

Join the Montachusett Regional Planning Commission as we discuss the CDBG – CV Substantial Amendment, the Attorney General’s Small Business Relief Partnership Grant Program, and Federal Economic Development Administration Funding Opportunities. Everyone is welcome to participate

This meeting will be conducted remotely via GoToMeeting.com Connection information follows the agenda.

Tuesday, May 19, 2020

4:00 pm

Montachusett Regional Planning Commission

A G E N D A

Meeting of the
Montachusett Region
Comprehensive Economic
Development
Strategy Committee
(MRCEDS) and
Montachusett Economic
Development District
(MEDD)

Please RSVP by May 18,
2020 via: [jhume@
mrpc.org](mailto:jhume@mrpc.org)



- **4:00p.m. Introductions and Welcome:**
Glenn Eaton, MRPC Executive Director
- **4:05 p.m. The CDBG – CV Substantial Amendment**
- **4:20 p.m. The Attorney General’s Small Business Relief Partnership Grant Program**
- **4:35 p.m. Federal EDA Funding Opportunities**
- **5:10 p.m. Administrative matters**
- **5:15 p.m. Adjournment**

To connect remotely to the: Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Meeting Tuesday, May 19, 2020 at 4:00 PM (EDT)

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

<https://www.gotomeet.me/MontachusettRPC/ceds-meeting>

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THE CDBG-CV SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT

<p>Jurisdiction: Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) Jurisdiction Web Address: www.mass.gov/dhcd</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• https://www.mass.gov/service- details/community-development- block-grant-cdbg	<p>CDBG-CV Contact Person: Mark Southard Community Development Manager Address: 100 Cambridge Street, Suite 300 Boston, MA 02114 Telephone: (617) 573-1436 Email: mark.southard@mass.gov</p>
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INTRODUCTION

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts proposes to amend its FY2019 CDBG One Year Action Plan to make use of its allocation of CDBG funds pursuant to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act). Consistent with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Memorandum (Memo) dated April 9, 2020, the MA CDBG Program (the Program) will make CDBG-CV funds available to non-entitlement communities throughout the Commonwealth in order to prevent, prepare for and respond to coronavirus. The Program will establish the CDBG-CV Fund to facilitate the use of these funds.

CDBG-CV funds will be able to support a variety of activities including but not limited to:

- Rental and mortgage assistance for eligible households
- Small business assistance
- Micro Enterprise assistance
- Public Social Services – particularly those directed to, but not limited to, senior services, homelessness prevention, food provision, emergency assistance and domestic violence services
- Infrastructure/Construction projects that directly contribute to addressing COVID-19 related issues
- Other eligible activities that directly prevent, prepare for and respond to coronavirus

Municipalities should contact DHCD if there are questions as to whether a project is eligible for CDBG-CV and will meet all program requirements. All CDBG-CV funds must meet one of the three CDBG National Objectives as defined in the 2019 One Year Plan and in federal regulations at 24 CFR 570.483.

Consistent with the CARES Act, this amendment waives any limit established on the issuance of funds to support public social services for any funds made available under this amendment and the FY 2019 One Year Plan.

Additionally, the amendment adopts modified citizen participation procedures established by the CARES Act and described in the Memo. In particular, the Commonwealth will adopt a minimum 5 day comment period and the use of virtual public hearings for FFY 2019 and 2020 CDBG Grants as well as for CDBG-CV funds.

This amendment further waives 2019 One Year Plan Applicant/Project thresholds for applicants to the CDBG-CV fund except as established above or described in further guidance.

Allocation of funds:

CDBG-CV Fund	\$ 19,651,876
Administration and Technical Assistance	\$ 710,883
Total Funding	\$ 20,362,759

Availability of CDBG-CV funds:

Pursuant to this amendment, DHCD will issue guidance detailing the method for applying, requirements for applying and the date on which applications will be accepted for CDBG-CV funds. DHCD reserves the right to distribute CDBG-CV funds in any eligible manner that it deems suitable to be the most expeditious and effective to prevent, prepare for and respond to coronavirus. Further DHCD reserves the right to adopt any additional methods of distribution pursuant to additional HUD guidance.

