



Draft for Public Comment 9/18/2020

Comments are due by 5:00 PM September 23, 2020 to jessica.deegan@state.mn.us

Substantial Amendment of State of Minnesota 2020 Annual Action Plan for HOPWA CV Funds

Minnesota Housing received a supplemental allocation of \$36,749 under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (“CARES Act”) (Pub. L. No. 116-136), which was signed into law on March 27, 2020. The supplemental funds provided under the CARES Act are to be used by Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS (HOPWA) grantees as additional funding to maintain operations and for rental assistance, supportive services, and other necessary actions, in order to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus.

The HOPWA CARES Act funds will substantially amend the state of Minnesota’s Annual Action Plan to HUD for Federal Fiscal Year 2020, amendments to the following Sections of the Action Plan are underlined in red for the HOPWA-CV funds. The State of Minnesota’s Annual Action Plan includes several resources: Community Development Block Grant, Emergency Solutions Grants, HOME Investment Partnerships, the National Housing Trust Fund and HOPWA. This document only includes items pertinent to the HOPWA-CV funding.

AP 05 – Executive Summary

1. Introduction

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires consolidated planning, application, reporting, and citizen participation processes (together, the Consolidated Plan) for the formula grant programs: Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), Home Investment Partnerships (HOME), National Housing Trust Fund (NHTF), Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG), and Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA). The Consolidated Plan is designed to be a collaborative process whereby a community establishes a unified vision for housing and community development actions. It offers entitlement communities the opportunity to shape these housing and community development programs into effective, coordinated housing and community development strategies. It also allows for strategic planning and citizen participation to occur in a comprehensive context, thereby reducing duplication of effort. As the lead agency for the Consolidated Plan for the State of Minnesota, the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED), in coordination with the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency (Minnesota Housing), and the Department of Human Services (DHS), hereby follows HUD’s guidelines for citizen and community involvement. Furthermore, these agencies are responsible for overseeing these citizen participation requirements, those that accompany the Consolidated Plan and the CDBG, HOME, HOPWA, NHTF, and ESG programs, as well as those that complement the DEED planning processes already at work in the state.

As the State of Minnesota develops this year’s plan, we are in the midst of the COVID-19 global pandemic and in disaster response mode. As of writing the original approved plan, the CARES Act, the third stimulus package in response to COVID-19 was just passed which will infuse funds into at least two of the programs described in this plan, CDBG and ESG. The State of Minnesota will utilize any additional infusion of funds to the programs

HOPWA-CV Substantial Amendment

covered by this plan through the CARES act and other stimulus packages to the broadest extent possible under laws and regulations and will respond to the ongoing crisis with the flexibility needed to benefit Minnesotans impacted.

This amendment offers the first of several additions to the state’s action plan for COVID-19 funding made available through the CARES Act, adding the State of Minnesota’s allocation for the Housing Opportunities with Persons for AIDS COVID-19 funds.

4. Summary of Citizen Participation Process and consultation process

For the first amendment of HOPWA-CV funds, the State offered a five day public comment period and distributed copies of the plan amendments to HIV/AIDS organizations that serve Greater Minnesota (where these funds are required to be utilized).

AP 15 – Expected Resources

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 1				Expected Amount Available Remainder of ConPlan \$	Narrative Description
			Annual Allocation: \$	Program Income: \$	Prior Year Resources: \$	Total: \$		
HOPWA	public - federal	Short Term Rental, Mortgage and Utility Assistance (STRMU)	252,520	0	0	252,520	250,000	Minnesota Housing(STRMU only)
<u>HOPWA-CV</u>	<u>Public-Federal</u>	<u>STRMU</u>	<u>36,749</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>36,749</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>Minnesota Housing – STRMU with flexibility for all available CARES Act Eligible uses</u>

Table 1 - Expected Resources – Priority Table

Discussion

This amendment adds the HOPWA-CV funds, these resources will be used to expand the existing STRMU assistance programming, however, based on client need, may utilize the other eligible uses of the funds on a case by case basis, as approved by Minnesota Housing as described in AP 30 – Methods of Distribution below.

AP 20 – Goals

Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
Provide Funds for Special-Needs Housing & Services	2017	2021	Non-Homeless Special Needs	Statewide	Human Services	HOPWA: \$252,520 <u>HOPWA-CV: \$36,749</u>	Homelessness Prevention: 200 Persons Assisted

Table 2 – Goals Summary

AP 30 – Methods of Distribution

State Program Name:	Minnesota Housing: HOPWA
Funding Sources:	HOPWA <u>and HOPWA-CV</u>
Describe the state program addressed by the Method of Distribution.	Grant funds are currently awarded to JustUs (FKA Minnesota AIDS Project), which provides the assistance to low-income persons diagnosed with HIV/AIDS, and their families. JustUs is the only HOPWA formula project sponsor in Minnesota outside of the metropolitan area, and works in partnership with over 1,000 volunteers in community and outreach efforts. JustUs provides a range of support services for persons with HIV, works to prevent the spread of HIV, and collaborates with a number of community organizations.
Describe all of the criteria that will be used to select applications and the relative importance of these criteria.	With limited funding, renewal of existing grants is a priority, and 2 year grant cycle increases resource efficiency.

HOPWA-CV Substantial Amendment

<p>Identify the method of selecting project sponsors (including providing full access to grassroots faith-based and other community-based organizations). (HOPWA only)</p>	<p>Following priorities set by the Minnesota HIV Housing Coalition, which acts as an advisory group to make recommendations for HOPWA funding, renewal funding for ongoing programs receive funding priority. There is a separate renewal process for ongoing HOPWA programs. If funds appropriated exceed the amount necessary to continue those programs at comparable levels, or if priorities change to address changing needs, those funds will be made available in the Minnesota Housing Multifamily Consolidated RFP process for application by all eligible sponsors, including eligible grassroots faith-based and other community-based organizations.</p>
<p>Describe how resources will be allocated among funding categories.</p>	<p><u>STRMU is the primary funding category and is used fully for the formula FY 2020 funding. While STRMU is prioritized for the HOPWA-CV funding, the project sponsor will have flexibility to utilize funds as eligible through the CARES Act:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>assisting HOPWA eligible households in accessing essential services and supplies such as food, water, medications, medical care, and information;</u> - <u>educating assisted households on ways to reduce the risk of getting sick or spreading infectious diseases such as COVID-19 to others;</u> - <u>providing 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;</u> - <u>providing nutrition services for eligible households in the form of food banks, groceries, and meal deliveries;</u> - <u>providing lodging at hotels, motels, or other locations to quarantine HOPWA-eligible persons or their household members;</u> - <u>providing 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; and</u> - <u>purchasing equipment that will enable project sponsor to better serve clients remotely.</u>
<p>Describe threshold factors and grant size limits.</p>	<p>With limited funding, renewal of existing grants is a priority.</p>
<p>What are the outcome measures expected as a result of the method of distribution?</p>	<p>Assisted households remain in their homes.</p>

HOPWA-CV Substantial Amendment

AP 70 – HOPWA Goals

One year goals for the number of households to be provided housing through the use of HOPWA for:	
Short-term rent, mortgage, and utility assistance to prevent homelessness of the individual or family	<u>160</u>
Tenant-based rental assistance	0
Units provided in permanent housing facilities developed, leased, or operated with HOPWA funds	0
Units provided in transitional short-term housing facilities developed, leased, or operated with HOPWA funds	0
<u>Other COVID-19 CARES Act Eligible Activities as described in AP30</u>	<u>40</u>
Total	<u>200</u>