



## **BERGEN COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AMENDMENT OF CITIZEN PARTICIPATION PLAN**

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), Public Law 116-136, was signed by President Trump on March 27, 2020. In response to the growing effects of this historic public health crisis, the CARES Act made available \$5 billion to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in Community Development Block Grant Coronavirus (CDBG-CV) funds. Of this amount, the Department immediately allocated \$2 billion based on the fiscal year 2020 CDBG formula. The Community Development Block Grant funds are to be used to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus (COVID-19).

In compliance with HUD Memos, dated March 31, 2020 and April 9, 2020, the following amendments are proposed by the County of Bergen Citizen Participation Plan (CPP), for FY2015 Consolidated Plan/ FY2019 Action Plan and FY2020 Consolidated Plan/FY2020 Action Plan. The amendments set up in response to disaster and emergency preparedness, specifically in response to COVID-19, under the CARES Act.

### **Citizen Participation Plan:**

- Addition of disaster response and declaration of emergency the public comment period will be reduced from 30 days to 5 days.
- Addition of the qualification for Substantial Amendments in the event of a disaster or declaration of emergency
- Amendments to the Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan for Community Development Block Grant- COVID (CDBG-CV) that meet the Substantial Amendment general reduced notice and comment period to accommodate swift allocation of funds. Additionally, the public hearing will be facilitated by the most feasible means at the time (ex: virtual or telephone call-in meetings in lieu of public gatherings and social distancing). Meetings must still accommodate and provide information to those with vision and hearing impairments to the best extent feasible.
- These new provisions are not only applicable to CDBG funding from the CARES Act but many of the new provisions are also applicable to FY2019 and FY2020 CDBG funding. The broad applicability provides grantees with flexibility to help address the challenges facing the nation.
- The HUD approval requirements for substantial amendments 24 CFR 91.505 is waived to facilitate use of CDBG-CV funds to the extent necessary to require submission of a substantial amendment to HUD, for review in accordance with 24 CFR 91.500.