Awarding of Grants:

Details for the awarding of CDBG-CARES funds will be described in the application guidance. DHCD reserves the right to award CDBG-CARES funds as it determines is the best manner to accomplish the goals of the CARES Act in whole or in part, or to reject any and all proposals received.

Opportunity for Public Comment

Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act)
Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG-CV)

Substantial Amendment to the Fiscal Year 2019
CDBG One-Year Action Plan

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts through the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) is proposing a Substantial Amendment to its FY2019 CDBG One-Year Action Plan identifying the addition of CARES Act funding. The Plan is available on the Department's website – www.mass.gov/dhcd/cdbg. DHCD seeks comments regarding the amendment from all interested parties.

The public comment period will run from April 30, 2020 through close of business on May 7, 2020. Interested parties may submit comments, via email, directly to DHCD at any time during the comment period. Comments may be directed to: Mark Southard, Community Development Manager, DHCD, Mark.Southard@mass.gov.

Stay informed about COVID-19: Latest on cases, guidance, regulations *May. 18th, 2020, 11:00 am* [Read more](#) ▶

Reopening Massachusetts - learn more about the phased approach *May. 18th, 2020, 11:00 am* [Read more](#) ▶



PRESS RELEASE

AG's Office Announces New Grant Program and Partnership to Provide Relief for Small Businesses During COVID-19 Pandemic

\$500,000 Grant Program Will Provide Funds to be Distributed to Local Small Businesses; Partnership Will Provide Pro Bono Legal Support

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

4/16/2020

Office of Attorney General Maura Healey

BOSTON – Attorney General Maura Healey has announced two new initiatives to provide financial relief and legal assistance to small businesses impacted by closures and losses as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“This is an incredibly difficult time financially for people across the state – and our small businesses have been hit especially hard,” said AG Healey. “We hope that these resources will provide some much-needed relief and support to help keep their workforce employed. We will get through this crisis together.”

The AG’s **Small Business Relief Partnership Grant Program** will provide funding to municipalities and regional planning agencies who are assisting small businesses in the communities they serve. Grant funds will be distributed by these organizations to help small business address fixed debt, payroll, accounts payable, lost sales, lost opportunities, and other working capital expenses incurred by the COVID-19 pandemic. The AG’s Office also recently **contributed** (<https://www.boston.gov/news/small-business-relief-fund-created-amid-covid-19-crisis>) \$50,000 to the City of Boston’s Small Business Relief Fund, which provides financial support to small businesses in Boston.

This grant was funded by settlement funds secured by the AG’s Office. Grant awards will be issued in varying amounts up to \$500,000, and individual requests may not exceed \$50,000. As a condition of receiving the grant, all funds must be distributed directly to small business, and no portion of these funds may be used to defray administrative or operational costs.

Grants will be awarded on a rolling basis until funds are depleted. For more information, please

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visit: <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/small-business-relief-partnership-grant-program>

(/service-details/small-business-relief-partnership-grant-program)

The AG's Office also joined a [coalition](#)

(<https://www.ropesgray.com/en/newsroom/news/2020/04/Massachusetts-Law-Firms-Nonprofits-and-Government-Agencies-Launch-COVID-Relief-Coalition>)

of law firms, nonprofits, and government agencies—led by Ropes & Gray, Lawyers for Civil Rights, and Lawyers Clearinghouse—to launch the **COVID Relief Coalition** to provide vulnerable businesses and mission-driven organizations with *pro bono* legal support. Coalition partners have created [a new website](#) (<https://www.covidreliefcoalition.com/en>) that will support the Coalition's mission by enabling small businesses and nonprofits to learn about and apply for emergency loans and other sources of relief. The website will connect eligible small businesses and nonprofits to free legal support by Coalition partners.

