

**Town of Cicero**  
**CDBG-CV & ESG-CV**  
**CARES ACT Action Plan Program Year 2019**  
**October 1, 2019 through September 30, 2020**



**Town of Cicero, Cook County, Illinois**  
**Larry Dominick, Town President**

Prepared Under the Direction Of:  
The Cicero Department of Housing  
1634 S. Laramie Avenue  
Cicero, Illinois 60804  
[jrueda@thetownofcicero.com](mailto:jrueda@thetownofcicero.com)

Phone: (708) 656-8223  
Fax: (708) 656-8342

Jorge M. Rueda  
Executive Director



**Table of Contents**

CDBG- CV CARES ACT Summary and Mission.....3  
Measurable Goals and Objectives.....4  
Addressing the needs of Cicero Residents impacted by Covid-19 .....5  
Detailed Budget for Project.....6  
ESG-CV CARES ACT Summary and Mission .....7  
Measurable Goals and Objectives.....8  
Addressing the needs of Cicero Residents impacted by Covid-19 .....8  
Detailed Budget for Project.....10

## **CDBG-CV CARES ACT Summary and Mission**

The Town of Cicero is a local municipality with a mission to service the public with funding to prevent the spread of Coronavirus, to prepare and respond to the pandemic accordingly, by helping residents and small businesses in need. The health and well-being of our community is our highest priority.

As a result, the Town of Cicero will be receiving a CDBG-CV grant in the amount of \$1,001,910 to support Coronavirus Response.

- The Town of Cicero is a community in high need of assistance for the 80,000 residents with average capita income, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, near the lowest in the Chicago-Metropolitan region at \$16,055, current unemployment estimated at 17.1% in May 2020 and individuals below poverty exceeding 20%
- The Town of Cicero's December 2019 unemployment rates were returning to level of that prior to the previous recessionary period beginning in 2009, with a rate of 4.4%.
- It is the Town of Cicero's mission to gain any and all funding to aid all residents and businesses to return to the pre-pandemic economic climate and continue to be a community on the rise. The initiatives to follow would enable the Town to place funding emphasis on improving the local economy (such as small locally owned family businesses) as well as those most economically affected by the pandemic due to loss of job, homelessness/sheltering, extensive food drives, in a time where the Town (local governments) are also experiencing deficits due to lost revenues.
- Primary initiative is to continue to provide the highest quality of services to the Town's residents, alleviating the effects of reduced revenues, addressing increased unemployment, small business struggling to meet CDC guidelines due to costs, and keep the population at large safe from the spread of COVID-19 promoting advanced assistance to those most in need of the Town's potential expanded services.
- Proposed testing Facility would be Located at 34<sup>th</sup> and Laramie Cicero Fairgrounds. Construction of a mobile facility is needed for the continuous testing and diagnosis of Covid-19. Training and hiring of new healthcare workers required.
  - Potential expansion of the Town of Cicero Health Department to greater service all residents and local businesses.
- Emergency Operations Committee located at Town Hall, 4949 West Cermak Rd, Cicero, IL 60804. Committee gathers data, develops emergency responses, procures and distributes PPE. Other duties include planning and implementation of guidelines, tracking of cases and hotspots within the community to control the spread of Coronavirus. These are ongoing efforts and

require assistance to continue the greatest measurable efforts of the gathering of data and continued development of the Town's emergency infectious disease response plans.

- Increased Safety measures are being taken at all Town Hall facilities for the safety of the residents such as temperature checks, increased staff to monitor social distancing and limit the capacity of residents at one time.
  
- Unity Junior High School located at 2115 S. 54<sup>th</sup> Ave. Cicero IL, 60804. The High School is being used for weekly food distribution for seniors and residents in need, serving over 1000 families currently. The Town would like to greatly increase this service as the need is far greater than the current services provided. The Town hopes to advance its opportunities to deliver meals, through current human and social services departments, to those individuals maintain social distancing through quarantine.
  
- Cicero Tow Hall Business License located at 4949 West Cermak Rd., Cicero IL, 60804. Providing assistance to small business in regards to applications for capital assistance, cleaning solutions, PPE distribution, training and consulting for social distancing and proper PPE usage. The Town of Cicero is a community of hundreds of small businesses that could be afforded the opportunity to avoid closure if provided working capital to retain jobs for our predominantly low income population, while meeting all CDC guidelines and then depleting their bottom line, making it impossible to retain jobs and remain open.
  
