

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
City of Billings  
FY2021-2022 Annual Action Plan  
Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Amendment - Coronavirus Response

The City currently has \$554,586 in unallocated CDBG-CV (CARES Act) funding to commit and this amount may be insufficient to meet evolving community needs. In response to the COVID-19 variant surge, the City of Billings is proposing to utilize any and all available CDBG funds to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus. Detailed information about the rules and regulations governing CDBG-CV program, proposed projects, and the upcoming public hearing can be requested via email at [beckettb@BillingsMT.gov](mailto:beckettb@BillingsMT.gov) or calling 406-657-8286 or 711 for TTY.

**PROPOSED PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES:** All activities must benefit low-income individuals and / or households and can be used to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus. Examples include:

- **Public Facility Improvements:** Handwashing stations, public restrooms improvements, infrastructure, accessibility, small-scale rehabilitation, public facility systems, rehabilitation for social distancing, touchless / nonporous surfacing, etc.
  - The City also received an Affordable Housing Development program application for a boiler and room rehabilitation for a local quarantine / isolation and shelter facility. This project is already eligible for a CDBG-CV allocation through the previously-approved CDBG-CV Consolidated Plan amendment. Program guidelines can be viewed online at [www.BillingsMT.gov/chdo](http://www.BillingsMT.gov/chdo).
- **Public Service Activities:** Rent, mental health care, meal distribution, mortgage payments, internet access, utility assistance, childcare, client remote access, vaccination activities, virtual service ability, exposure prevention - staff training, additional cleaning, unmet hospital / public health needs, FEMA match, etc.

**AVAILABLE FUNDING:** The City manages federal resources on a shovel- and close-ready basis. Therefore, FY2021-2022 CDBG routine programs may also be reallocated including, but not limited to: Housing Rehabilitation (\$75,000); Foreclosure Acquisition / Rehabilitation (\$250,000); and First Time Home Buyer (\$173,719). Reallocations to specific projects and programs will undergo public processes and reviews through the Community Development Board and the City Council, as per usual. The City also has \$359,867 in prior year CDBG revenues to allocate, in addition to \$110,000+ in CDBG revenues received throughout this fiscal year.

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:** The public comment period will be open from September 25, 2021 to October 25, 2021. The City's proposed amendment is available online at [www.BillingsMT.gov/CDBGcv](http://www.BillingsMT.gov/CDBGcv).

**PUBLIC HEARING:** The City Council will hold a public hearing on the FY2021-2022 Annual Action Plan amendment on **Monday, October 25, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.** at the City Council meeting in Billings, Montana. The purpose of the public hearing is to obtain public comment on local housing and community development needs relative to proposed CDBG funding recommendations.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** The City of Billings encourages all members of the community to participate in the City's decision-making process. Meetings are accessible to individuals with physical disabilities. Special arrangements for participation in meetings by individuals with hearing, speech, or vision impairment may be made upon request at least three days prior to the meeting. Non-English speaking persons wishing to participate will also be accommodated through translation and / or interpretation in accordance with the City's Language Assistance Plan.

There are several ways the public can participate:

- **Agenda Packet:** Available for viewing on the City's website [www.BillingsMT.gov/councilagendas](http://www.BillingsMT.gov/councilagendas).
- **Viewing the Meeting:** The public may view the meeting on the Community 7 TV - Channel 7 or Channel 507 – Spectrum Cable. The public may also view online at [www.comm7tv.com](http://www.comm7tv.com) and click the *Watch Live* icon. Meeting recordings are also available after the meeting for viewing online via the Community 7 TV website.
- **Public Hearing Participation:** Verbal comments are taken only during the Public Comment periods as indicated on the agenda and during the Public Hearings under the regular agenda. Written communication can be submitted any time prior to or during the public comment period.
  - **In-Person:** The public may attend the meeting in person at City Hall, 210 North 27<sup>th</sup> Street, Billings, MT.
  - **Email:** Emails can be sent to the City Council before 3:00 pm on the date of the Public Hearing at [council@BillingsMT.gov](mailto:council@BillingsMT.gov).
  - **Viewing Council Emails:** All emails sent to the City Council can be viewed online at [www.BillingsMT.gov/councilemails](http://www.BillingsMT.gov/councilemails). Emails received after 3:00 pm and prior to 5:00 pm, may be read during the meeting.

**The public is also encouraged to participate via the following:**

- Email comments to [beckettb@Billingsmt.gov](mailto:beckettb@Billingsmt.gov)
- Leave a voice mail message by calling 406.657.8286, TTY 711
- Send a written letter to Community Development, P.O. Box 1178, Billings, MT 59103

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Please send a PDF of the Affidavit of Publication to Community Development.