

## Summary of Changes to the Citizen Participation Plan

---

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the administration of Federal funds in terms of how local governments conduct public processes and the need to quickly process grant dollars. The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act, passed by Congress on March 27, 2020 provides additional funding in the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Programs to help address the increased needs as a result of COVID-19. In order to make it possible for communities to do this, HUD has waived some requirements of the process, specifically time periods required for public comment prior to amending the Citizen Participation Plan (CPP), Con Plan, Assessment of Fair Housing (AFH) and Annual Action Plan (AAP). Attached is a revised action plan that provides compliance with HUD rules while maintaining the flexibility necessary to quickly distribute funding made available through emergency appropriations.

The following changes are reflected in the redline version of the Citizen Participation Plan.

- Access to Meeting: HCDC meetings are clarified to permit virtual public hearings, so long as questions can be submitted in real time
- Public Hearings: Bullet added to specify that virtual public hearings will include technology to allow for real time responses to questions and accommodations
- Substantial Change/Amendment Process: Public comment period on amendment to AFH, Con Plan, AAP and all other plans reduced from 30 days to minimum amount “otherwise specified” under waivers, 5 days in this case
- Housing and Community Development Public Hearings: Public comment period on new AFH, Con Plan, reduced from 30 days to minimum amount “otherwise specified” under waivers
- Consolidated Plan: The number of public hearings held prior to Con Plan submission to HUD will be reduced from two to one
- Activities Exempt from Citizen Participation Requirements: Section added to permit exemptions from CPP when permitted by HUD due to emergency declarations
- Additionally, the percentage of Lake County residents who speak Spanish at home has been updated with more recent American Community Survey data.

Approval of the revised CPP provides a pathway for expedited distribution of funding to the community to meet critical needs while maintaining transparency with the public and incorporating public comment.