

**PROGRAM YEAR 2019
STATE OF NEW JERSEY
CARES ACT ANNUAL ACTION PLAN
SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT FOR THE
HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES WITH PERSONS
WITH AIDS PROGRAM
DRAFT**



**State of New Jersey
Phil Murphy, Governor**

**Department of Community Affairs
Lt Governor Sheila Y. Oliver, Commissioner**

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Draft Program Year 2019 State of New Jersey's CARES Act Substantial Amendment

Background:

On March 27, 2020, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), Public Law 116-136, was signed into law. The State of New Jersey is receiving supplemental funding through the CARES Act to mitigate the economic impacts caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. In order to receive these funds, the state is required to prepare and submit a substantial amendment to its Program Year 2019 Annual Action Plan to the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the State received a HUD waiver for citizen participation for the CARES funds. The waiver allows the State to utilize a 5-day public comment period for any amendments to the Consolidated Plan as it relates to CARES Act funding.

Expected Resources:

As part of the CARES Act the State of New Jersey will receive the following:

- Community Development Block Grant funds totaling \$4,026,075 (first allocation) and \$31,587,994 (second allocation)
- Emergency Solutions Grant funds totaling \$11,453,383
- Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS totaling \$238,769

Posting of Substantial Amendment:

The draft substantial amendment for the Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS Program was posted on the Department of Community Affairs' Division of Housing and Community Resources website at <https://nj.gov/dca/divisions/dhcr/> on June 11, 2020. Please submit any comments to Renee Cirillo at Renee.Cirillo@doh.nj.gov by June 17, 2020.

Program Description:

Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS (HOPWA)

Allocation: \$238,769

- Administration: \$23,879.90
- Program: \$214,889.10

Proposed Activities:

HOPWA funds will be used to mitigate the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic by assisting active HOPWA households in accessing essential services and supplies (i.e. gift cards to reimburse or cover transportation costs/cleaning & disinfectant supplies/PPE/groceries/food delivery) and funds will be used to implement a high quality and secure online application system that will both expedite processing of applications and enable remote access to applications.

Eligibility:

To be eligible, applicants must be active participants of the New Jersey state HOPWA program AND have been impacted by the corona virus crisis in ways such as the following: they lost their job, had work hours reduced, faced increased child care expenses due to school closures, missed work to take care of their children with schools closed or had to take care of themselves or a relative sick from the virus. Applicants will have to provide letters or emails of proof from their employer, children's school, doctor or other source to verify their hardship. Photographs of the letters may be accepted.

Process:

- Active HOPWA households will be identified
- Active HOPWA households will be informed about the additional activities primarily through the Department of Health's (DOH) extensive HIV care provider network of FQHCs, Community Based Organizations and Clinics. Individuals that do not have case management or where case managers are unknown will be informed directly by phone and/or email
- Applications will be provided and returned to DOH for eligibility review
- All applicants deemed eligible will be notified and provided gift cards in denominations that range from \$50-\$500. Amount will be determined by household size and need.
- Assistance will be limited to once per year to provide the opportunity to as many households as possible

Program Budget:

Total Allocation	\$238,769
Program	
Gift cards (\$50-\$500 per household)	\$85,000
Online application system	\$129,889.10
Total	\$214,889.10
Administration	
DOH	\$23,879.90
Total	\$238,769

