

**CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, MA**  
**CDBG ACTION PLAN 2020-2021 SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT #1**

Jurisdiction(s): Springfield, MA	Contact Person: Cathy Buono
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The coronavirus pandemic and the associated public health orders have economically pummeled Springfield’s small businesses, causing steep drops in gross revenue which in turn has negatively impacted many low to moderate income jobs, with many such positions being either eliminated or furloughed particularly in the retail, restaurant and beauty sectors. The associated economic pain has disproportionately fallen on small businesses that are minority or women owned with gross revenues under \$500,000. These businesses are the core of our Main Street and neighborhood commercial centers and currently only one in three are fully operational.

The City of Springfield is attempting to respond swiftly and decisively by investing directly in our most vulnerable small businesses and doing everything possible we can to keep them operational under the existing public health orders, or ensure that they remain sustainable to ultimately reopen when these orders are lifted. However, it is recognized that our resources are insufficient to address the level of need that currently exists.

This Substantial Amendment allocates carry over funds and reallocates funding from the current Action Plan 2020-2021 to assist commercial businesses which serve areas of the city that qualify as low and moderate income areas (570.208(a)(1)).

**Change #1: Add Project and Funding**

The following Project will be added to the Action Plan:

**Program Year: 2020**

**IDIS Project ID: 29**

**Project Title: Commercial Business Support Program**

The City of Springfield is allocating \$650,000.00 of CDBG funding for Direct Financial Assistance to commercial businesses that serve low to moderate income neighborhoods. The program take into account both the financial needs of the business and the public benefit that the business provides to the surrounding neighborhood. Such public benefit could include but not be limited to tax revenue, direct or indirect creation of jobs, neighborhood economic stabilization, opportunity zone or the Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Areas (NRSA) economic investment. Businesses will be required to provide evidence of expenditures as backup

documentation and no funding will be released without a documented receipt, encumbrance or contract.

**Allocation for Activity:** \$650,000.00

The City has identified \$425,000.00 in carry over funds and the balance of \$225,000.00 will come from Action Plan 2020-2021 Activity #12 Infrastructure Improvements; this activity will be reduced from \$525,000.00 to \$300,000.00

**Eligible Applicants:** Commercial businesses that have been located in the City of Springfield for more than two years and serve neighborhoods that qualify as low to moderate income. Priority will be given to businesses that are;

1. Women and or minority owned
2. Under \$500,000 in gross revenue
3. Located in the (NRSA) or Opportunity Zone
4. Able to evidence significant neighborhood public benefit

**Criteria Selection:** Funding assistance will be individually reviewed on a rolling basis based on the criteria stated above.

**Geographic Area:** Any defined area of the City of Springfield that qualifies as a low and moderate income area.

**Eligibility:** 24 C.F.R. § 570.208(a)(1)

**National Objective:** Low/ Mod Objective

**Outcome:** Retention of ten (10) or more businesses which serve areas qualifying as a low and moderate income area

**State Date:** August 18, 2020 **End Date:** June 30, 2021

**Citizen Participation:** The amendment was published as follows:

- Publication on the City’s website.
- Publication on the City’s social media platforms, including Facebook and Twitter.
- A comment period for the required five days from August 12, 2020 – August 17, 2020.
- A virtual Facebook live hearing was held on Friday, August 14, 2020 at 1:00pm and virtual comments submitted by the public throughout the duration of the hearing. Spanish-speaking staff were present and available for translation at the hearing. Presenters informed participants that accommodations for disabilities would be provided upon request.
- Submission of comments were allowed as follows:
  - Electronically on the City’s CDBG website at [www.springfield-ma.gov/planning/index.php?id=community-development](http://www.springfield-ma.gov/planning/index.php?id=community-development)

- Written comments mailed to the Office of Community Development, 1600 East Columbus Avenue, Springfield, MA 01103
- Via email to [cbuono@springfieldcityhall.com](mailto:cbuono@springfieldcityhall.com)
- By telephone contacting 311, the City of Springfield's main source of government information and non-emergency services or the Office of Community Development at (413) 787-6082.
- Virtual comments in response to the posted amendment through the City's social media platforms, including Facebook and Twitter.