



**2020 HUD Programs  
Public Presentation Transcript  
May 11, 2020**

**Slide 1**

Hello, and welcome to the City and County of Denver’s presentation of its draft 2020 HUD Action Plan and amended HUD Consolidated Plan for 2019-2023. I’m Rachel King, Director of HUD Programs, at the City and County of Denver.

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Our agenda today will cover three main topics. First, we will review our HUD-funded programs and the HUD annual planning process. Second, we will review the allocations Denver received under the 2020 CARES Act. Finally, we will look at how these all come together to create our 2020 HUD Action Plan and to amend our Consolidated Plan.

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HUD Programs and Planning Process

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The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (or “HUD”) provides state and local governments with several grant funds on an annual basis. Denver receives four main HUD grants as part of that annual allocation: Community Development Block Grants (or “CDBG”), HOME Investment Partnerships Program (or “HOME”), Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (or “HOPWA”), and the Emergency Solutions Grant (or “ESG”).

As of April 1st, 2020, HUD allocated additional grant funds to Denver under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (commonly referred to as the “CARES” Act). Those additional funds were under the CDBG, HOPWA, and ESG grants.

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To receive annual allocations, or special allocations like under the CARES Act, Denver must complete several studies and plans and submit them to HUD.

First, a 5-year strategic plan, called the “Consolidated Plan” or “ConPlan”, must be developed. As part of that plan, Denver evaluates housing and community development needs and then creates goals and priorities for the 5-year period to address those needs. Then, for each program year under the ConPlan, Denver must also create an annual Action Plan to identify specific priorities and projects.

The 2020 Action Plan is the second action plan and program year under Denver’s Consolidated Plan for 2019 through 2023.

In addition to these plans, Denver must also conduct a fair housing study (called an “Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice”) once every 5 years. This study reviews disparities in access to housing and economic opportunities for protected classes like race, religion, or disability. Denver completed its last Analysis of Impediments in 2019 and that information is applied to the 2020 Action Plan. You may access these documents at any time by visiting our website listed here.

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To create annual Action Plans and use HUD funding, Denver must follow a public planning process. Typically, Denver will publish a draft Consolidated or Action Plan for 30 days. Once the public comment period is final, Denver incorporates comments received into the plans and then submits them to HUD for review and approval. Once HUD approves the plan, Denver can begin the process to receive the grant funds from HUD, which can take anywhere from a several weeks to a couple of months. This process is outlined in Denver’s Citizen Participation Plan for HUD Programs, which provides the process requirements Denver must follow to publish these planning documents.

However, due to the coronavirus pandemic, HUD recognized there is an extreme urgency for communities to receive and distribute HUD funds to recipients. Therefore, HUD issued temporary waivers to allow communities to publish draft plans for an expedited period of five days. Denver acknowledges this urgency to receive funding quickly, and wishes to reduce its public comment period temporarily to 5 days in alignment with this federal waiver. Denver is proposing an amendment to the Citizen Participation Plan to allow for this emergency circumstance.

Therefore, during this public comment period, Denver is posting several documents for review:

- The draft 2020 Action Plan,
- The draft 2019-2023 Consolidated Plan amendment,
- The draft Citizen Participation Plan amendment, and
- The 2019 Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER), which reviews Denver’s 2019 activities and investment outcomes for HUD funding.

All of these documents are available on our website for a five-day public comment period from May 11 to May 16.

During this period, Denver is accepting all questions and comments about the published documents. The questions, along with responses, and all other public comments received, will be listed in the final version of the Action Plan and posted on our website.

Finally, while Denver usually holds several public meetings to discuss its draft plan, due to public health orders, public meetings are not permitted at the present time. Therefore Denver is making this presentation available in English and Spanish on our website. Additionally, the PowerPoint slides and the written transcript are available separately in English and Spanish.

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The 2020 CARES Act

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On March 27th, 2020, the U.S. Congress enacted the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (or “CARES”) Act. As part of the CARES Act, HUD was directed to provide additional funds under the CDBG, HOPWA, and ESG grants to local governments. Denver received notice of these additional CDBG, HOPWA, and ESG grant awards under the CARES Act on April 1st, 2020.

The HUD grants that Denver will receive under the CARES Act can be used for the same types of activities as the normal HUD grants. This is because many of the activities that the HUD grants usually support are already aligned to assist communities with the highest needs, such as low and moderate income populations, minority and immigrant communities, individuals and families experiencing homelessness, and other disadvantaged populations.

For example, Denver typically uses CDBG for activities like small business support, neighborhood services, housing services and assistance payments, and economic development activities.

HOPWA is used for housing support and other support services for persons with AIDS and HIV.

ESG is used for homelessness resolution and support services for people experiencing homelessness.

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Based on current allocations made on April 1st, 2020, Denver will receive a total of \$6,445,314 under the CARES Act.

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How will Denver use these new funds? Due to the coronavirus pandemic, Denver will re-prioritize all activities in 2020 to respond to community needs resulting from the virus. All activities listed under the 2020 Action Plan will either directly support or partially support Denver’s coronavirus response, and Denver will use the additional CARES Act funds for activities that support our existing goals.

Specifically, Denver will invest all HUD funds, including the CARES Act funds, with a strong focus on equity. Priority will be given to housing support for low-income individuals and families, neighborhood services and support for nonprofit community partners, economic recovery support for businesses and their employees, and homelessness resolution services. Particular priority will be given to our neighborhoods most vulnerable to displacement.