- Senior Services located at 5631 W. 35<sup>th</sup> Street. The Center is coordinating PPE drives, food drop offs and senior assistance at this time. Requests range from food to rides to doctor visits and other accommodations.
  
- Aid in local testing facilities and/or make available free testing to all residents.

### **Measurable goals and objectives**

- Working Capital to Businesses and Job Retention: Aid in rehabilitating the local economy and keep small business open (aid at least 50 local businesses) by the end of FY2020 (December) with a measureable goal of a). Business licenses compared to prior years and b). Unemployment rate compared to pre-pandemic levels.
  
- Provide expanded public services through the Town's numerous social services departments- provide PPE, increase the capacity and availability of families and individuals most affected: **GOAL:** Assist every individual in need, estimated 20% based on poverty levels over 18,000 individuals and 1000's of families. **Dates:** Beginning March 2020 through entire recessionary period estimated minimum April 2021 to September 2021.
  
- The Town's Emergency Operations Center continues operations, employing additional staff for advancement of guidelines and plans, as well as tracking cases and maintaining CDC guidelines within the entire Town. **Measure:** Infectious Disease Plan Expansion, public service

announcements, guidelines and implementation. **Dates:** Continuous—March 2020 through September 2021.

- Expansion of Food Drive and Meal on Wheels: School Enrollment of over 19,000 children which primarily are on the schools free lunch program. With a minimum of 5,500 seniors and disabled individuals, expanding personnel to assist needs due to at –risk or quarantine and financial need due to unemployment. **Measure:** Number of meals delivered to such individuals, safe and secure assistance to such places as stores for essential items and doctor/hospital visits. Goal of providing improved aid to a minimum of 1,000 meals daily.
- PPE and Capital to Local Businesses- **Measure:** Quantifiable PPE items delivered and tracking of potential capital to assist the local economy in thriving. **Dates:** July 2020 through September 2021.
- **Goal:** Ensure all residents have access to necessary PPE, transportation to testing centers, potential mobile testing centers within Town. **Dates:** Present through end of Pandemic.

Date the project is to begin will be 2/28/2020.

-Potential to service a population of, arguably, the most population dense community in the Chicago-Metropolitan region. Youth, school aged, exceeding 20,000 with enrollment over 18,000 over 25,000 housing units and 4,000 households.

### **Addressing the needs of Cicero Residents impacted by Covid**

The Town of Cicero has seen disproportionately high numbers of Covid-19 cases compared to other municipalities. There is a public health need due to the density of Cicero, which increases the risk of transmission. The economy and small businesses of Cicero have also been hit extremely hard. Unemployment has risen from 4.9% in February 2020 to 17% for the month of May 2020. Many small businesses and residents are in desperate need of assistance and these projects. These projects will help to curve the number of Covid-19 cases and combat the spread of Coronavirus, while helping small businesses and families in economic need.

### **Objective selective process**

All Services will be available to all residents of Cicero, without restrictions.

**Detailed Budget for Project:**

Below is a detailed budget of what the Town of Cicero proposes on funding with the CDBG-CV grant.

PROPOSED ACTIVITIES*	DESCRIPTION OF UNIT COST & BASIS FOR ESTIMATE	\$AMOUNT CDBG-CV FUNDS	\$AMOUNT OTHER FUNDS
			Specify Source
Emergency Operations Committee			
- Staffing for data gathering and plans	Consultants & Additional Hires	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 100,000.00 Town Appropriation
PPE for Town Facilities	Based upon costed incurred to date	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 100,000.00 Town Appropriation
PPE for Local Business	Minimal Estimate based upon number of licenses/businesses and known Town Facility Costs	\$ 150,000.00	Unknown at time of Application
Meals/Food Drives and Distributions	Estimated Cost per Meals and Objectives Detailed above	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 200,000.00 Chicago Food Depository
Increased Safety Measure and Staffing in Town Facilities	Cost incurred to date and estimated continued exposures/risks	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 150,000.00 FEMA Grant Town Appropriation
Aid to Seniors and Disabled	Personnel and Vehicle Costs, PPE and Food Distributions Based upon past Town Appropriations and Public Service	\$ 150,000.00	\$ 250,000.00 Town Appropriation
Capital Assistance for Local Small Business		\$ 250,000.00	Unknown at time of Application
		<b>CDBG-CV Funds</b>	
<b>Total Project: \$1,800,000</b>		<b>\$ 1,000,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 800,000.00</b>

