

# **STATE OF MARYLAND CDBG PROGRAM**

## **COVID FUNDING**

### **APPLICATION – ROUND 2**

**August 2020**



# **Maryland**

**DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING  
AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

**Larry Hogan, Governor  
Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor  
Kenneth Holt, Secretary**

Department of Housing and Community Development  
Division of Neighborhood Revitalization  
7800 Harkins Road  
Lanham, MD 20706



**MARYLAND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM  
CORONAVIRUS FUNDING – APPLICATION – ROUND #2**

1. Name of County: **Howard County, Maryland**

2. Address: **9820 Patuxent Woods Drive, Suite 224, Columbia, MD 21046**

3. FID Number: 52-6000965

4. DUNS Number: 102547127

5. Name, phone number, and email of County's CDBG contact person for this application:  
Elizabeth Meadows, 410-313-6324, [emeadows@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:emeadows@howardcountymd.gov)

6. If applicable, identify subrecipients whose projects are included in this application:

N/A

7. Number of Projects Included in this Application:

8. Required Resolution attached?  Yes  No

9. Total CDBG request: \$ 2,000,000.00  
Total Local funds \$ 1,103,250.00  
Total Other funds \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Total all costs \$ 3,103,250.00

10. U.S. Congressional District No. X  
State District No.  
(List State legislators for **entire** district):  
2,3 & 7

11. Date Public Hearing Advertised:

12. Date Public Hearing Held:

13. Is Citizens Participation Plan current?  Yes  No Please attach.  
If not, did you attach new plan?  Yes  No

14. Is Residential Anti-Displacement Plan current?  Yes  No Please attach.  
If not, did you attach new plan?  Yes  No

15. Date Application Submitted:

## **PART A**

### **SUMMARY OF APPLICATION: Summarize the information found in the application**

In March 2020, Governor Hogan's "Stay at home" orders required most Howard County residents to stay home to help reduce the spread of COVID-19. The harsh consequences of implementing this mandate is the shutdown of the economy; which has caused tens of thousands of Howard County residents to lose household income from employment or business interruptions due to COVID-19-related business closures.

Howard County is requesting \$2,000,000 in CDBG-CV funding from the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) to provide up to six (6) consecutive months of short-term rental assistance for approximately 290 income-eligible tenant households for an average total assistance amount of \$6,713.70. Calculations are based on County's awards of CDBG-CV funding to six (6) of our nonprofit partners in June 2020, to provide up to three (3) consecutive months of short-term rental subsidies on July 6, 2020.

The Community Action Council of Howard County, Inc. (CAC), a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit, will use the CDBG-CV funding to provide up to six (6) months of rent subsidies for low and moderate-income Howard County residents to help them prevent eviction, stay safely housed and avoid homelessness.

Howard County has awarded \$1,103,250 (\$503,250 in July and \$600,000 in September) to the Community Action Council (CAC) to provide rental assistance to residents affected by the pandemic. As of September 14, 2020, CAC has expended the first award of \$503,250 to assist 144 residents with up to 3 months of rental assistance. The average rental assistance per household was \$3,300. The grant agreement for the 2nd award of \$600,000 is pending signatures. Applicants may begin completing applications for these funds on October 5, 2020.

Since the funding from the 1st award was expended so quickly, CAC has been maintaining a waiting list. The waiting list has the names of approximately 150 residents seeking rental assistance. CAC intends to contact these residents to make them aware of the new application before October 5th. CAC anticipates that the 2nd round of funding will also be expended quickly.

## Part B

**NEED: Describe the need for rental assistance in your county as a result of the coronavirus, the proposed accomplishments and impact of activities. Identify data sources.**

**Number of households in need of rental assistance at time of application:  
% of population of county in need of assistance:**

### HOUSING BURDEN

According to the 2018 Howard County Rental Survey, Howard County has 120,822 housing units, with 32,358 (27%) being renter occupied households (source: Census Reporter ACS 2018). Over 23,600 rental units are in professionally managed multifamily communities. Of the 32,358 renter households, 15,665 (48%) are cost burdened. HUD defines cost-burdened families as those who pay more than 30 percent of their income on housing and may have difficulty affording necessities such as food, clothing, transportation and medical care.