In addition to the AG's Office, Coalition partners include the City of Boston, Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce, Boston Bar Association, The Boston Foundation, United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley, Dechert, Fish & Richardson, Foley Hoag, Foley & Lardner, Goodwin, Goulston & Storrs, Mintz, Morgan Lewis and WilmerHale.

Visit the AG's [COVID-19 resource page](#) (</guides/resources-during-covid-19>) for information about how the AG's Office can provide support during this crisis.

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Office of Attorney General Maura Healey

(/orgs/office-of-attorney-general-maura-healey)

Attorney General Maura Healey is the chief lawyer and law enforcement officer of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

More (/orgs/office-of-attorney-general-maura-healey)

May 8, 2020

Mr. John Hume
Planning & Development Director
Montachusets Regional Planning Commission
464 Abbott Avenue
Leominster, MA 01453

RE: Letter Invite for CARES Act Supplemental EDA Awards for
EDDs - Partnership Planning Grant Recipients

Dear Mr. Hume,

As you may be aware, the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA) recently received a supplemental appropriation to “prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus . . . including for necessary expenses for responding to economic injury as a result of coronavirus,” as part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, Pub. L. 116-136 (March 27, 2020) (CARES Act). On May 7, 2020, EDA published an addendum to the FY 2020 Public Works and Economic Adjustment Act Notice of Funding Opportunity to announce EDA’s CARES Act Recovery Assistance, through which EDA will award grants under the supplemental appropriation.

As part of EDA’s CARES Act Recovery Assistance, EDA is inviting certain institutional grantees, including Economic Development Districts (EDDs) and Indian Tribes that currently receive partnership planning grants (Indian Tribes) to apply for supplemental awards to help respond to the unusual and compelling urgency of the coronavirus pandemic. EDA has determined that these institutional partners, by virtue of their longstanding and substantial investment in building capacity to respond to economic shocks and their ongoing partnership with EDA, possess unique abilities to support the CARES Act Recovery Assistance initiative and that it is therefore in the public interest to make awards to these organizations on a non-competitive basis.

Specifically, EDA is inviting your organization to apply for a supplemental financial assistance award of up to \$400,000 to implement the attached scope of work. In brief, the scope of work requires the recipient to undertake one or more of the following pre-approved activities: (1) the development of an economic recovery and resilience plan, tied to the applicant’s approved Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, to address the economic impacts of the coronavirus pandemic, (2) the deployment of disaster recovery coordinators to orchestrate your region’s response to the pandemic, (3) the provision of technical assistance, as necessary, to local governments, businesses, and other stakeholder organizations, and (4) the funding of appropriate technology and staff support for these pandemic-response activities. The period of performance is 24 months. EDA will fund the supplemental award at a 100 percent federal grant rate. Application for this supplemental award will not preclude you from applying to EDA for additional funding for other projects.

To apply for a supplemental award, you must submit the following documents:

1. A letter, signed by your organization’s Authorized Representative, confirming:

- a. That you have reviewed, and are ready, willing, and able to perform, the supplemental award scope of work, and
 - b. That you will continue to adhere, for the duration of the supplemental award, to the assurances you gave by executing Forms ED-900A and CD-511 in conjunction with your most recent EDA grant award application;
2. A completed Form SF-424;
3. A Project Narrative of no more than two pages that describes:
 - a. Which activity or activities under the approved scope of work you are seeking funding for, and
 - b. How the proposed project would help your region “prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus” or respond to “economic injury as a result of coronavirus”;
4. A completed Form SF-424A;
5. A Budget Narrative that aligns with both the SF-424A and the activities described in the Project Narrative;
6. A staffing plan;
7. Documentation of Project submission to the State Single Point of Contact, if applicable, and any comments/clearance received;
8. If indirect costs are included in your budget, a copy of your organization’s current negotiated indirect cost rate or, for governmental organizations, a certificate of indirect cost rate; and,
9. For corporations only, including non-profit corporations, a Certification Regarding Federal Felony and Federal Criminal Tax Convictions, Unpaid Federal Tax Assessments and Delinquent Federal Tax Returns.