**Other potential Funding:**

Amount requested	Source of funding	Status of the request
\$61,259	USDOJ	Awarded
\$520,731	HUD	Awarded
\$100,000	FEMA	Applied

**ESG-CV CARES ACT Summary and Mission**

The Town of Cicero will be receiving a CARES ACT entitlement for the Emergency Solutions Grant Program (ESG-CV) in the amount of \$520,731 to address COVID-19 related activities. The Town proposes to fund homelessness agencies that will provide rental, mortgage, and utility assistance to Cicero residents at-risk of housing loss, as well as Rapid Re-Housing to those Cicero residents currently staying in temporary motel accommodations because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The proposed program will address the housing instability of those affected by the COVID-19 pandemic by mitigating the onset of housing instability and preventing homelessness and/or ending homelessness for those in the midst of a housing crisis.

Homelessness agencies have been an important safety net for individuals experiencing homelessness and those at risk of homelessness. The commitment to providing comprehensive crisis resolution services to clients and preventing homelessness is the main goal. Housing Forward is a recognized leader in the provision of prevention, outreach, and permanent housing solutions and they work with partner agencies, local and federal government entities and community and business stakeholders to find innovative, structural solutions to end the crisis of homelessness in our community and strive towards a future where every suburban Cook County resident has a home.

Housing Forward has requested \$520,731 in ESG-CV funds from the Town of Cicero for expenses related to their Rapid Re-Housing and Homeless Prevention programs due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Specific activities include:

**Rapid Re-Housing:** Housing Forward's Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) provides short & medium-term rental assistance to transition persons experiencing temporary housing crises to quickly secure stable housing. Case management services emphasize self-sufficiency goals and resolution of underlying reasons for client homelessness.

**Homeless Prevention:** Housing Forward has been offering Homeless Prevention services since 2001 through our agency's Emergency Assistance program. The program provides financial assistance to prevent eviction or utility shut-off and deposit for individuals and families who are at imminent risk of homelessness due to a financial crisis/economic hardship. The program also provides a security deposit and/or first month's rent for eligible individuals and families leaving homelessness.

This project will not be sponsored by a church or religious group. Housing Forward will ensure that the community at-large is aware of the agency's services and programming that is available to eligible Cicero residents. They will include all Cicero public entities, referring organizations/service providers, and area congregations our agency brochure and applicable service flyers to advertise our services and how to access them.

The service area to be served by this application includes Housing Forward's headquarters located in Maywood. (1851 S Ninth Avenue, Maywood, IL, 60153.) Temporary motel accommodations are in Oak Park, Northlake and Franklin Park. Service also includes the municipalities of Cicero for our Homeless Prevention program.

### **Measurable goals and objectives**

Rapid Re-Housing: 20 households will be served during the course of 12 months starting 7/1/2020 in Rapid Re-Housing; 80% will exit to permanent housing.

Homeless Prevention: 50 Cicero households will achieve housing stability after receiving financial assistance. The program will serve these households over 12 months starting 7/1/2020

Date the project is to begin will be 7/1/2020. Project should be completed by 6/30/2021.

### **Addressing the needs of ESG-CV related homelessness in the Town of Cicero**

Housing Forward's provision of Homeless Prevention funds continues to grow to meet the demand created by these economic conditions. In 2019, Housing Forward prevented 571 households from becoming homeless, by either providing financial assistance, stabilization services, or some combination of the two. With the current COVID-19 pandemic, those rent overburdened or severely rent overburdened are especially vulnerable to losing their housing and becoming homeless. In the coming months, and likely throughout the course of the year, households most devastated by this crisis due to a loss of employment will be in a position of being unable to pay for their housing expenses. Since the onset of the COVID-19 crisis, requests to the Homeless Prevention program have



increased by 200%. With many workers furloughed or unemployed, individuals and families are precariously housed and on the brink of homelessness. There must be a creation of a substantial safety net to keep those folks housed and prevent them from entering homelessness.

