



May 2, 2024

St. Johns County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Proposed Substantial Amendment to the 2021-2022 Annual Action Plan

Notice to Citizens: St. Johns County receives Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds as an entitlement community. This program is administered through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to benefit low/moderate-income residents. St. Johns County uses CDBG funds within the county's unincorporated areas and within the city limits of St. Augustine Beach. The County has prepared a 2021-2025 Consolidated Plan and a 2021-2022 Annual Action Plan as required by HUD to receive CDBG funding. The Consolidated Plan specifies priorities for the CDBG program. The Annual Action Plan establishes activities and projects for how the funds will be used for qualifying purposes. St. Johns County is now considering a Substantial Amendment to its 2021-2022 Annual Action Plan.

Consolidated Plan: The Five Year Consolidated Plan was prepared by St. Johns County and includes a discussion of needs and strategies to meet those needs. It was developed with participation from County staff, elected officials, affordable housing, social service providers, and local citizens. Various public hearings, meetings, and discussions were held to obtain citizen input on community needs. As a result of this process, the following priorities were developed:

Priority #1- Rehabilitation of Existing Housing- Focus on improving health and safety, code violations, accessibility, and sustainability for extremely low to moderate-income individuals (including but not limited to elderly, disabled, and veterans) below 50% AMI.

Priority #2 - Public Services- Public service will enhance the living environment of the targeted population by addressing unmet basic needs and the economic factors to adequately provide for themselves.

Priority #3- Public Facilities and Infrastructure- Provision of adequate infrastructure and public facilities to ensure their operation at an efficient level of service and enhance the livability of low and moderate-income neighborhoods.

Priority #4 - Homeless Assistance- Provide housing and support services to assist individuals and families who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

Priority #5 -Affordable Housing- Increase the supply of affordable houses for sale and affordable rental housing available to very- low, low, moderate, and middle-income residents and veterans, elderly, disabled, and homeless persons through new construction or acquisition.

Priority #6-Economic Development- Promotion of Economic Development activities to respond to general needs and the impact of COVID-19.

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Proposed change to the 2021-2022 Annual Action Plan: The Public Service Project Kids Safe Zone has requested funds to continue to provide free after-school mentoring, tutoring, and homework assistance to low- and moderate- (LIM) income families in the West Augustine Community Redevelopment Area. The program benefits parents with issues affording quality after-school educational opportunities and care. Therefore, it is proposed to reallocate \$33,405.25 in funding from the Planning and Administration Activity, which are unused funds, and apply it to the Public Service Project-Kids Safe Zone.

Public Comment Period: As required by HUD, the proposed Substantial Amendment to the 2021-2022 Annual Action Plan is available for review Monday-Friday, 8:00 AM- 5:00 PM at the Health and Human Services Department at 200 San Sebastian View, Suite 2300, St. Augustine, FL 32084. The document can also be viewed on the St. Johns County website: [Community Development Block Grant \(st-johns.flus\)](https://www.stjohnsfl.us/Community-Development-Block-Grant). A public hearing was held at 10:00 a.m. on January 25, 2024, in the Kingfisher Conference Room in the Health and Human Services building at 200 San Sebastian View, Augustine, FL 32084. A second hearing was held at the Kingfisher Conference Room on Tuesday, March 26, 2024, at 10:00 am.

A 15 day- public comment period was initially provided from January 18, 2024 to February 2, 2024. Public comments will be accepted for an additional 15 days from May 2, 2024 to May 17, 2024. Comments can be provided by calling 904-827- 6890 or emailing housing@sjcfl.us. A written response will be offered to all written comments received within fifteen (15) days. For additional information, please call 904-827-6897.

Public Hearing: Final action was taken on the proposed Substantial Amendment to the 2021-2022 Annual Action Plan at the regularly scheduled Board of County Commissioners meeting at 9:00 a.m. on February 6, 2024. The Board of County Commissioners meets in the County Auditorium at 500 San Sebastian View, St. Augustine, FL 32084. Citizens may offer public comments at this meeting.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS: Florida U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development will accept objections to its release of funds and St. Johns County's certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of St Johns County; (b) St Johns County has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the development process have committed funds, incurred costs or undertaken activities not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by Florida U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and

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submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76) and shall be addressed to the Florida U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development administration office at:

Community Planning & Development Representative
U.S. Dept. of Housing & Urban Development Office of Community Planning & Development
ATTN: Ana O'Toole
400 W. Bay Street, Suite 1015
Jacksonville, Florida 32202
Phone: (904) 208-6074

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons needing special accommodation to participate in the CDBG program or in public meetings should contact the ADA Coordinator at 904-209-0650. Deaf and/or hard-of-hearing individuals may use Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD): 904-209-0650 or the Florida Relay Service: 800-955-8770. CDBG information is provided in English; the Board of County Commissioners meeting will also be conducted in English. If you require a translator, please call 904-209-0650. To request services, please notify the County at least five business days before the need for services.

Jennifer Harvey
Housing and Community Service Manager Housing and Community Development
St. Johns County Health and Human Services