#### Total Rental Units with Cost Burden

Cost Burden	Number of Units	% of Total
>30%	9,724	
>50%	5,941	
<b>Total Rental Units</b>	<b>15,665</b>	<b>48%</b>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau – 2018 1-year release

### HOMELESSNESS CONCERN

Some housing characteristics that are linked with instability and increased risk of homelessness include single earner households with children and persons with a disability who are unable to obtain sustainable employment. Unexpected crises such as loss of income or loss of a second income earner to the household and/or a medical or transportation emergency cost, contribute to destabilizing low- and moderate-income households. Residents that experience extreme housing cost burdens can become unstable and face homelessness with a first-time crisis or loss of income. COVID-19 fits the definition of a first-time crisis that can lead to a loss of household income and destabilization of a resident's housing situation.

### COVID-19 HARDSHIPS

When Governor Hogan enacted a State of Emergency on March 5th, Howard County Executive Calvin Ball followed by declaring a State of Emergency in Howard County on March 15, 2020. Schools, daycare centers, recreation centers, retail stores, restaurants and businesses of all types were forced to shut down to help stop the spread of COVID-19. As of September 20, 2020, the County has had 4,966 confirmed cases, 2,471 active cases, 2,371 recovered cases and 124 deaths from COVID-19.

While the State and County are now in Phase 3 of reopening, many residents are still facing unemployment, medical issues, loss of household income and issues related to virtual education for school-age children and reduced daycare options.

Like many jurisdictions nationwide, Howard County has experienced a significant increase in unemployment insurance filings due to the pandemic. The economic shutdown, job loss, furloughs, and reduced household income has led 37,398 residents to file for unemployment insurance as of August 22, 2020, with the highest number of filings during the first week of April. As of June 30th, the unemployment rate in Howard County was 6.7%. While this is lower than the statewide average of 8.5%, it is significant to residents that are unemployed and trying to maintain stable housing.

## **NEEDS IDENTIFIED**

The County conducted three (3) virtual public needs hearings prior to receiving a CDBG-CV Funding Award in June 2020. During the needs hearings, it was noted that rental assistance and food insecurity are the overwhelming needs in the County across all income levels and age cohorts.

Housing providers are concerned that these residents will be unable to pay back rent and could face eviction and/or become homeless; if we are unable to relieve some of the unpaid rent with short-term rent subsidies.

According to the United Way of Central Maryland's, "Effects of COVID-19 on Maryland Nonprofits and the Communities They Serve Round 2 Survey Highlights" (July 9, 2020) which obtained responses from 146 Nonprofit organizations. Responses received in Section 2 Client Needs are reflected here:

**2.3 Client Hardship:** United Way attempted to shed light on the nature of financial hardship clients were experiencing as a result of COVID-19. 89.3% of survey participants identified Rent/Mortgage payments as the most significant, financial burden, followed by bills incurred through Utilities (85.3%), and Credit Card Debt (36%).

**2.4 New Clients Due to the Pandemic:** Thirty-one (31) organizations reported that they were serving anywhere between 1-99 new clients as a result of the pandemic – *new* being defined as never previously having received services or having started services after early March of 2020. Twenty-one (21) organization reported that they were serving 100-249 new clients, and 26 nonprofits said they had added more than 250 new clients to their caseload. Seventeen (17) organization said they had not added any new clients due to COVID-19.

## **POPULATIONS/HOUSEHOLDS MOST AFFECTED**

Based on an analysis of information provided by the U.S. Census data: lower income renter and owner households; elderly persons; single person households; large families; victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking; and persons with disabilities were more likely to be affected by these housing problems.

## **NON-HOMELESS SPECIAL NEEDS**

Howard County identifies non-homeless special needs populations as follows:

- Elderly Persons (65 years and older)
- Frail Elderly
- Persons with mental, physical, and/or developmental disabilities
- Persons with Alcohol or Drug Addiction
- Persons with HIV/AIDS and their families
- Victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking
- Homeless and Unaccompanied Youth

These special needs populations typically require a significant level of supportive services to maintain safe and stable housing.

