

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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GOVERNOR



ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC
AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

KENNETH W. BOSWELL
DIRECTOR

STATE OF ALABAMA

April 8, 2020

MEMORANDUM

TO: Interested Parties

FROM: Shabbir Olia
CED Division Chief

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "SO", written over the printed name "Shabbir Olia".

SUBJECT: ADECA CED Division's Request for Grantees to Submit CDBG Grant
Monitoring Documents and Closeout Documents to CDBG Staff for
Desk Reviews due to COVID-19 / Coronavirus Situation

Please be aware that most of the ADECA CDBG staff continue to work remotely from home. However, as much as possible, the staff are attempting to maintain our regular office schedule concerning the revised CDBG grant closeout deadline (June 1, 2020) and revised CDBG grant application deadline (July 10, 2020). Because of this situation, there is a great urgency that you take advantage of the opportunity offered to you to scan and email your open grant projects' monitoring documents so that our staff's desktop monitoring can be done. The same is true for your projects' closeout documents. Please note that if you delay requesting a desktop monitoring of your project and/or delay in submitting project closeout documents, you assume the risk that such monitoring and closeout work might not be completed in time for your community to be eligible to apply for new grant funds. Your early submission of these documents can allow the staff time to correct errors; however, late submissions will require that your documents be error free. During the upcoming months, the CDBG staff will face time constraints for monitoring and closing out grants, reviewing PY2020 applications, and implementing the new federal COVID-19 Program which will have its own time constraints.

Simultaneously, we are seeking your input on possible uses of ADECA's federal COVID-19 CDBG allocation of \$14,011,058 so that we can commence our planning process once HUD issues guidelines for the use of these funds. Please let us know your ideas on possible activities the State could undertake so that these funds can be used most effectively in addressing this crisis. Important criteria should include ensuring that any suggested activities must be able to be rapidly deployed so as to be timely effective. HUD has indicated that the normal 15% limit on the use of grant funds for "public services" activities will be waived. Although ADECA historically has not allowed the use of any CDBG funds for "public services" activities, this new program does allow such use if it will result in great benefits toward addressing this crisis. We will consider your ideas when drafting the State's plan because your input in the development of the plan is critical to our planning process. We will also provide you with the opportunity to submit comments on such draft plan at a future public hearing. We ask that you email your ideas to Shabbir.olia@adeca.alabama.gov.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please call me or call your program supervisor with any questions you have. And note that the staff have forwarded their office telephone numbers to their personal cell phones so as to maintain open lines of communication.

SAO.KAR