Applications should be submitted within 30 days of the date of this letter. If your application is approved, you will be required to provide a Grant Administration Plan that further details the tasks you will undertake pursuant to the scope of work, the staff responsible for the primary tasks, the timeline for implementation of the tasks, and a hiring plan if you will be hiring additional staff under this award.

Please submit the forgoing materials through the Grants.gov website by going directly to <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=326844>. An optional template to assist you with preparing a budget narrative and staffing plan is attached. All applicants are required to have an active SAM.gov registration at the time of award and to maintain active registration throughout the grant period.

This funding invitation is not a guarantee that EDA will approve your application. Approval is contingent upon factors including, but not limited to, the availability of funds, the past grant performance and compliance of your organization, and the responsiveness of your application to the criteria of this letter of invitation. EDA anticipates making funding decisions within 30 days of the receipt of a complete application.

If you have any questions, please contact the Economic Development Representative for your state, Debra Beavin at dbeavin@eda.gov or (267) 559-3385.

Sincerely,

Linda A. Cruz-Carnall
Regional Director

Scope of Work for EDA Economic Development Districts and EDA Indian Tribe Planning Grant Recipients

Under this EDA's CARES Act Recovery Assistance letter invitation for application, an EDA-designated Economic Development District (EDD) or an Indian Tribe that is a current EDA partnership planning grant recipient (Indian Tribe) may apply for funding under one or more of the following Scope of Work elements that has been pre-approved by EDA, based on past planning- and disaster-related grant awards:

An EDA Award to an EDD or Indian Tribe shall support authorized activities to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, or respond to economic injury as a result of coronavirus, and shall include one or more of the following pre-approved grant activities that shall focus on the geographic region within the EDD or Tribal territory:

1. Short-term and long-term economic development planning and coordination to develop or update a disaster recovery and resiliency economic development plan, focused on pandemic recovery and resiliency, consistent with the approved CEDS maintained by the recipient. Alternatively, rather than a separate plan, the CEDS itself can be updated to include a focus on pandemic recovery or resiliency based on the existing or anticipated COVID-19 impact, general needs, and capacities of the EDD or Indian Tribe;
2. Funding for one or more regional disaster economic recovery coordinators for a two-year period to serve the communities and local governments across the geographic region within the EDD or Tribal territory. Disaster recovery coordinators will also serve as a liaison in identifying potential resiliency, mitigation, and economic recovery projects in the disaster-impacted areas. Additional work elements of the position will include but not be limited to the following:
 - i. Implement economic recovery and resilience plans with the goal of rebuilding resilient and sustainable communities throughout the organization's region;
 - ii. Assist in local, state, and federally led coronavirus recovery planning efforts among the most highly impacted communities;
 - iii. Help identify economic development grant-eligible projects with state and federal resources for locally impacted communities to ensure these entities take full advantage of available funding opportunities;
 - iv. Identify and foster private and non-profit partnership opportunities;
 - v. Serve as a liaison between local, state, and federal partners in order to speed the recovery process through strategic technical assistance and local capacity augmentation for the highly impacted communities within the organization's jurisdiction; and
 - vi. Facilitate the implementation of locally generated disaster recovery economic development projects developed as part of the CEDS or CEDS-aligned economic recovery and resilience plan;
3. Technical Assistance and capacity building for member organizations, local businesses, and other local stakeholders impacted by coronavirus; and/or
4. Organizational capacity support for coronavirus response, including technology costs and personnel costs for staff members directly working on or supporting the work of the organization's coronavirus-related economic development response, including additional hiring as needed.