## **RECENT ACTIONS TAKEN TO RESPOND TO RESIDENT NEEDS:**

The Howard County Council passed Emergency Bill 33-2020: The Rental Property and Stability Act. The Rental Property and Stability Act encourages landlords and tenants to communicate regarding contractual obligations and abilities to meet these obligations during the ongoing COVID-19 public health emergency. Specifically, the Act provides certain prohibitions on actions landlords can take during the COVID-19 emergency, including no increases in rent or mobile home park fees, or the assessment of late fees for non-payment of rent, and prohibits certain notices to tenants and mobile home park residents. It also encourages the creation of payment plans to meet payment of rent obligations and outlines provisions for payment plan agreements. The Act was enacted on May 23, 2020 and provides for relief during the state of emergency and for three months following the declared end of the emergency, which has not yet been determined. The Office of Consumer Protection is here to help facilitate communication between parties to help and provide amicable solutions to rental situations during this difficult time. However, as with any landlord-tenant matter, the Office of Consumer Protection encourages individuals to consult with an attorney if resident has any questions regarding CB33.

In early June 2020, Howard County awarded **\$800,000** in CARES Act funding to six (6) nonprofit partners to pay up to 3 consecutive months of rent or mortgage payments for County residents impacted by a COVID-19 job loss or reduction in employment hours. Residents could begin applying to these organizations on July 6, 2020. The Community Action Council (CAC) was one of the awardees. As of September 14, 2020, applications from 227 households have been received, and 166 households have received funding to pay past due rent or mortgage payments. The average assistance received per household is \$3300. Based on the average amount of assistance provided, the remaining 61 applications in process will exhaust these funds by the end of September. While 227 households received assistance from this 1<sup>st</sup> round of funding, this is just a snapshot of the need that exists in Howard County.

Excerpt from September 3rd press release, *County Executive Calvin Ball announced \$60,581 in CARES Act funding for Maryland Legal Aid (MLA) to assist residents facing eviction and other legal challenges exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. The grant will help provide the education, assistance and representation needed to prevent evictions in forthcoming failure to pay rent proceedings.*

*“With the Courts re-opening this week, there is an immediate need for legal assistance to support tenants in demonstrating substantial loss of income-related to COVID-19,” said Ball. “We’ve seen more than 46,000 residents file for unemployment since March, and there are many of our neighbors who are unable to afford private attorney assistance on top of their daily needs.”*

*MLA will provide in-court tenant assistance and representation, conduct virtual training and presentations to educate the public on tenants’ rights, and engage in community outreach and promote project services.*

*“With hundreds of thousands of Marylanders facing eviction as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the need for legal assistance is dire,” said Maryland Attorney General Brian E. Frosh. “On behalf of the Attorney General’s Access to Justice Covid-19 Task Force, we appreciate County Executive Ball’s efforts in providing support for these essential services.”*

Following a call with Sheriff Harris on September 14, 2020, he stated that his office is preparing to serve 80 FTP (failure to pay rent) notices before September 30<sup>th</sup>. Sheriff Harris indicated that the pre-COVID volume for FTP notices averaged 40 per month. The double number of FTP notices received by the sheriff’s office demonstrates the impact of household income loss associated with COVID-19. The CDC eviction notice provides some protection for renters facing eviction, but renters must provide proof of COVID-related loss of household income due to job loss, reduction in hours and/or medical illness. The grant to Maryland Legal Aid will be invaluable to residents that receive eviction notices and must appear in court.

On September 11, 2020, Howard County amended the existing grant agreements with three (3) of the previous grantees and awarded an additional **\$800,000** in CARES Act funding to them to assist residents that are still unemployed or experiencing a loss in household income due to the pandemic. The application for this round of funding will open to residents on October 5, 2020. CAC is one of the awardees of this second round of funding. Because grant funds are paid to grantees on a reimbursement basis, it is very important to have fully executed grant agreements in place before residents receive funding. Based on the average assistance expended in the first grant award, these funds have the potential to assist another 250 +/- households to pay past due rent or mortgage payments, avoid eviction or foreclosure, and stay safely housed.

**UNMET NEED:**

We contacted the Maryland Multi-Housing Association in mid-September. Currently they do not have county-specific data for delinquency rates, but they were able to share statewide rates:

	May	June	July	August	AVERAGE
MD Delinquency Rate:	10.17%	10.74%	12.58%	12.32%	<b>11.45%</b>
HoCo Delinquency Rate:	Unknown				

Based on the available data, the average change in the monthly delinquency rate (for May-August) is an increase of approximately 1.13%. This means that an additional 411 households are delinquent each month this year compared to last year.

