates the allocations to key goal area over the five-year period. In review of recent annual allocations, the City has determined that the annual allocations are not consistent with the original Consolidated Plan goals and an amendment is necessary.

Proposed Changes to the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan and Justifications

Proposed Change #1: Reduce the five-year allocation for Code Enforcement Goal by \$200,000 to an estimated five-year total of \$135,000.

Proposed Change #1 Justification: The City has been unable to hire and retain the staff necessary to continue the CDBG Code Enforcement Program and allocated CDBG funds have been underutilized in this activity. The activity will remain in the Consolidated Plan but has not been funded in the 2020, 2021, or 2022 Annual Plans.

Proposed Change #2: Increase the five-year allocation for Economic Development Goal by \$200,000 to an estimated five-year total of \$350,000

Proposed Change #2 Justification: Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the need for small business grants have greatly increased. To date in the Five Year Consolidated Plan the City has allocated \$194,134. to this goal.

FY2021 Action Plan

The purpose of the Action Plan Substantial Amendments is to reallocate Program Year 2021 unexpended funds in the amount of \$90,000. to activities included within the 2022 Action Plan.

Proposed Changes to the FY2021 Annual Action Plan

Proposed Change #1: Cancel the Ingleside Park rehabilitation allocation (\$47,000.) due to lack of municipal staff capacity to manage the activity.

Proposed Change #2: Cancel the Jackson Court- Handball Court rehabilitation (\$43,000.) due to lack of municipal staff capacity to manage the activity and the need to conduct community engagement prior to park rehab in light of a new residential community coming to the neighborhood (South Holyoke Homes).

These FY2021 CDBG funds will be allocated to the FY2022 Annual Plan activities (\$90,000).

Public Comment Period and Public Hearing

These substantial amendments are available for a thirty-day public review and comment period from July 22, 2022 to August 24, 2022. Persons wishing to submit written comments may send them via email to Jennifer Martins, OCD Compliance Manager at martinsj@holyoke.org or via mail to:

City of Holyoke Office for Community Development, City Hall Annex- Room 400, Holyoke, MA 01040

Written and verbal comments (phone 413-322-5610) will be accepted until August 24, 2022, by 4:00pm EST. All comments will be accepted and submitted to HUD.

The City of Holyoke Office for Community Development will conduct a public hearing with the Citizens Advisory Council on Thursday August 18, 2022, at 5:00 pm virtually. The purpose of the public hearing is review proposed plan amendments and solicit public comment.

Google Meet joining info

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/xgv-shah-tji>

Or dial: (US) +1 575-914-2103 PIN: 893 776 305#

Language translation services and accessibility services are available for all meetings upon request at least five business days prior to the meeting date to 413-322-5610. Additional information is available at www.holyoke.org or by calling (413) 322-5610 or on Facebook @HolyokeOCD.