

**Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Department of Community and Economic Development**

**Notice of Substantial Amendments to the
2017, 2018, 2019, and Proposed 2020 Annual Action Plans**

Notice is hereby given that the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania will amend the methods of distribution (MOD) for the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)-approved 2017, 2018 and 2019 Annual Action Plans and proposed 2020 Annual Action Plans for the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) allowing for more flexibility in response to the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). Details of the amendments are listed below. The changes to the MOD constitute major changes to the Annual Action Plans submitted or proposed to the HUD thus requiring a Substantial Amendment to each year's Action Plan, additional 30 day citizen comment period and a public hearing. This Notice starts the citizen comment period which runs from Sunday, April 5, 2020 through Monday, May 4, 2020. There is no change in the allocations of any of the HUD grant contracts.

The proposed amendments for the 2017, 2018, 2019 and proposed 2020 Annual Action Plan are as follows:

- a. Remove the DCED minimum allocation percentage for the rapid rehousing activity (40%) from each ESG grant MOD;
- b. Add, in each program year, no more than 60% of the annual federal allocation may be used for Emergency Shelter activities (including operations, essential services and street outreach)
- c. Remove DCED maximum of 20% of allocation for emergency shelter activities (operations, essential services, and street outreach) and remove cap of operational support as a percentage of overall operating budget;
- d. Allow Balance of State (non-federal entitlement) subgrantees to request modifications to their existing contracts for these years, based on specific and locally identified needs, to any allowable ESG activity. (Revisions may not exceed HUD threshold for emergency shelter activity at 60%); and;
- e. Allow federal direct-entitlement ESG grantees to request modifications to their existing contracts or seek funding in these years for either rapid rehousing activities or homeless prevention activities. Rapid rehousing must still represent at least 40% of the overall use of ESG funds for direct entitlement communities only.

**Public Hearing For the Substantial Amendments to the 2017, 2018, 2019, and proposed 2020
Annual Action Plans**

Wednesday April 22, 2020

1:00 pm to 2:30 pm

Via Skype for Business or Conference Call ONLY

-----To join this public hearing -----

Join Skype Meeting – Use Skype for Business - Conference ID: 344896648

Join by phone: Toll number: +1 (267) 332-8737

Pin: 344896648# (Dial-in Number)

The hearing will be shortened if there is no one to testify or there is minimal response.

Persons with a disability or Limited English Proficiency who wish to participate in the public hearing should contact Megan L. Snyder, DCED, at (717) 787-5327 or TDD at (717) 346-0308 to discuss how the Department of Community and Economic Development can accommodate his/her needs.

Public Comment

Comments on the Substantial Amendments to the 2017, 2018, 2019 and proposed 2020 Annual Action Plans may be electronically submitted to DCED via the following mailbox: RA-DCEDcdbghomequestions@pa.gov. Comments will also be accepted by telephone by calling (717) 787-5327. Written comments may be submitted to Megan L. Snyder, Center for Community and Housing Development, Department of Community and Economic Development, 400 North Street, 4th Floor Commonwealth Keystone Building, Harrisburg, PA 17120-0225. All comments must be received by 4:00 pm, May 5, 2020 to be included as testimony in the Plan that will be submitted to HUD, no later than May 8, 2020.

Dennis M. Davin
Secretary