The County has awarded \$1,600,000 in CARES Act funding to provide rental assistance to low- and moderate-income households struggling due to the pandemic. The County has also awarded \$770,356 in CDBG-CV funding to the Howard County Housing Commission and Bridges to Housing Stability to assist 2,000 tenants in commission-owned or Bridges-owned rental units. Despite these awards, there is still an unmet need for additional rental assistance in our community.

Howard County is seeking \$2 million in CDBG-CV funding from MD DHCD to help residents that are still experiencing a loss of household income and are not able to pay their monthly housing rent expense.

HC Renters	32,358
Avg. delinquency rate per MMHA as of August 2020	11.45%
Number of delinquent HC renters	3,706
Total amount needed for 3 mos. of rent assistance	\$12,229,140
Amount of rental assistance committed by HC as of Sept. 2020	\$ 2,370,356
Amount of rental assistance still needed	\$ 9,858,784
Amount of CDBG-CV request from HC to MD DHCD (20%)	\$ 2,000,000
Remaining unmet need	\$ 7,858,784

**PROJECT MANAGEMENT:**

1. Identify the primary person who will administer this project. Discuss their experience with CDBG regulations and requirements and past project implementation.

Beth Stein is Community Action Council's (CAC) Housing Coordinator and will be the primary lead contact person within CAC for ensuring programmatic and project implementation. Beth will administer the CDBG-CV Project. She has been the supervisor for a team of Community Workers and Administrative Support personnel for six (6) years who process Housing Eviction and Move in support to prevent Homelessness in Howard County residents. Beth has managed the process for all CAC housing grants including CDBG.

2. Identify others who will assist in the administration of this CDBG project.

Floyd Klauka, Director of Finance / Delavago Scruggs, Grant Manager / Albert Drago, Accounts Manager / Tom White, Director of Operations / Alex Bussman, Community Worker / Faben Moges, Community Worker / Janelle Clements, Community Worker / Michelle Farris, Community Worker / Beverly Eskridge, Community Worker / Norca Ayala, Community Worker / Zeenita Dorsey, Community Worker / Ava Richardson, Community Worker / Marlene Lomax, Auditor / Sherry Elswick, Administrative Assistant

Note: CAC uses an indirect rate for administrative costs: The rate established for government grants is a "10% De Minimis Rate" based on direct cost.

3. If requesting funding for Project Administration for staffing, please identify the following:

Person	# Hours Anticipated to Work on Project	Hourly Wage	Total Funds
See names and note in #2			

4. If planning to use Project Administration funds for expenses other than staffing, identify those expenses and estimated costs.

Expenses	Total Funds
N/A	

**PROJECT BUDGET – Attach description of how costs were determined and identify if any funds committed, pending or to be sought are private, state, local or federal funds made available specifically to address coronavirus.**

ACTIVITY	SOURCES OF FUNDS					TOTALS	SOURCE*
	CDBG	LOCAL (Cash)	LOCAL (In-kind)	FEDERAL	OTHER		
1 Short-term Rent Subsidies	\$2,000,000.00	\$1,103,250.00				3,103,250.00	C
2							
3							
4							
5							
6							
7							
8							
9							
PROJECT ADMIN							
TOTALS BY SOURCES OF FUNDS	\$ 2,000,000.	\$ 1,103,250.	\$	\$	\$	\$3,103,250.	

Local includes County and/or Subrecipient

\*Note if each source is Committed (C), Pending (P) or Not Sought (N)

PART D

**SUMMARY OF ALL PROJECTS:**

<b>LIST OF ALL PROJECTS</b>	<b>CDBG REQUEST</b>	<b>TOTAL LEVERAGE</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
1 Community Action Agency – Short-term Rent Subsidies	\$2,000,000.00	\$1,103,250.00	\$3,103,250.00
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
PROJECT ADMINISTRATION FOR COUNTY			
<b>TOTALS BY SOURCES OF FUNDS</b>	\$2,000,000.00	\$1,103,250.00	\$3,103,250.00



**PART E**

**GRANT MANAGEMENT PLAN: Applicants are to respond to questions below as to how the grant will be managed by the County.**

6. Identify the primary person who will administer this grant. Discuss their experience with CDBG regulations and requirements and past grant implementation.

Elizabeth Meadows will primary person administering this grant. She has extensive experience with pre-and post-award grant management for federal, state and local funding brought into Howard and Harford County to serve at-risk populations and low-income communities. In 18 years she has successfully secured and managed over \$20 million in federal funding.

