

4) COVID-19 RESPONSE/PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCIES

Citizen Participation Public Comment Period for Consolidated Plan Amendment

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) provides CDBG grantees with flexibilities that make it easier for grantees to utilize CDBG-CV grants. The CARES Act permits HUD to waive, or specify alternative requirements for, any provision of any statute or regulation that the Secretary of HUD administers in connection with the CDBG-CV funds, FY 2019 and FY 2020 CDBG funds, upon a finding by the Secretary that any such waivers or alternative requirements are necessary to expedite or facilitate use of such amounts to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus.

- a) Given the need to expedite actions to respond to COVID-19, HUD waives 24 CFR 91.105 (c)(2) and (k), 91.115(c) (2) and (i) as specified below in order to balance the need to respond quickly to the growing spread and effects of COVID-19 with the statutory requirement to provide reasonable notice and opportunity for citizens to comment on substantial amendments concerning the proposed uses of CDBG, HOME, HTF, HOPWA, or ESG funds.
- b) As a result, HUD has waived the 30-day minimum for the required public comment period for substantial amendments.
- c) *The City of Pembroke Pines therefore amends its Citizen Participation Plan providing no less than a 5-day public comment period for substantial amendments related to its COVID-19 response.*

B. Citizen Participation Reasonable Notice and Opportunity to Comment

- 1. The regulations at 24 CFR 91.105 set forth the citizen participation plan requirements for recipients. For substantial amendments to the consolidated plan, the regulations require the recipient to follow its citizens participation plan to provide reasonable notice and opportunity to comment. The citizen participation plan must state reasonable notice and opportunity will be given.
- 2. Therefore, HUD waives 24 CFR 91.105(c)(2) and (k), 24 CFR 91.115(c)(2) and (i), and 24 CFR 91.401 to allow grantees to determine what constitutes reasonable notice and opportunity to comment given their circumstances.

Citizen Participation and Public Hearings for Consolidated Plan and Action Plans

B. Citizen Participation Reasonable Notice and Opportunity to Comment Cont.

3. The City of Pembroke Pines, following the guidance and flexibilities provided by the CARES Act amends its Citizens Participation Plans as follows:

- a. During the period of time in which in-person public hearings are not required, virtual public hearings will be held in compliance with national/local health authorities' recommendations for social distancing and limiting public gatherings due to public health reasons.
- b. The City of Pembroke Pines has determined that virtual hearings provide reasonable notification and access for citizens in accordance with its plan certifications, provide for timely responses from local officials to all citizen questions and issues and public access to all questions and responses. All virtual public hearings will be noticed in the same manner as in-person hearings as previously outlined in this plan.
- c. A Public Notice will be published in a newspaper of general circulation in accordance with the notification procedures previously outlined in this plan.
- d. All documents related to any substantial amendment proposed in relation to its COVID-19 response will be available for download and review via its website at www.ppines.com as well at Community Redevelopment Associates (CRA) website at <https://www.crafla.com>.
- e. Documents are also available by email request at NCasado@crafla.org.
- f. Comments may be sent to VBermudez@crafla.org , DCreary@crafla.org, or jyaciuk@ppines.com.
- g. Comments may also be provided by calling CRA at (954) 431-7866 ext 111, 954-431-7866 ext 122 or the City of Pembroke Pines at (954) - 392-2100.