

City of Colorado Springs
SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT TO THE PROGRAM YEAR 2014 ACTION PLAN
Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program

I. Summary

The City of Colorado Springs (City) Community Development Division (Division) administers Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds received on an annual basis from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The funds are made available to carry out a variety of housing, community, and economic development activities based on an Annual Action Plan approved by the City Council. Prior to 2015, HUD accounting was “first in, first out,” meaning that projects were funded from the oldest funds available in the US Treasury and not necessarily current year funds. Many past year projects did not require all of the funding available, and in addition, the City has often received more Program Income than anticipated, typically in the form of loan repayments. Over time, unspent funds have accumulated in the US Treasury, resulting in approximately \$1,915,000 of 2014 CDBG funds currently available for reprogramming.

The Division is requesting City Council approval to allocate \$1,780,000 of available 2014 CDBG funds for the purpose of constructing key facilities on the Springs Rescue Mission campus to support people experiencing homelessness. This requires a Substantial Amendment to the 2014 Annual Action Plan. This document, consisting of a narrative as well as required attachments, constitutes the formal Substantial Amendment to HUD.

I. Process Overview

Federal funds received by the City from HUD include the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, the HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) program, and the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) program. Regulations found at 24 CFR Part 91 governing the City’s use of the funds require preparation of a five-year Consolidated Plan, Annual Action Plans, and Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Reports. The regulations also require that the City prepare and follow a Citizen Participation Plan in the development and approval of these documents.

The Consolidated Plan includes an assessment and prioritization of housing and community needs, a list of local, state, and federal resources available to meet identified needs, and the City’s focused strategies intended to address priority needs over the five-year period.

The Annual Action Plan is submitted on an annual basis throughout the 5-year period of the Consolidated Plan, serving as the annual application to HUD. The Action Plan identifies specific activities to be funded during the year based on priorities laid out in the five-year Consolidated Plan.

Citizen participation is governed by the Citizen Participation Plan adopted by City Council in May 2015. According to the City’s adopted Citizen Participation Plan, changes to the Annual Action Plan are considered “Substantial Amendments” when any of the following occurs:

- Increases or decreases by 50% or more than \$100,000 of the amount allocated to an eligible activity of funding within the City’s entitlement grant programs.
- Changes in activities proposed, beneficiaries or persons served.
- The proposed amendment deletes an activity described in the Consolidated Plan.
- The proposed amendment adds an activity not described in the Consolidation Plan.

A substantial amendment must be approved by City Council at a public hearing and submitted to HUD for informational purposes. In addition, substantial amendments must be published in a newspaper of general circulation and citizens given thirty (30) days to comment on the proposed change(s). A summary of comments received, as well as a summary of responses to the comments are included in the final Substantial Amendment document submitted to HUD.

II. Proposed 2014 Action Plan Amendment

This 2014 Action Plan Substantial Amendment allocates an additional \$1,780,000 of available 2014 CDBG funds to \$720,000 previously allocated to the Springs Rescue Mission project in the 2014 Action Plan (for a total of \$2,500,000) for the purpose of constructing key facilities on the Springs Rescue Mission campus located at 25 W. Las Vegas Street. The total estimated cost for the SRM project is \$13,800,000.

The Springs Rescue Mission campus will provide vital facilities and services to people experiencing homelessness in Colorado Springs – facilities and services that largely do not exist in the community currently or are not adequate to meet the needs of people experiencing homelessness. The campus expansion addresses a priority need identified in the City's 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan to target resources to programs and facilities that can significantly reduce street homelessness and promote housing stability. These priorities were also outlined in the *Initiative to End Homelessness in Colorado Springs* (2014), a plan to address critical gaps in homeless services that was subsequently adopted as the strategic plan for the Colorado Springs/El Paso County Continuum of Care. Urgent facility needs identified in the plan include emergency shelter and a day center offering comprehensive services and amenities.

Facilities planned at the Springs Rescue Mission campus include:

Emergency Shelter: The expanded emergency shelter will provide 150 beds year-round for a total of 54,750 shelter nights. The existing winter shelter at SRM provides 60 beds during the cold weather season for a total of 9,462 beds per year. The expansion involves renovation of two existing buildings located on the SRM campus.

Day Center: The full service day center will be the first of its kind in Colorado Springs. SRM's established and effective Resource Advocate Program (RAP) will operate in this space, with advocates providing more hours of casework than ever before. Partner agencies, including the Veteran's Administration, Aspen Pointe, and Peak Vista, that already work alongside RAP advocates at SRM will be provided permanent office space, creating a hub of vital and complimentary services for our chronically homeless neighbors. Programming will be augmented by laundry, shower, and computer lab facilities, which are currently dispersed or unavailable in Colorado Springs. The expansion involves renovation of two existing buildings located on the SRM campus.

Welcome Center and Courtyard: The welcome center and courtyard will provide pet care and personal storage for guests while enabling SRM staff to efficiently connect clients to the services they most need, monitor their activity, and win their trust in a secure environment. A new building located on the SRM campus is planned to facilitate these services.

Food Services Center: Operating the facilities listed above will require the expansion of the SRM kitchen.

- The new Samaritan’s Kitchen dining room will seat 200 guests, more than double the current capacity. Square footage for food prep and storage will also double.
- Mission Catering, a rapidly-growing social enterprise of SRM providing sustainable revenue streams, will have its own cooking space, allowing for growth of this program.
- Mission Culinary Arts Academy, a program that teaches job skills to individuals enrolled in the residential addiction recovery program at SRM, will have its own classroom and training space.
- A new building located on the SRM campus is planned to facilitate these services.

The change to the 2014 Annual Action Plan constitutes a substantial amendment because it increases the allocation for Public Facilities activities by more than \$100,000.