7. Identify others in County government who will assist in the administration of this CDBG project.

Nkechi M. Animashaun will assist in the administration of the grant. Nkechi has been with Howard County's Department of Housing and Community Development for 5 years, and has over 8 years of grant administration, and budgeting experience. Nkechi also has an in-depth knowledge of federal, state and local grants, and is the primary contact and administrator of the HOME Program in Howard County. Nkechi has a master's degree in Community Planning and will utilize her skills to not only track spending, but to report on the outcomes of, and evaluate the grant program.

8. Discuss how you will manage subrecipient(s).

Howard County will utilize a grant agreement to outline the terms of the grant agreement and include such as use of funds, term of the agreement and reporting requirements. In addition to the grant agreement, the County will require period reporting. A qualitative report will be due quarterly which will include narrative regarding the successes, challenges and overall status of the grant. The report will also require statistical data such as the number of households assisted to date, along with race, income and ethnicity. The County will also ensure that all subrecipients are in good legal standing with the State of Maryland before administering any funds.

9. If requesting funding for Project Administration for County government staffing, please identify the following:

Person	# Hours Anticipated to Work on Grant	Hourly Wage	Total Funds
N/A			

10. If planning to use Project Administration funds for expenses other than staffing, identify those expenses and estimated costs.

Expenses	Total Funds
N/A	

## **STATEMENT OF ASSURANCES AND CERTIFICATIONS**

The applicant hereby assures and certifies that it:

1. has adopted and maintains a written Citizen Participation Plan in accordance with the citizen participation requirements for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program at the Code of Federal Regulations 24 Part 570.486; and
2. held the required number of public hearings, conducted a needs assessment and provided appropriate notice to ensure participation of citizens in the development the project(s) and of this application for CDBG funding; and
3. assures that all reasonable steps have been taken to minimize the displacement of persons as a result of CDBG assisted activities identified in this application and has adopted and maintains a Residential Anti-Displacement and Relocation Assistance Plan required under Section 104(d) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, 42 U.S.C. § 5304(d), as amended, in connection with any activity assisted with funding under the CDBG Program; and
4. will not attempt to recover any capital costs of public improvements assisted with CDBG funds, by assessing any amount against properties owned and occupied by persons of low- and moderate-income, including any fee charged or assessment made as a condition of obtaining access to such public improvements. However, if CDBG funds are used to pay the proportion of a fee or assessment attributable to the capital costs of public improvements (assisted in part with CDBG funds) financed from other revenue sources, an assessment or charge may be made against the property with respect to the public improvements financed by a source other than with CDBG funds. In addition, with respect to properties owned and occupied by moderate-income (but not low-income) families, an assessment or charge may be made against the property with respect to the public improvements financed by a source other than CDBG funds if the State certifies that it lacks CDBG funds to cover the assessment; and
5. will conduct and administer grant in conformity with title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d) and the Fair Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 3601-3619) and implementing regulations and agrees to take action to affirmatively further fair housing; and
6. has adopted and is enforcing or will adopt prior to commencing grant activities:
  - a) a policy prohibiting the use of excessive force by law enforcement agencies within its jurisdiction against any individuals engaged in non-violent civil rights demonstrations; and
  - b) a policy of enforcing applicable State and local laws against physically barring entrance to or exit from a facility or location that is the subject of such non-violent civil rights demonstrations within its jurisdiction.

7. will certify, to the best of the certifying official's knowledge and belief, that:
  - a) no Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid, by or on behalf of it, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the awarding of any Federal contract, the making of any Federal grant, the making of any Federal loan, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement.
  - b) if any funds other than Federal funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress with this Federal contract, grant, loan or cooperative agreement, it will complete and submit Standard Form- LLL, Disclosure Form to Report lobbying in accordance with its instructions; and
  - c) it will require that the language of paragraphs (a) and (b) of this certification be included in the award documents for all sub-awards at all tiers (including subcontracts, subgrants and contracts under grants, loans, and cooperative agreements) and that all subrecipients shall certify and disclose accordingly.
8. will adhere to federal and state Code of Conduct standards relative to conflict of interest restrictions and financial disclosure requirements for local elected officials and candidates; and
9. will prevent fraud, waste and abuse of federal funds and ensure that funds are expended on activities that are reasonable and necessary; and
10. will comply with the provisions of Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, 42 U.S.C. § 5301 et seq., as amended, Title 24 CFR Part 570, and with other applicable State and Federal laws if awarded this grant; and
11. has not requested funds that duplicate other sources of funds made available to address the preparation, prevention or recovery of the coronavirus.

