**City of Springfield, MA**

**CDBG-NDR Amendment #1 (JANUARY 2018)**

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| Jurisdiction(s): Springfield, MA Jurisdiction Web Address: <http://www3.springfield-ma.gov/planning/cdbg-dr.0.html> |  Contact Person: Tina Quagliato Director, Office of Disaster RecoveryAddress: 36 Court Street, Room 405 Springfield, MA 01103 Telephone: (413) 750-2114 Email: tquagliato@springfieldcityhall.com  |

As a result of several presidentially declared disasters in 2011 (FEMA Disaster Declarations DR-1994, DR-1959, DR-4028, DR-4051) the City of Springfield was invited to submit Phase I and Phase II Applications to the U.S. Department of Housing and Developer National Disaster Resilience Competition. On October 27, 2015 the City of Springfield submitted a Phase II Application in response to the CDBG-NDR NOFA.

On January 21, 2016 under the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act, 2013 (PL 11-2), Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 USC 5302 et seq.) and the Notice of Funding Availability for HUD’s CDBG-DR Program, HUD awarded the City of Springfield $17,056,880 in CDBG-DR funds. On October 17, 2016 the City of Springfield and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development executed an agreement for those funds.

The City’s proposed use of the $17,056,880 of the CDBG-NDR funds has been described more extensively in the City’s Phase I & Phase II Applications.

Amendment #1 includes the following changes:

* Slight expansion of geographical eligibility criteria for participants in the IT Workforce Training Program, Healthy Homes/Construction Workforce Training Program, Citizen Science Initiative and the Citizen Tree Stewart Program.

**Change #1: Expansion of geographical eligibility criteria**

The City’s Phase II Application was developed with significant public input and consultation with relevant stakeholders. The application included the following census tracts/block groups that comprise of the Urban Watershed District 8004.001, 8004.0002, 80005.01, 8005.002, 8006, 8007, 8008, 8009, 8011.01, 8011.02, 8012, 8017, 8018, 8019.01, 8019.02, 8020, 8021.001, 8021.002, 8021.004, 8022 and 8023.

However, at the time the City was defining the geographical area of the Urban Watershed District, the City was thinking in a limited way of the physical improvements to be made to the areas and did not take into more thoughtful consideration the participation of low-mod income populations in workforce training and citizen training programs. The City does not want to preclude low-income, disadvantaged Springfield residents that are in similarly and adjacent demographic areas from being able to participate in workforce and citizen participation programs. Also, the City has found it difficult to advertise and the area due to the fact that it includes some subsets of established neighborhoods, while leaving out other portions of the same neighborhood.

Therefore, the City is amending the geographical area to also include the CDBG-eligible portions of following neighborhoods: Bay, McKnight and the entirety of the Liberty Heights and Forest Park neighborhoods, which adds the census tracts 8003, 8004, 8013, 8014, 8022, 8023, 8026.01 and 8026.02, as well as including the entirety of census 8004 and 8021.

Low income populations, communities of color and immigrants have been identified as particularly vulnerable to negative impacts of natural disasters and climate change. Residents in the additional census tracts suffer similar economic disadvantages, including poverty and unemployment rates, as the residents in the listed Census Tracts listed in the Phase II Application submitted by the City of Springfield and the City believes that prohibiting them from participation would have a negative impact on the City’s overall recovery and future resilience, as the unmet resilience needs of these lower income houses also include lack of education and job skills, lack of employment, and lack of opportunity for small business. As mentioned above, geographic expansion of the boundaries will also assist in recruitment, by enabling programs to be advertised using commonly understood geographic boundaries. By allowing for more consistent and user-friendly public outreach, the expansion will ensure that the City and their partners meet the goals set forth in our Phase II Application and DRGR Action Plan.

The boundary expansion would apply to income eligible Springfield residents applying to participate in the following programs:

* IT Workforce Training Program
* Healthy Homes/Construction Workforce Training Program
* Citizen Science Initiative
* Citizen Tree Stewart Program

**Requirements Related to the above changes:**

**LMI National Objective:** The new geographic area described in this amendmentwill still ensure that at least 50% of grant funds will still be dedicated to activities that meet with Low/Mod Income national objective.

**Administrative, Planning and Management Costs:** The changes in this amendment to Partial Action Plan A will not increase administrative costs by more than five percent (5%) of the total grant amount. Overall planning, management and administrative costs will remain less than twenty percent (20%) of the total grant amount.

**Capacity of the Grantee and its partners to implement the funded activities:** The capacity of the grantee and/or partners has not changed. The City will still maintain the same partnerships and this change will allow the grantee and partners to meet their stated goals and expand the reach of Low/Mod citizens who will be assisted by CDBG-NDR funds.

**Changes to partners who will assist in the amended activity:** There will be no change in partners who will assist in the amended activity.

**Committed Direct and Supporting Leverage:** There will be no change in committed direct and supporting leverage.

**Scope and Beneficiaries of the funded activities:** This amendment will not alter the scope of the funded activities, but will allow additional low-mod citizens in slightly expanded areas of the City to participate.

**Citizen Participation:** The amendment was published in accordance with the Partial Action Plan A and the Citizen Participation Plan and met the following requirements:

* Publication in Spanish and English on the City’s website.
* A comment period for the required fifteen days from January 29, 2018 to February 13, 2018.
* A public hearing was held on January 31, 2018 at 4:00 p.m. at City Hall, 36 Court Street, Springfield.
* Submission of comments were allowed as follows:
	+ Electronically on the City’s CDBG-DR website at [www.springfield-ma.gov/planning/cdbg-dr](http://www.springfield-ma.gov/planning/cdbg-dr)
	+ Written comments mailed to the Office of Community Development, 1600 East Columbus Avenue, Springfield, MA 01103
	+ By telephone contacting 311, the City of Springfield’s main source of government information and non-emergency services.
	+ By email to tquagliato@springfieldcityhall.com
* City has reviewed all comments received and will incorporate them into the Phase II Application/Action Plan.
* Publication of the Final Amendment in English and Spanish on the City’s website.