

**City of La Porte Substantial Amendments to the 2019-2023 Consolidated Plan
and 2020 Annual Action Plan**

Background:

The City of La Porte's federal Consolidated Plan details the funding strategy for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for the period between October 1, 2019, and September 30, 2023. The Annual Action Plan details each year within the 5-year Consolidated Plan and outlines the implementation of annual funding which is developed through significant public input, analyses, and planning.

The City of La Porte's Citizen Participation Plan (CPP) describes the efforts that the City will take to encourage its residents to participate in developing these plans. It also provides requirements for public process when a "substantial amendment" to the Annual Action Plan is proposed. The following changes constitute a substantial amendment and require public notice as described in the CPP:

- Increases or decreases by the greater of \$100,000 in the amount allocated to a category of funding.
- A significant change to an activity's proposed beneficiaries or persons served.
- To carry out an activity not previously described in the Annual Action Plan.
- To change the use of CDBG funds from one eligible activity to another.

However, due to COVID-19, the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has issued guidance that waives the Citizen Participation Plan requirements for entitlement recipients, provided that (1) no fewer than five days are provided for public comment and that (2) reasonable notice and the opportunity to comment is provided.

Additionally, HUD has awarded supplemental funding through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) that requires programming in the FY 2020 Annual Action Plan.

Proposed Substantial Amendment:

The City is proposing the following amendment to the 2019-2023 Consolidated Plan to add eligible activities that were not previously identified:

The use of the CDBG-CV funds for replacement of the elevator at the Civic Auditorium meets two of the three national objectives: benefits low to moderate-income residents and meets an urgent need.

The elevator replacement at the Civic Auditorium is an eligible public facility cost. The "tieback" to Coronavirus is the replacement of the elevator allows the Auditorium to provide a facility that can test individuals for Coronavirus on one floor and administer COVID vaccines on another floor while allowing for safe distancing among people. Use of two floors of the Civic Auditorium mitigates potential future coronavirus pandemic impacts. The new elevator will allow accessible improvements for people with disabilities that reduce contact.

Installation of a new elevator also allows the Civic Auditorium to comply with Americans with Disabilities Act requirements. All three floors of the facility would be accessible to disabled people.

Between July 2020 and June 2021, the Civic Auditorium hosted a COVID testing site in the lower level of the building. The COVID testing was in collaboration with the City of La Porte, Indiana State Department of Public Health, La Porte County Health Department, La Porte County Emergency Management, and Optum Health.

HealthLinc also conducted testing every Monday during September 2021.

Walgreens also hosted two vaccination clinics at the Civic. HealthLinc conducted vaccination clinics in March/April 2021.

The City of La Porte plans to use \$241,379.34 in CDBG-CV funds to replace the elevator. The funding is from Grant B-20-MW-18-0021.

The City of La Porte, Indiana is proposing to amend its Program Year 2020 to allocated \$241,379.34 in Community Development Block Grant Coronavirus (CDBG-CV) funding received from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) in order to respond to coronavirus (Covid-19) impacts in the community. The funding, allocated in May 2020, will go to address needs within La Porte because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Summary of Activities		Project Description
<u>Project Name:</u>	Civic Elevator Removal and Replacement	Award \$22,500 of CDBG-CV funding for public services to The Pax Center food pantry and \$22,500 to The Salvation Army food pantry and hot meal program Matrix Code 05 LMC Beneficiaries:
<u>Funding:</u>	CDBG-CV	
Original Amount:	\$0	
Additional Amount:	\$241,379.34	
Total:	\$241,379.34	

Analysis

This proposal qualifies as a substantial amendment because it meets this specific criterion:

- To carry out an activity not previously described in the Annual Action Plan.
1. Programming \$241,379.34 in CDBG funding made available by the CARES Act.

Public Process

The City is providing notice of a five-day public comment period as part of the HUD public participation exemption process. Additionally, one public hearing will be held to provide opportunities for public comment:

- Thursday, October 16, 2025 –Substantial Amendments adoption, in person meeting at 1:15 PM in the City Council Chambers, City Hall, 801 Michigan Avenue, La Porte, Indiana.

