



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
City Commission Agenda Memo
REGULAR MEETING

#21-0881

TO: Honorable Mayor & Members of the
Fort Lauderdale City Commission

FROM: Chris Lagerbloom, ICMA-CM, City Manager

DATE: October 21, 2021

TITLE: Public Hearing to Evaluate All Comments Received and Adoption of
Resolution Authorizing the Submittal of a Grant Application to the Florida
Department of Economic Opportunity's (DEO) Community Development
Block Grant-Coronavirus (CDBG-CV) Program in the Amount of \$906,510
- **(Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)**

Recommendation

Staff recommends the City Commission convene a public hearing to evaluate all the comments received during comment period and adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to submit an application for grant funding to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity's (DEO) Community Development Block Grant-Coronavirus (CDBG-CV) program in the amount of \$906,510.

Background

On March 2, 2021, this item came before the City Commission for approval to submit a pre-application for grant funding to the Florida DEO's CDBG-CV program in the amount of \$906,510 (CAM 21-0254). The DEO reviewed City's pre-application and provided recommendations on how the first public hearing should be conducted and documented as referenced in Exhibit 1.

To fulfill the citizens' participation requirements to submit the full application, two public planning meetings were held on August 13, 2021 and August 27, 2021 to garner public input on how the funding should be used in the community. The certified draft minutes from both meetings are attached as Exhibit 2.

In April 2020, pursuant to passage of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) allocated additional CDBG-CV funds to the State of Florida to address issues related to the impacts of COVID-19. The DEO announced the availability of these additional funds for Small Cities and Entitlement units of local government under the CDBG-CV program. The CDBG-CV programs are designed to help local governments prepare for, prevent, or respond to the health and economic impacts of COVID-19. The activities must be critical to their locality and primarily used for the benefit of low- and moderate- income residents.

The State of Florida's CDBG-CV allocation methodology used a formula that acknowledges a baseline level of housing and community development needs and accounts for geographic differences in COVID impacts (both health and economic impacts). As an entitlement community, the City of Fort Lauderdale is eligible to request funds up to \$906,510. The full application will be submitted on or before November 1, 2021 (Exhibit 4).

To address the City's continuing COVID-19 recovery efforts, the Housing and Community Development division proposes submitting a grant application to request the use of funding as noted below (Table 1) in response to the areas identified from the planning meetings held on August 13, 2021 and August 27, 2021, respectively. Staff has researched and assessed various leading technologies, to identify digital inclusion solutions that will improve the digital equity needs of the community, while maintaining compliance with grant requirements. Upon receipt of the funding, a competitive process will be used to select an appropriate vendor.

Table 1: Proposed grant funding use

Digital Inclusion Broadband Internet Access Pilot for low- income areas:	\$756,510
Education Enrichment Activities:	\$100,000
Administrative Costs:	\$50,000

Resource Impact

There is no fiscal impact associated with this action.

Strategic Connections

This item supports the *Press Play Fort Lauderdale 2024* Strategic Plan, specifically advancing:

- The Neighborhood Enhancement Focus Area
- Goal 4: Build a thriving and inclusive community of neighborhoods.
- Objective: Create a continuum of education services and support

- The Business Development Area
- Goal 5: Build an attractive global and local economic community marketplace.
- Objective: Nurture and support existing local businesses

This item advances the *Fast Forward Fort Lauderdale 2035* Vision Plan: We Are Here.

Attachments

Exhibit 1 – CAM 21-0254 and DEO Pre-Application Response Letter

Exhibit 2 – Notice of Public Meeting and Draft Minutes

Exhibit 3 – Public Hearing Notice.

Exhibit 4 – CDBG-CV Summary Application and Supporting Documents

Exhibit 5 – Resolution

Prepared by: Rachel Williams, Housing and Community Development Manager

Charter Officer: Chris Lagerbloom, ICMA-CM, City Manager