

Citizen Participation Plan – Amendment to Existing Plan

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the City of Danbury is amending its Citizen Participation Plan, to promote and support “social distancing” while continuing to offer the citizens of Danbury the opportunity to provide valuable citizen input to City of Danbury as they relate to the administration and implementation of its Community Development Block Grant program. The following process will be used to solicit citizen participation and input into any programmatic amendments necessary to quickly and effectively administer CDBG funding made available either directly or indirectly as a result of the COVID- 19 Pandemic:

- Effective October 19, 2020, consistent with the Mega-waiver issued by HUD on March 31, 2020 (exercised by the City of Danbury providing notification to HUD as prescribed on October 16, 2020), and for a period ending July 31, 2021, community input prior to drafting a substantial amendment to any City of Danbury plan will be provided in accordance with this amendment and the Mega-waiver, including an approved consolidated plan or annual action plan, concerning the proposed uses of CDBG funds.
- City of Danbury staff will prepare an amendment to such plans, where applicable, and the amendment shall include a discussion of the amount of assistance the City of Danbury expects to receive, the range of activities it will undertake with this assistance, and, to the extent possible, the benefit to low and moderate income persons of these proposed activities.
- Any such amendment will be posted on the City of Danbury website, along with a notice identifying the availability of the amendment for review. The Notice will include the opportunity to provide written or electronic comment for a period of not less than five days, and the contact information for providing that written or electronic comment. There may also be information on participation in a “virtual public hearing,” as and when appropriate under the Citizen Participation Plan. As part of the Notice, there will be information on how citizens who have special needs may obtain the amendment in a form which is accessible to them.
- Such Notice will be published in the *News Times*.
- Any comments received, either at a virtual public hearing or during the public comment period, will be considered by officials of the City of Danbury before the final amended action plan is submitted to HUD. A summary of the comments and the City’s responses will be an attachment to the final amended action plan.
- The procedures and actions discussed above will constitute the City’s citizen participation plan for any substantial amendments which may need to be made in the course of the program year. A "substantial amendment" to the plan is one which implements a change in the use and/or method of distributing those funds, or a change in funding that is greater than 10% of the original amount included in the plan.
- This amended citizen participation plan will itself be made available to the public for a five-day public comment period prior to implementation, and any interested groups may review and comment accordingly.