I. Revised Activity Table

The proposed Substantial Amendment allocates an additional \$1,780,000 of available, unallocated CDBG funds to the Springs Rescue Mission as described in the table below. The table also reflects prior revisions including the allocation of \$96,858 in additional program income received to Public Facilities activities. Prior revisions did not constitute a substantial amendment.

Agency Name	Program Name	2014 Action Plan Allocation	2014 Revised Allocation	2014 Final Allocation with Substantial Amendment
Ascending to Health	Medical Respite Facility	\$33,642	\$24,500	\$24,500
City of Colorado Springs	Deerfield Hills Design	\$60,000	\$85,000	\$85,000
City of Colorado Springs	Deerfield Hills Abatement	\$21,000	\$40,000	\$40,000
City of Colorado Springs	Loop System at City Hall	\$5,000	\$7,000	\$7,000
City of Colorado Springs	Meadows Park ADA	\$275,000	\$275,000	\$275,000
Colorado Veteran Resource Coalition	Crawford House Improvements	\$58,000	\$58,000	\$58,000
Springs Rescue Mission	Campus Expansion	\$ 660,000	\$720,000	\$2,500,000
	TOTAL PUBLIC FACILITIES	\$1,112,642	\$1,209,500	\$2,989,500

II. Citizen Participation Process

Substantial Amendments require a thirty (30) day public review and comment period with a formal notice published in a newspaper of general circulation. The public review ends with the conclusion of the public hearing before the City Council at the regularly scheduled meeting designated in the public notice.

In accordance with the City of Colorado Springs Citizen Participation Plan, a public notice was published in the *Colorado Springs Gazette* newspaper on February 22, 2016 announcing the availability of the Substantial Amendment document and the opportunity to submit written

comments to the Community Development Division from February 22, 2016 through March 22, 2016. The public notice included notice of a public hearing before City Council on April 12, 2016 on or about 1:00pm at Colorado Springs City Hall, City Council Chambers. In addition, the Community Development Division provided notice of a public meeting on March 15, 2016 at 6:00pm at City Hall City Council Chambers to discuss the substantial amendment and take public comment.

A copy of the Public Notice is included as Attachment A. Proof of Publication of the Public Notice will be included as Attachment B to this Substantial Amendment document in the final transmittal to HUD.

The public notice and Substantial Amendment document were also distributed via email, posted online at <https://coloradosprings.gov/resident-services/planning-development/housing/housing-community-initiatives> and made available at the following locations for public review:

- Community Development Division, 30 S Nevada Ave, Suite 604
- Office of the City Clerk, 30 S Nevada Ave, Suite 101
- City Hall, 107 N. Nevada Ave, Suite 300
- Penrose Library, 20 N. Cascade Ave
- 21st Century Library, 1175 Chapel Hills Dr
- Pikes Peak United Way, 518 N Nevada Ave
- Hillside Community Center, 925 S. Institute St
- Westside Community Center, 1628 W. Bijou St
- Meadows Park Community Center, 1943 S. El Paso Ave.

Comments received by the Community Development Division and any oral testimony received during the public hearing will be summarized, included as Attachment C and submitted with the City's transmittal of this Substantial Amendment document to HUD.

III. List of Attachments

Attachment A: Public Notice
Attachment B: Proof of Publication of Public Notice
Attachment C: Summary of Public Comments Received

ATTACHMENT A

NOTICE OF PROPOSED ACTION TO BE TAKEN BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLORADO SPRINGS RESPECTING PROPOSED SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENTS TO THE CITY OF COLORADO SPRINGS 2014 ACTION PLAN

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Colorado Springs Community Development Division will conduct a public meeting on March 15, 2016 from 6:00 – 7:00 PM at the City Council Chambers at City Hall, 107 N. Nevada Ave. #300, Colorado Springs, CO 80903 on proposed actions approving a substantial amendment to the City's 2014 Action Plan. On April 12, 2016 on or about 1:00 PM at City Council Chambers, the City Council will conduct a public hearing in which they will take action on requests to authorize submittal of the substantial amendment to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The proposed amendment will reprogram Community Development Block Grant Funds currently available to the City.

The draft substantial amendment will be available for public review from February 22, 2016 to March 22, 2016 at the following locations Monday through Friday during normal business hours: Community Development Division, 30 S. Nevada Ave., Suite 604, Office of the City Clerk, 30 S. Nevada Ave., Suite 101, City Hall, 107 N. Nevada Ave #300, Penrose Library, 20 N. Cascade Ave., 21st Century Library, 1175 Chapel Hills Dr., Pikes Peak United Way, 518 N. Nevada Ave., Hillside Community Center, 925 S. Institute St., Westside Community Center, 1628 W. Bijou St., and Meadows Park Community Center, 1943 S. El Paso Ave. The draft substantial amendment can also be viewed at any time, within the aforementioned dates, online by visiting the Community Development's website, <https://coloradosprings.gov/resident-services/planning-development/housing/housing-community-initiatives>.

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the substantial amendment to the 2014 Action Plan to the *City of Colorado Springs, Community Development Division and address them to Felix J. Lopez, (719) 385-6876 or flopez@springsgov.com*. All comments received on or before March 22, 2016 will be considered by the *City of Colorado Springs, Community Development Division*. Comments should specify the notice they are addressing.

"In accordance with the ADA, anyone requiring an auxiliary aid to participate in this meeting should make the request as soon as possible but no later than 48 hours before the scheduled event."

Contact (719) 385-6876 or flopez@springsgov.com for more information.

ATTACHMENT B

Proof of Publication of Public Notice

ATTACHMENT C

Summary of Public Comments Received