On page 127 of the approved 2019-2023 Annual Action Plan, amend the estimated CDBG Activities in section AP-35 Project Summary, by adding the projects as follow: AP-35 Projects Summary Information

Table 1 – Project Summary

Original Action Plan Projects:

#	Project Name	CDBG Allocation
1	Program Administration	\$84,625
2	Housing Fair	\$6,500
3	Owner Occupied Rehab Program	\$70,000
4	Rehabilitation Program Administration	\$35,479
5	Demolition	\$255,000
6	Healthy Families	\$12,000
7	Homeless Case Management	\$16,454
8	Youth Mentoring	\$4,500
9	Minor Home Repair	\$3,650
10	Elevator Replacement at Civic	\$241,379

Amended Action Plan Projects:

#	Project Name	CDBG Allocation	CDBG-CV Allocation
1	Program Administration	\$84,625	\$13,791
2	Housing Fair	\$6,500	\$0
3	Owner Occupied Rehab Program	\$70,000	\$0
4	Rehabilitation Program Administration	\$35,479	\$0
5	Demolition	\$255,000	\$0
6	Healthy Families	\$12,000	\$0
7	Homeless Case Management	\$16,454	\$0
8	Youth Mentoring	\$4,500	\$0
9	Minor Home Repair	\$3,650	\$0
10	Youth Services-“Wifi Hotspots” for LPCSC	\$0	\$19,895
11	Financial Assistance-Center Twp. Trustee	\$0	\$147,129
12	Financial Assistance-Catholic Charities	\$0	\$50,000
13	Food Pantry-The Pax Center	\$0	\$45,000
14	Civic Elevator Replacement	\$0	\$241,379
	Total	\$488,208	\$517,197

1	Project Name	Program Administration
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	Administration, Planning and Management
	Needs Addressed	Administration, Planning and Management
	Funding	CDBG: \$84,625 CDBG-CV: \$13,791
	Description	Administration and Monitoring of the CDBG Program.
	Target Date	9/30/2020
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Not applicable.
	Location Description	
	Planned Activities	The project matrix code is 21A, General Program Administration.
2	Project Name	Housing Fair
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	Ensure availability of housing choices for all.

	Needs Addressed	Housing Affordable Housing
	Funding	CDBG: \$6,500
	Description	Administrative expenses related to City's annual fair housing conference.
	Target Date	9/30/2020
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Not applicable.
	Location Description	
	Planned Activities	National Objective is Fair Housing, subject to Administrative Cap. The project matrix code is 21D Fair Housing Activities
3	Project Name	Owner Occupied Rehab Program
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	Maintain availability of decent & afford housing
	Needs Addressed	Housing Affordable Housing
	Funding	CDBG: \$70,000
	Description	Rehab loan and grants to minimum of two (2) eligible low and moderate-income homeowners in selected neighborhoods. Renovation and rehabilitation of owner-occupied single-family homes, which includes exterior, interior rehabilitation, code compliance, LBP removal and mitigation, accessibility modification, and emergency repairs.
	Target Date	9/30/2020
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Approximately two low to moderate income households will benefit. (0-80%)
	Location Description	Citywide
	Planned Activities	The national objective is Low/Mod Income Housing Benefit (LMH 0-80%). The project matrix code is 14A, Rehab; Single-Unit Residential
4	Project Name	Rehabilitation Program Administration
	Target Area	Citywide

	Goals Supported	Maintain availability of decent & afford housing
	Needs Addressed	Housing Affordable Housing
	Funding	CDBG: \$35,479
	Description	Administration of owner-occupied residential rehabilitation and affordable housing program including monitoring, management, accounting, and final inspection.
	Target Date	9/30/2019
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	This activity is association with the Owner-occupied Rehab Project. Two households are projected to be assisted.
	Location Description	
	Planned Activities	The national objective is Low/Mod Income Housing Benefit (LMH 0-80%). The project matrix code is 14H, Rehab Administration.
5	Project Name	Demolition
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	Foster neighborhood stability and enrichment
	Needs Addressed	Non-housing Community Development
	Funding	CDBG: \$255,000
	Description	Provides funding to demolish four (4) vacant and blighted structures low- and moderate-income area.
	Target Date	9/30/2020
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Four (4) structures will be demolished
	Location Description	Citywide
	Planned Activities	The national objective is Slum/blight Spot Benefit (SBS). The project matrix code is 04, Clearance and Demolition.
6	Project Name	Healthy Families
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	Support opportunities to improve quality of life
	Needs Addressed	Public Services