I declare that I am duly authorized to make these certifications on behalf of the applicant and certify that the above actions have or will be taken.

Calvin Ball, County Executive

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Typed Name and Title  
 Chief Elected Official

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Date

## ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW RECORD

Grantee:

Program: Emergency Rental Assistance

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### Compliance with Other (58.6) Laws and Authorities

**Description:** The County will provide funding to low and moderate - income households as emergency rental assistance. The funding is temporary as it is only for a 6-month period.

The following federal requirements do not apply to temporary assistance:

1. Airport Runway Clear Zones and Accident Potential Zones
  2. Coastal Barrier Resources
  3. Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973, as amended.
- 

By signing below the Responsible Entity certifies in writing that the activities under this program are Categorically Excluded (not subject to 58.5) and meets the conditions specified for such determination per section 24 CFR 58.35(b).

Chief Elected Official – Calvin B. Ball,  
County Executive

Date

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**Maryland Community Development Block Grant Program  
Request for Release of Funds and Certification**

**This form is to be signed by the grantee when requesting the Release of Funds for their Maryland Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funded project and requesting the authority to use such funds. Please submit to the Maryland CDBG Environmental Officer upon completion.**

**Part 1. Program Description and Request for Release of Funds** (to be completed by grantee.)

1. Project Name	2. Grant Number	3. OMB Catalog Number(s) <b>14.228</b>
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4. Name and address of responsible grantee

9820 Patuxent Woods Drive, Columbia, MD 21046

5. For information about this request contact: (*grantee contact name and phone number*)

Elizabeth Meadows, 410-313-6324

6. Project Address (*street, city, county, for project location*)  
County-wide Assistance

7. Brief Project Description

Howard County is requesting \$2,000,000.00 in CDBG-CV funding from the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) to provide up to six (6) consecutive months of short-term rental assistance for approximately 290 income-eligible tenant households for an average total assistance amount of \$6,713.70.

The Community Action Council of Howard County, Inc.(CAC), a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit, will use the CDBG-CV funding to provide up to six (6) months of rent subsidies for low and moderate-income Howard County residents affected by COVID-19.

**Part 2. Environmental Certification**

With reference to the above Project(s)/Activity(s), I, the undersigned officer of this jurisdiction, certify that:

1. We have fully carried out the responsibilities for environmental review, decision-making and action pertaining to the project(s) named above.
2. We have assumed responsibility for and complied with and will continue to comply with, the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, and the environmental procedures, permit requirements and statutory obligations of the laws cited in 24 CFR 58.5; and also agree to comply with the authorities in 24 CFR 58.6 and applicable state and local laws.
3. We have assumed responsibility for and complied with and will continue to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, and its implementing regulations 36 CFR 800, including consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer, Indian tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations, and the public.
4. After considering the type and degree of environmental effects identified by the environmental review completed for the proposed project described in Part 1 of this request, I have found that the proposal  *did*  *did not* require the preparation and dissemination of an environmental impact statement.

- 5. We have disseminated and/or published in the manner prescribed by 24 CFR 58.43 and 58.55 a notice to the public in accordance with 24 CFR 58.70 and as evidenced by the attached copy (copies) or evidence of posting and mailing procedure.
- 6. The dates for all statutory and regulatory time periods for review, comment or other action are in compliance with procedures and requirements of 24 CFR Part 58.
- 7. In accordance with 24 CFR 58.71(b), the responsible entity will advise the recipient (if different from the responsible entity) of any special environmental conditions that must be adhered to in carrying out the project.

As the duly designated certifying official of the responsible entity, I also certify that:

- 8. I am authorized to and do consent to assume the status of Federal official under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and each provision of law designated in the 24 CFR 58.5 list of NEPA-related authorities insofar as the provisions of these laws apply to the HUD responsibilities for environmental review, decision-making and action that have been assumed by the responsible entity.
- 9. I am authorized to and do accept, on behalf of the jurisdiction personally, the jurisdiction of the Federal courts for the enforcement of all these responsibilities, in my capacity as certifying officer of the responsible entity.

Signature of Chief Elected Official	Title <b>County Executive</b>
	Date Signed

Address **George Howard Building  
3430 Courthouse Drive  
Ellicott City, MD 21043**