On March 23rd, Housing Forward's PADS Emergency Shelter shifted from a congregate shelter model to individual accommodations to safeguard those who rely on emergency shelter services in west suburban Cook County during the COVID-19 pandemic. The shift includes accommodations (primarily motel) and emergency food provisions, ensuring clients have a reliable place to sleep and receive consistent nutrition during this outbreak. Initially, they moved 64 individuals into temporary accommodations, and have since added 54 highly vulnerable individuals for a total 118 people.

As Housing Forward plans past the Shelter-In-Place order, they know they can't sustain motel accommodations for our clients – at \$75-\$110 per night; it's more expensive to house clients in motels for one month than it is for one month's rent in an apartment. And while motel accommodations are appropriate in the current crisis, it's a temporary solution to for those experiencing a housing crisis, and it would be inhumane to expect clients to return to their previous living situations once the shelter-in-place order ends.

Housing Forward has a unique opportunity to essentially house all clients affected by the COVID-19 pandemic in their own stable apartments. While they as a community deal with the fallout of a public health crisis, they can provide stability through housing for those whose crisis has been compounded in recent weeks.

The plan is to leverage state and federal funds to support moving the majority of the clients currently housed in motels into Rapid Re-Housing units, mainstream vouchers through local housing authorities, and housing through the suburban Cook County Coordinated Entry process. Funds from the Town of Cicero would supplement what is not covered by other public funds to move Cicero residents from temporary motel accommodations into their own apartment, ending their homelessness. This project also proposes to use funds for rental and mortgage assistance for Cicero residents who are at-risk of homelessness because of loss of income or employment due to the COVID-19 crisis.

### **Objective selective process**

Housing Forward does not discriminate in the course of delivering services or refuse outreach, shelter, housing, drop-in or other services on the sole basis of a person's race, gender, nationality, ethnicity, religion, creed or disability. Housing Forward's comprehensive non-discrimination and inclusion policy includes Equal Access and Inclusion Regardless of Family Composition, Equal Access and Inclusion of Transgender and Gender Non-conforming Clients, Access for people with disabilities, Access for clients with limited English language proficiency a Discrimination Complaint Process and Investigation process:

Housing Forward seeks to serve those who have been marginalized or previously rendered service-ineligible for these or any other reasons. Therefore, they do not tolerate any speech, language, or behavior that is abusive or demoralizing to anyone who might participate in our services. They expect staff, interns, and volunteers to be vigilant in enforcing this standard.

All aspects of Entry Point, suburban Cook County’s Coordinated Entry process, will comply with all Federal, State, and local Fair Housing laws and regulations. Participants will not be “steered” toward any particular housing facility or neighborhood based on their race, color, national origin, religion, sex or gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, or the presence of children.

Housing Forward conducts quarterly rotating training of staff on Coordinated Entry basic training, this Anti-Discrimination Policy and procedures, and on a wide array of cultural competency topics.

**Detailed Budget for Project:**

Below is the detailed budget for the ESG-CV funding the Town of Cicero will receive, which in turn intends to fund Housing Forward for the administration of these funds.

PROPOSED ACTIVITIES*	DESCRIPTION OF UNIT COST & BASIS FOR ESTIMATE**	\$ AMOUNT of ESG-CV FUNDS	\$ AMOUNT OTHER FUNDS Specify Source
Rapid Re-Housing	Avg. \$13,824 per household receiving security deposits, short- medium term rental assistance, furniture and case management based on 20 households	\$276,479	\$20,000 Hotel to Home kits – in-kind;
Homeless Prevention Administration	Avg of \$4,198 per household receiving financial assistance for 3 months for an estimate of 50 households	\$207,801	
	5%	\$36,451	
		Total Project Cost: <b>\$540,731</b>	
		Total ESG-CV Amount: <b>\$520,731</b>	

**Other potential Funding:**

Amount requested	Source of funding	Status of the request
\$20,000	In-kind donations	Ongoing