CARES ACT

Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES)
St. Louis County Funding Overview

St. Louis County, MN

Rev. 1.0
(4-2020)

Background: The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act was passed by Congress and signed into law by the President on March 27, 2020. CARES includes $2 trillion in economic relief intended to protect the American people from the public health and economic impacts of COVID-19.

On April 2, 2020, St. Louis County received notification of funding allocations from the CARES Act for use to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. The allocations are flowing through two existing programs administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

The St. Louis County area of CARES funding eligibility is all of St. Louis County outside the Duluth city limits. Duluth also received notice of CARES Act allocations to be used within the city limits.

The following information provides residents, businesses, and agencies guidance on the potential use of the COVID-19 funding by St. Louis County.

Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)

Purpose: Funding must be used to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19) among individuals and families who are homeless or receiving homeless assistance; and to support additional homeless assistance and homelessness prevention activities to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19.

Amount: $578,797 (Duluth is receiving an additional $719,699 in ESG funds)

Eligible Uses: HUD is preparing additional guidance on eligible uses. The following are examples, not usage limitations:
- Emergency Shelter – existing ESG spending limits on emergency shelter are waived
  - Temporary shelters are eligible through leasing of existing property or temporary structures
  - Local health officials must determine site necessity and habitability
- Homelessness prevention – assisted clients must meet HUD's at risk of homelessness definition
- Rapid Re-housing – provision of short and medium term rental assistance
- Street Outreach – case management with medical referral, supplies distribution (masks, hand sanitizer, tissues, soap), and supplies for staff
- Training on infectious disease prevention and mitigation
- Hazard pay for staff working directly to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus among persons who are homeless or at risk of homelessness

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

Purpose: Funding must be used to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus (COVID-19). CDBG funds target helping low- and moderate-income people, the prevention or elimination of slums or blight, or activities to address an urgent threat to health or safety.

Amount: $1,164,632 (Duluth is receiving an additional $1,427,448 in CDBG funds)

Eligible Uses: HUD is preparing additional guidance on eligible uses. The following are examples, not usage limitations:

- Acquire, construct, rehab, or install public works or facilities
    - Construct facilities for testing, diagnosis or treatment
    - Rehab a facility as a treatment clinic
    - Acquire and rehab or construct a group living facility for treatment
    - Rehab a commercial building or closed school as a treatment clinic
    - Acquire and rehab a motel or hotel building to expand hospital capacity
    - Interim improvements to private properties to allow temporary quarantine of an individual patient (owner-occupied rehab)
- Business assistance
    - Grants or loans to support business creation or expansion of medical manufacturing companies
    - Short-term assistance to businesses to aid worker retention – must be low- and moderate-income persons
    - Microenterprise technical assistance, grants, or loans to establish or stabilize businesses providing medical, food delivery, cleaning, or other services supporting home health and quarantine
- Public Services – must provide new or quantifiably increased service
    - Job training to health care workers
    - Testing, diagnosis, and other services at a fixed or mobile location
    - Increase capacity and availability of response within existing health facilities
    - Equipment, supplies and materials to carry out a public service
    - Deliver meals to quarantined people or those social distancing because of medical vulnerability
- Planning
    - Gather data and develop specific emergency infectious disease response plans