



April 21, 2020

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR THE SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT TO THE 2019 MICHIGAN CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL ACTION PLAN TO INCLUDE CARES ACT FUNDING IN THE AMOUNT OF \$260,882 FOR THE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES' (MDHHS) HOUSING OPPORTUNITY FOR PERSONS WITH AIDS PROGRAM (HOPWA) TO BE USED FOR MICHIGAN'S COVID-19 RESPONSE.

Prior to receipt of CARES Act funding from the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Office of Community Planning and Development, Michigan is required to prepare a formal substantial amendment to the Consolidated Housing and Community Development Plan (the Consolidated Plan). The Consolidated Plan proposes an action strategy by which those needs will be addressed through five program years for the period July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2020. The annual action plan program applicable to this amendment and covered in the Michigan Consolidated Plan (Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS). The Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) is responsible for preparing the Michigan Consolidated Plan and soliciting comments from the public regarding the plan and its subsequent amendments.

The comment period will commence on April 22, 2020 and end on April 28, 2020 and will focus on the amendment parameters as outlined below.

The State of Michigan received \$260,882.00 in CARES Act funding for the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services' (MDHHS) Housing Opportunity for Persons with AIDS program (HOPWA), to be used for Michigan's COVID-19 response. In accordance with the rules regarding this funding, \$15,653.00 will be utilized by MDHHS for administrative costs and \$245,229.00 will be distributed to seven previously contracted providers through a direct agreement to provide HOPWA COVID-19 response services in 77 counties in Michigan.

Distributions to providers will be made based on the number of individuals in their service area living with HIV. HOPWA funds are a fund source of last resort.

Providers will utilize the funding to provide services to individuals/families who are living with HIV/AIDS, and who are below 80% Area Median Income, for needs directly related to the COVID-19 crisis. Services they may offer within the limits of their funding include:

- Housing subsidy focusing on Short Term Rent, Mortgage, and Utility Payments (STRMU) for up to 24 months.
- Emergency Hotel/Motel vouchers for self-isolating or needing to quarantine either the individuals or a family member not living with HIV, due to COVID-19. This support is limited to no more than 60 days in six-month period, unless an extension is approved by the MDHHS Division of Housing and Homeless Services.
- Additional housing subsidy assistance for Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) and Permanent Housing Placement (PHP) may be provided on a minimal basis.
- Case Management and Supportive services including:

- Providing transportation services for eligible household, including costs for privately-owned vehicle transportation when needed, to access medical care, supplies, and food or to commute to places of employment;
- Assisting HOPWA eligible households in accessing essential services and supplies such as food, water, medications, medical care, and information;
- Providing nutrition services for eligible households in the form of food banks, groceries, and meal deliveries;
- Educating assisted households on ways to reduce the risk of getting sick or spreading infectious diseases such as COVID-19 to others; and
- Costs related to infection control measures such as cleaning and disinfectant supplies, gloves and other safety-related supplies for staff and assisted households.

Providers may use up to 10% of their distribution for administrative purposes.

All interested parties are invited to submit written comments directly related to the proposed amendment to the current Michigan Consolidated Action Plan. Information gathered during the written comment period will be used to substantiate a formal amendment to the 2019 Michigan Consolidated Action Plan.

Individuals and organizations may submit written comments to Tonya Young, 735 East Michigan Avenue, P.O. Box 30044, Lansing, MI 48909. **Written comments must be received no later than April 28, 2020.** Comments can also be submitted to the MSHDA Consolidated Plan Coordinator via e-mail to hidmailbox@michigan.gov.

Copies of the 2019 Michigan Consolidated Action Plan may be downloaded free of charge from the MSHDA website at www.michigan.gov/mshda.