

Office of Community Development
State of Louisiana
Division of Administration

JOHN BEL EDWARDS
GOVERNOR



JAY DARDENNE
COMMISSIONER OF ADMINISTRATION

MEMORANDUM

To: Parties Interested in State-Administered HUD-Funded Programs
From: *Traci Watts* Traci Watts, LCDBG Director
Date: September 14, 2020
Subject: Notice of Availability of Proposed FY 2019 Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report and Amended Citizen Participation Plan

As set forth in 24 CFR Part 91, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires state agencies which administer certain HUD programs to incorporate their planning and application requirements into one master plan called the Consolidated Plan. In Louisiana, the state agencies participating in this consolidated planning process and the HUD funded program(s) administered by each agency include: the Division of Administration/Office of Community Development (Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program), the Louisiana Housing Corporation (HOME Investment Partnerships Program, the Emergency Solutions Grants Program and the National Housing Trust Fund), and the Louisiana Department of Health, STD/HIV Program (Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS Program).

The Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report for the FY 2019 Program Year that ended March 31, 2020, has been prepared. The purpose of this document is to report on the progress of the goals and objectives identified in the State's Consolidated Plan for FY 2015 - FY 2019 and the FY 2019 Consolidated Annual Action Plan.

The Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report will be available for review beginning September 14, 2020 on each agency's website:

- Office of Community Development: http://www.doa.la.gov/Pages/ocd/cdbg/about_lcdbg.aspx
- LA Housing Corporation: <https://www.lhc.la.gov/>
- LA Department of Health, STD/HIV Office: <https://ldh.la.gov/>

Written comments may be submitted beginning September 14, 2020, and will be accepted through September 29, 2020. Comments can be mailed to the Office of Community Development at P.O. Box 94095, Baton Rouge, LA. 70804-9095. Comments may also be faxed to (225) 342-1947 or emailed to Heather.Paul@la.gov.

Amended State of Louisiana Citizen Participation Plan

The regulation at 24 CFR 91.520(a) requires each grantee to submit a performance report to HUD within 90 days after the close of the grantee's program year. Under the authority at 24 CFR 91.600, HUD is authorized to waive this requirement when a determination of good cause is made and supported by documentation. Given the outbreak of the coronavirus known as SARS-CoV-2 and the

extenuating circumstances placed on state and local governments, and citizens, HUD has determined that there is good cause for waiving this provision. The extenuating circumstances and administrative strain supporting this waiver are well documented in the broad public news coverage related to the outbreak. For program year 2019 CAPERs, the requirement that grantees submit a performance report within 90 days after the close of a jurisdiction's program year is waived, subject to the condition that within 180 days after the close of a jurisdiction's program year the jurisdiction shall submit its performance report. Following recent guidance from HUD, the State has prepared an amended Citizen Participation Plan in response to this national emergency.

The State will utilize this waiver and submit its CAPER within 180 days after the close of the program year and will also forego a public hearing in consideration of COVID-19. A copy of the CAPER will be available for review on each of the agencies' websites. The State will provide an opportunity for citizens to comment on the CAPER. A written notice of the availability of the CAPER and solicitation of comments will also be sent to the compiled email/mail list of more than eight-hundred names. The State has identified that the period for the submittal of comments will be no less than fifteen calendar days, beginning September 14, 2020, and received no later than September 29, 2020. Written comments may be submitted to the Office of Community Development, Post Office Box 94095, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-9095 or emailed to heather.paul@la.gov. A summary of all comments received will be included in the CAPER.

The amended Citizen Participation Plan will be available for review beginning September 14, 2020, on the internet at https://www.doa.la.gov/Pages/ocd/cdbg/about_lcdbg.aspx. Written comments may be submitted beginning September 14, 2020, and must be received no later than September 21, 2020. Comments may be emailed to heather.paul@la.gov.

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