

**CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA**



Agenda Date:	November 4, 2024
Action Required:	Approval for the appropriation of previously unappropriated Community Development Block Grant COVID Relief Funds (CDBG-CV) from HUD, in the amount of \$90,321.98
Presenter:	Anthony Warn, Grants Analyst
Staff Contacts:	Anthony Warn, Grants Analyst Taylor Harvey-Ryan, Grants Program Manager
Title:	Resolution to Appropriate Community Development Block Grant COVID Relief Funds (CDBG-CV) from HUD, in the Amount of \$90,321.98 (2nd reading)

Background

The City of Charlottesville is an Entitlement Community (EC) as designated by the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) and, as such, is the recipient of annual allocations of federal funds through the Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) program. For these funds to be available to the city to support community development activities, they must first be appropriated by the locality's duly elected governing body. This proposal seeks to make full the appropriation of Community Development Block Grant COVID Relief funds awarded in prior years.

Discussion

To support communities struggling to respond to the COVID pandemic, Congress made available to HUD through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act several tranches of funds to be distributed among officially designated Entitlement Communities like Charlottesville. These COVID relief funds were awarded to localities in several rounds as new funds became available to HUD from Congress. While providing the potential for meaningful relief for struggling communities, the fast pace of these awards made it challenging for many HUD-funded localities to keep pace with new awards while also managing their regular HUD-funded programs and their own local COVID responses.

A recent review of the City's CDBG-CV accounts by the Department of Finance indicates that a balance of funds awarded previously by HUD but not fully appropriated within local accounts exists, in the amount of \$90,321.98. By approving this proposal, Council will make the remaining balance of previously unappropriated COVID relief funds available to support new high impact community development activities.

Alignment with City Council's Vision and Strategic Plan

The work of this proposal is closely aligned to Council's vision of the City of Charlottesville as a community in which everyone thrives in that it will make available to the city an additional pool of funds to support meaningful high impact community development activities.

Community Engagement

This proposal benefits from a high degree of community engagement. Specifically, the City has a longstanding set of community development priorities that are reviewed, modified and approved by Council on an annual basis. Additionally, all new activities to be supported by the funds made available here will undergo a period of public engagement and review, culminating in public hearings before Council and a recorded vote of the duly elected members thereof.

Budgetary Impact

As the funds proposed here are federal funds allocated to the City by HUD to support community-benefit activities, and, as such, do not draw from the city's General Fund, no adverse impacts to the City's budget are anticipated. Rather, appropriation of these funds as recommended here will instead serve to make possible new activities directly related to the ongoing COVID pandemic.

Recommendation

Based on the anticipated benefits of community benefit activities that may be made possible through these funds, staff recommends that Council approve the appropriation of CDBG-CV COVID relief funds as presented here:

I move that Council APPROPRIATE the remaining balance of previously unappropriated CDBG-CV COVID relief funds as presented here today.

Alternatives

Given that these funds are provided by the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development to the City of Charlottesville to support meaningful community-benefit activities and, as such, are not drawn from the city's General Fund, no alternative courses of action are considered here.

Attachments

1. Resolution to Appropriate CDBG-CV Funds, in the amount of \$90,321.98