Activities funded under the CARES Act allocations will include:

- For CDBG: Rental assistance; shelter operations; small business relief grants and technical assistance; and increased neighborhood support services such as employment training and nonprofit support.
- For HOPWA: mortgage, rental, and utility assistance; transportation and PPE support; and other support services related to COVID-19, including services for non-HIV-positive household members.
- For ESG: support services related to COVID-19 such as rapid re-housing, shelter operations, and outreach services.

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Consolidated Plan and Action Plan

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As we saw earlier, the HUD Consolidated Plan reviews housing and community development needs in order to establish goals and strategies over a 5-year period. The ConPlan tells us how we will allocate our federal funds to address these needs.

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Denver's 2019 to 2023 ConPlan identified 7 strategic goals. They are:

- 1) Create and preserve housing affordability, accessibility, and quality
- 2) Support business and workforce development
- 3) Foster equitable access to city and neighborhood amenities and services

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- 4) Assist people who are homeless and at-risk of homelessness
- 5) Assist populations with special needs
- 6) Assist persons living with HIV/AIDS
- 7) Affirmatively further fair housing choice

Additional information on these goals can be reviewed in our 2019-2023 Consolidated Plan, available on our website. Please note that the Denver's Consolidated Plan is currently being amended to add the CARES Act funds only, and not to change these goals. These goals are all still very relevant for Denver's response to the coronavirus pandemic, and will help guide the activities we invest in now and as we continue to recover from this crisis in the years to come.

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For the 2020 program year, the total amounts that Denver will receive from HUD for both the original 2020 funding allocation and the 2020 CARES Act allocation are listed here. With all grants combined, 2020 HUD funding totals are just shy of \$20 million.

With these updated funding amounts, the 2020 Action Plan outlines Denver's proposed project list. In addition to the specific activities discussed earlier for the CARES Act funds, Denver's 2020 Action Plan also includes several new development projects, various neighborhood and housing services that have historically provided invaluable support to at-risk populations, and new service programs that will enhance support to these populations, especially in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. As discussed above, all of Denver's 2020 HUD-funded activities will either directly support or indirectly support Denver's residents, businesses, and neighborhoods in responding to this emergency.

The next few slides review specific activities listed in the 2020 Action Plan.

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For Housing, activities include:

- Development and operations support for community housing development organizations;
- Downpayment assistance for first-time homebuyers;
- Housing rehabilitation services to make accessibility modifications for homeowners and renters, provide emergency rehab services, and fund rehab projects to allow homeowners to remain in place;
- Housing support services like foreclosure counseling and landlord-tenant dispute counseling;
- Rental housing development activities to create new housing units;
- Tenant-based rental assistance to support low and moderate income renters; and finally,
- Additional specific rental assistance and shelter activities supporting COVID-19

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Economic development activities include:

- Small business stimulus grants, including those specifically for COVID-19;
- Various gap-financing loan programs to support new and expanding businesses; and
- Additional economic development initiatives to support small businesses, entrepreneurs, and micro-businesses with technical assistance and training, including specific COVID-19 response activities and programs for women- and minority-owned businesses

Neighborhood services will include:

- Neighborhood facilities and improvements such as healthcare facilities; and
- Support services like employment training and nonprofit support

HOPWA funds are used to support persons with HIV or AIDS. Proposed services include:

- Rent, mortgage, and utility assistance (both short-term and up to several years);
- Supportive social services;
- Permanent housing placement services; and
- Services specifically addressing COVID-19 such as transportation assistance and hygiene

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The final group of HUD activities are in our ESG grant. ESG funds specifically support individuals and families experiencing homelessness and those transitioning out of homelessness, as well as to provide services to prevent homelessness. Activities include rapid re-housing, shelter operations, and street outreach. Under the CARES Act, the additional ESG-CV funds will be used specifically for Denver's emergency housing activities needed to address the coronavirus pandemic within the community.

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In reviewing this list of proposed activities, we will leave you with a few reminders to keep in mind. While many critical community needs are addressed in these plans, there always exists a greater need than there are dollars available. Please note that many of HUD's funding sources come with restrictions on the types of activities we can fund and for how much. Some of these restrictions have been loosened with waivers from HUD, but not all. It is also important to remember that several types of activities are assisted with HUD funds, ranging from neighborhood support to housing services to business development and economic recovery. Finally, as additional funding may become available later in 2020, Denver may need to adjust these funding allocations as needed. Should additional funds be awarded to Denver, any future adjustments to the proposed plans will be published for additional public comment periods.

If you have any questions or comments about this presentation, the draft plans, and the chosen activities in Denver's proposed projects list, please let us know.

You may reach me, Rachel King, via phone at 720-926-3000, email at [Rachel.King@denvergov.org](mailto:Rachel.King@denvergov.org), or mail, addressed to: Denver Economic Development & Opportunity, Attn: HUD Programs, 101 W. Colfax, Suite 850, Denver Colorado 80202. Accommodations for paper copies will be granted upon request.

Thank you for your interest in Denver's HUD Programs and for your attention during this presentation. We look forward to hearing from you, and to work together to best serve Denver's residents, businesses, and neighborhoods.