	Funding	CDBG: \$12,000
	Description	Dunebrook will provide support and case management services to at risk families in need of assistance. Services provided include parenting education, child development education, assessments, prevention of abuse, mental health counseling, referrals to community services, and participation of families in bonding activities. All assisted families will be low and moderate income. The program will assist 50 families.
	Target Date	9/30/2020
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Approximately 50 Low to Moderate income people will be assisted. (0-80%)
	Location Description	Citywide
	Planned Activities	The national objective is Low/Mod Income Clientele Benefit (LMC 0-80%). The project matrix code is 05L, Child Care Services.
7	Project Name	Homeless Case Management
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	Reduce the risk of homelessness
	Needs Addressed	Public Services Homeless
	Funding	CDBG: \$16,454
	Description	Swanson Center will provide intensive case management to 40 individuals with serious mental illness or have co-occurring substance abuse disorders and are experiencing homelessness or are at-risk of becoming homeless. Services include community-based outreach, mental health counseling, substance abuse counseling, case management, and temporary housing.
	Target Date	9/30/2020
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Approximately 40 low-income households will be assisted (0-50%).
	Location Description	Swanson Center, 7224 W. 400 North, Michigan City, IN 46360, is the administrative office. The case management services, and street outreach will take place throughout the City of La Porte.

	Planned Activities	The national objective is Low/Mod Income Housing Benefit (LMH 0-50%). The project matrix code is 05O, Mental Health Services
8	Project Name	Youth Mentoring
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	Support opportunities to improve quality of life
	Needs Addressed	Public Services Non-homeless Special Needs
	Funding	CDBG: \$4,500
	Description	The Youth Service Bureau will provide services to up to 25 low to moderate-income elementary school students in La Porte with a mentor who provides positive youth development and acts as a proper role model once a week during school hours. Services funded by CDBG are targeted at Riley, Handley, and Hailmann Schools which are all Title I schools and have a high occurrence of free/reduced lunch rates.
	Target Date	9/30/2020
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Approximately 25 low to moderate income people will be assisted. (0-80% MFI)
	Location Description	Riley, Handley, and Hailmann Schools
	Planned Activities	The national objective is Low/Mod Income Limited Clientele Benefit (LMC 0-80%). The project matrix code is 05D, Youth Services.
9	Project Name	Minor Home Repair
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	Maintain availability of decent & afford housing Foster neighborhood stability and enrichment Reduce the risk of homelessness
	Needs Addressed	Affordable Housing Public Services
	Funding	CDBG: \$3,650

	Description	Funding will provide administrative assistance to Rebuilding Together of La Porte County to provide free home repairs to low to moderate-income homeowners in La Porte. Home repairs include patching of roofs, painting, landscaping, installation of new furnaces, electrical repairs such as installing working outlets and switches, replacement of light bulbs, installation of exterior lighting, plumbing repairs such as faucet replacement, new traps, new toilets, and cleaning out of clutter from houses and garages. A total of six households are expected to receive assistance.
	Target Date	9/30/2020
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Approximately six low to moderate income households will be assisted. (0-80%)
	Location Description	Citywide
	Planned Activities	The national objective is Low/Mod Income Housing Benefit (LMH 0-80%). The project matrix code is 05, Other Public Services.
10	Project Name	Youth Services-“Wi-Fi Hotspots” for LPCSC
	Target Area	School Districts of Lincoln, Riley, and Handley Schools
	Goals Supported	Create a suitable living environment
	Needs Addressed	Public Services
	Funding	CDBG-CV \$19,895
	Description	Allocate CDBG-CV funding under youth services for the purchase and installation of three (3) “wi-fi hot spots” at Lincoln, Riley, and Handley Elementary Schools to allow students to participate more fully during eLearning periods of the school year and in summer school. The students will need to be enrolled in LPCSC to access the hotspot. Many low-income families do not have internet access at home. This activity will allow students to complete eLearning activities on school-provided tablets. Matrix Code 05D LMC
	Target Date	June 1, 2021
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	The City projects 2,059 individuals (students) will benefit from the installation of the three hotspots.

