

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
CDBG-CV (CARES ACT FUNDING)
LEBANON COUNTY AND SOUTH LEBANON TOWNSHIP
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM**

Notice is hereby given by the Lebanon County Board of Commissioners and on behalf of South Lebanon Township that it will hold a virtual public hearing on August 10, 2020 at 11:00am. The hearing will be held via Zoom teleconference and will require pre-registration to obtain the call-in details. Contact Dan Lyons at dlyons@lcha.com or 717-273-9326 to register.

This Public Hearing is accessible to persons with disabilities and/or persons with Limited English Proficiency. If you wish to participate and require special accommodations, please notify the Redevelopment Authority's office 72 hours in advance at 717-273-9326 or dlyons@lcha.com, TDD users 7-1-1 PA Telecommunications Relay Center.

The purpose of the hearing is to discuss the proposed use of CARES Act Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to prevent the spread of COVID-19, prepare for and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. The County, including South Lebanon Township, will receive an allocation of \$241,502 from the CARES Act in CDBG-CV funds from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

A summary of the plan for the use of the funds is available on the Redevelopment Authority's website at www.lebanoncountyredevelopment.com or can be viewed by appointment at the offices of the Redevelopment Authority at 39 N 12th Street, Lebanon, PA 17046.

All interested parties are invited to attend the public hearing and give oral testimony or present written comments by August 10, 2020. The Commissioners will consider approval of the plan for use of the funds at their regular meeting on August 20, 2020.

By order of
Board of Commissioners
Jamie Wolgemuth, County Administrator



**Proposed Use of Funds
August 3, 2020**

County of Lebanon

The County of Lebanon expects to receive \$166,152 in CDBG-CV funding from the PA Department of Community & Economic Development for the purpose of preventing, preparing for, and responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. The County held a public hearing on June 9th via Zoom to gather public input on needs related to the COVID-19 pandemic that might be addressed with the CDBG-CV funding. At that time, the primary areas of identified need were: rent and utility assistance, food insecurity, and the costs of complying with health and safety best practices for public service agencies and other businesses to remain in operation during the pandemic. Since then, other funding sources have been announced that may better address some of these needs, though we expect there will still be unmet need by the time the County is in receipt of the CDBG-CV funding (estimated January, 2021).

The Redevelopment Authority, as administrator of the County’s CDBG Program, set a July 21st deadline for agencies and entities to solicit CDBG-CV funding. Request letters were received from Lebanon Family Health Services and the Volunteers in Medicine clinic. We believe some agencies refrained from soliciting funds due to the lack of guidance from HUD on eligibility/implentation and especially duplication of benefits. Businesses were originally told that having received PPP assistance from the SBA would disqualify them from pursuing CDBG-CV. When this was reversed, we spread the word immediately but there was little time left to develop an application. For this reason, we are proposing dividing the funding into three programs which would allow entities and individuals to receive assistance down the line even if they didn’t solicit the funding in July.

Beyond simply identifying the programs, we will hold off on drafting guidelines until we get closer to January when we think the funds will become available because we expect to learn much more about the changing need as time goes on and want to tailor the programs to meet that need most effectively. Hopefully, HUD will release the federal register notice with implenting guidance in the meantime. Here is the proposed allocation of funding, though final budget numbers are subject to revision dependent upon demand in each of the programs.

Program	Description	Amount
Public Service Assistance	Reimburse public service agencies for the eligible proportion of unreimbursed costs incurred to meet increased health and safety standards related to COVID-19 in order to continue serving Lebanon County residents during the pandemic.	\$37,057
Rental Assistance	Up to 3 months of rental assistance for eligible low- and moderate-income County residents whose ability to meet their rental obligations was adversely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.	\$49,594
Small Business Assistance	Reimbursement of eligible unreimbursed business expenses related to the COVID-19 pandemic for qualified low- and moderate-income businesses.	\$49,594
Administration		\$29,907
		\$166,152

South Lebanon Township

The Township has proposed allocating half of its expected \$75,350 (less the 18% for grant administration) to a program

for assisting local qualified businesses with eligible unreimbursed expenses related to the COVID-19 pandemic and the other half to individuals in need of rental, mortgage, or utility assistance. Details and program guidelines will be developed closer to the time when funding is expected to be available so as to efficiently address the unmet need at that time.

Program	Description	Amount
Small Business Assistance	Reimbursement of eligible unreimbursed business expenses related to the COVID-19 pandemic for qualified low- and moderate-income businesses.	\$30,894
Rental/Mortgage/Utility Assistance	Up to 3 months of rental/mortgage/utility assistance for eligible low- and moderate-income County residents whose ability to meet their obligations was adversely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.	\$30,893
Administration		\$13,563
		\$75,350