



Community Development Block Grant Program
HOME Investment Partnership Program



May 6, 2020

Mr. Lorenzo Claxton, Director
Community Planning and Development
U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Little Rock Field Office, Region VI
425 West Capitol Avenue - Suite 1000
Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Mr. Claxton:

As it relates to the recent HUD memo on April 9, 2020 titled the "CARES Act Flexibilities for CDBG Funds Used to Support Coronavirus Response and plan amendment waiver", the City of Fort Smith intends to exercise the following waivers:

- 1) Exceed the 15% Public Service Cap for COVID-19 related activities for the CDBG-CV, Program Year 2019, and PY 2020 CDBG Programs.
- 2) Reimburse costs incurred for response to COVID-19 with the CDBG-CV, provided that they are in compliance with CDBG requirements.
- 3) Amend the Citizen Participation Plan to establish expedited procedures to draft, propose, or amend consolidated plans and the Program Year 2019 Annual Action Plan for the purpose of adding the CDBG-CV funding and projects/activities.

The city is in the process of developing a community needs assessment survey to go online hopefully this week. Next we will revise the Citizen Participation Plan and place it out for the required 5 day review and comment period. Once the survey ends and needs are known, program design will begin based on the responses. The city will prepare a Request for Proposals and a committee of subject matter experts will recommend to staff of the activities to fund. At that point it will be known if we must amend the 5 Year Consolidated Plan and may need to request an additional waiver to perform that process.

I want to extend the Fort Smith staff's thanks to all of the HUD officials that participated in the Zoom Conference hosted by West Memphis. It was extremely helpful to me and I'm sure everyone else as well.

623 Garrison Avenue - P.O. Box 1908 - Fort Smith, AR 72902 - 479-784-2209



Mr. Lorenzo S. Claxton
May 6, 2020
Page 2

Should you have any questions or need additional information, please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Matt Jennings", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Matt Jennings
Director of Community Development

cc: Mayor George McGill
Carl E. Geffken, City Administrator
Lisa Spigner, HUD CPD Representative