

Amendment to the King County Consortium Citizen Participation Plan

On March 27, 2020, the U.S. Congress passed The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (H.R. 748), also known as the CARES Act. The bill allocates \$5 billion in supplemental Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funding for assistance to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus.

The CARES Act provides that grantees may amend their Citizen Participation Plan to establish expedited procedures to amend Consolidated Plans and Annual Action Plans. These expedited procedures must include notice and reasonable opportunity to comment of no less than five (5) days. The King County Consortium has determined that, in order to more quickly address the effects of COVID-19, five days constitutes reasonable notice and opportunity for public comment on amendments to the Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan. The Citizen Participation Plan is amended to reflect the following changes:

Comment Period

The comment periods for plans and reports are listed in the following table:

Document	Comment Period
Consolidated Plan & Annual Action Plan	5 calendar days
Substantial Amendment to Consolidated & Annual Action Plan	5 calendar days
Citizen Participation Plan	5 calendar days

The 5-day period can run concurrently for comments on the Action Plan amendment and amended Citizen Participation Plan. This 5-day comment period does NOT apply to ESG-CV funding. ESG-CV notification will be posted to the King County website as to the use of those funds, with no 5-calendar day comment period.

Amendments to the Consolidated Plan

Substantial amendments to the Consolidated Plan may be reviewed and approved by the Joint Recommendations Committee (JRC) or a Joint Agreement City, whichever body initially awarded the funds.

Minor amendments to the Consolidated Plan may be reviewed and approved by the JRC or a Joint Agreement City, whichever body initially awarded the funds.

Amendments to the Annual Action Plan

Substantial amendments to the Annual Action Plan may be reviewed and approved by the Joint Recommendations Committee (JRC) or a Joint Agreement City, whichever body initially awarded the funds.

Minor amendments to the Annual Action Plan may be reviewed and approved by the JRC or a Joint Agreement City, whichever body initially awarded the funds.

Amendments to the Annual Action Plan provide details on possible actions, including reprogramming of funding and types of possible activities, that may be undertaken in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. It also includes provisions relative to Consolidated Plan citizen participation, Community Development Block Grant, and Emergency Solutions Grant waivers made available under the CARES Act.

Public Hearings

The CARES Act states that in-person public hearings are not required. Grantees may meet public hearing requirements with virtual public hearings if: 1) national/local health authorities recommend social distancing and limiting public gatherings for public health reasons, and 2) virtual hearings provide reasonable notification and access for citizens in accordance with the grantee's certifications, timely responses from local officials to all citizen questions and issues, and public access to all questions and responses. The King County Consortium Citizen Participation Plan is amended to allow virtual public hearings as described above.

This amendment to the Citizen Participation Plan is in effect for as long as the waivers allowed by the CARES Act are in effect. All other components of the King County Consortium Citizen Participation Plan remain in effect.

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