



Howard County

Internal Memorandum

DATE: September 10, 2020

TO: Lonnie R. Robbins
Chief Administrative Officer

FROM: Kelly Cimino, Director - *K. Cimino*
Department of Housing and Community Development

SUBJECT: Testimony on CR137-2020

REQUEST:

The Department of Housing and Community Development is requesting authority to apply to the State of Maryland for funding under the Maryland Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program for funds awarded through the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The Department is requesting \$2 million in CARES Act funding with this application.

BACKGROUND:

The Department awarded \$800,000 in CARES Act funding to 6 nonprofit agencies in July to help residents pay up to 3 months of past due rent. Over the last 10 weeks, 196 households received \$543,006 in rental assistance funding. The remaining funds will likely be exhausted by the end of September. Residents continue to contact agencies seeking assistance. This additional funding could assist an additional 400 households struggling to pay their rent due to a COVID-related loss of household income.

The Department will post the completed application to the Department's webpage on September 21st for a 5-day public comment period. All comments must be received by the Chief of Community Planning and Grants in the department by close of business on Friday, September 25, 2020.

RECOMMENDATION:

Once the public comment period expires, the Department will finalize the application and prepare to submit it to the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development by the October 2nd deadline. A local resolution is required as part of the application submission. The Department appreciates support of CR137-2020 to fulfill the application requirement for the additional CARES Act funding.

Thank you for your consideration.