	Location Description	The school districts surround Lincoln, Riley, and Handley schools.
	Planned Activities	The services will provide 2,059 students with access to eLearning activities.
11	Project Name	Financial Assistance-Center Township Trustee
	Target Area	City of La Porte-Center Township
	Goals Supported	Creating suitable living environments through public services
	Needs Addressed	Public services
	Funding	CDBG-CV: \$147,129
	Description	Project will provide funds for basic needs assistance such as rental payments, the purchase of prescriptions, and utility payments for families affected by a job loss or reduction in hours from a job due to Covid-19. A coordination of services will take place among the Center Township Trustee, Catholic Charities, First Steps, and the Salvation Army of La Porte.
	Target Date	December 31, 2020
	Estimate the number of and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	250 families
	Location Description	City of La Porte-Center Township
	Planned Activities	Program will serve 250 families with financial assistance to help offset financial struggles because of Covid-19.
12	Project Name	Financial Assistance-Catholic Charities
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	Creating suitable living environments through public services
	Needs Addressed	Public Services
	Funding	CDBG-CV: \$50,000
	Description	Project will provide funds for basic needs assistance such as rental payments, the purchase of prescriptions, and utility payments for families affected by a job loss or reduction in hours from a job due to Covid-19. A coordination of services will take place among the Center Township Trustee, Catholic Charities, First Steps, and the Salvation Army of La Porte.
	Target Date	December 31, 2020

	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	90 households
	Location Description	Citywide
	Planned Activities	Program will serve 90 families with financial assistance to help offset financial struggles because of Covid-19.
13	Project Name	Food Pantry-The Pax Center
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	Creating suitable living environments through public services
	Needs Addressed	Public Services
	Funding	CDBG-CV: \$45,000
	Description	The Pax Center will purchase food through the Northern Indiana Food Bank for distribution during their weekly food bank. The households receiving the food boxes are directly impacted through job loss or reduction of hours due to Covid-19.
	Target Date	December 31, 2020
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	300 households
	Location Description	Citywide
	Planned Activities	The Pax Center will provide approximately 300 households with boxes of food on a weekly basis through the end of December 2020.
14	Project Name	Elevator Replacement at Civic Auditorium
	Target Area	City-wide
	Goals Supported	Public Facility other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit
	Needs Addressed	Urgent Need
	Funding	CDBG-CV: \$241,379

	Description	Financial assistance to the City of La Porte to replace the elevator located within the La Porte Civic Auditorium to allow residents who are disabled to access the basement, main level and second floor for events/activities hosted by the Civic Auditorium. There is currently an elevator located in the building however, it is unsafe for the public to use and does not allow ADA-compliance in the facility. Currently the senior center is meeting in the basement of the facility. Without a working elevator, access to the main floor and second floor is prohibited. During 2020-2022, the basement was used as a COVID testing site. Should COVID become a pandemic again, testing would be planned in the basement with vaccinations occurring on the second floor allowing safe distancing for both activities.
	Target Date	December 31, 2025
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	2,500
	Location Description	Citywide
	Planned Activities	The Civic Auditorium and Gymnasium will replace the current inoperable elevator with a new working one traveling between the basement and second floor. The new elevator will make the Civic in compliance with ADA rules and provide for ample and safe distance between COVID testing and vaccination within the Civic. Testing will take place on the basement level with vaccinations provided on the second floor. There is ample room to separate participants by at least six feet as recommended by the CDC. The Civic Auditorium and Gymnasium will become compliant with the ADA with the new elevator. The national objective is URG. The matrix code is 3F. The proposed number of participants is 2,500.

