The City of Gainesville Community and Economic Development Department is proposing to amend BOTH the 2019-2023 Consolidated Plan and 2019 Annual Action Plan for use of the Community Development Block Grant Entitlement (CDBG) funds. This amendment is in accordance with 24 CFR 91.05(c) (2) and subpart B of the federal regulations relative to citizen participation for CDBG programs, and applicable waivers made available to those requirements through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act).

As part of this amendment, the City has revised the Consolidated Plan’s Citizen Participation Plan to include the 5-day comment period and virtual hearing allowed as expedited review by a HUD waiver due to COVID-19. Both the 2019-2023 Consolidated Plan (which includes the 2019 Action Plan) and the amended Citizen Participation Plan are found on the City of Gainesville web page at the following link: https://www.gainesville.org/hud-consolidated-plan

**Public Comment Period and Process:**
This Consolidated Plan/Action Plan/Citizen Participation Plan amendment is available for a 5-day public review and comment period from June 4, 2020 through June 8, 2020. Comments and questions may be submitted to the Gainesville Community and Economic Development Department in writing via fax at (770) 297-7826 (Attention: Jessica Tullar), by email to jtullar@gainesvillega.gov, or by mail to the address below. Written comments submitted by fax or email must be received by 11:59 P.M. on Friday, June 6, 2020.

**Background:**
The City of Gainesville Consolidated Plan details the funding strategies for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for the period between 2019 and 2023. The 2019 AAP details action strategies for carrying out the City’s five-year Housing Consolidated Plan and identifies community-specific priorities for the first program year. Both were developed through significant public input, analysis, and planning from both stakeholders and citizens of Gainesville, GA.

**Proposed Substantial Amendment and Proposed Use of Funds:**
The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has awarded the City of Gainesville additional CDBG funds through the CARES Act for $282,736 to help combat the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. A summary of the anticipated budget and activities for the amended FY2019 AAP include: Total Funding (2019 Grant, Projected Program Income, and CARES Act funds) of $811,303 to be used for Program Administration ($122,449); Homeowner Housing Rehabilitation/Emergency Repairs ($19,557), Public Facilities/Infrastructure ($409,297), Homeownership Assistance ($10,000), and Public Services/Economic Development ($250,000).

**Public Hearing:**
A VIRTUAL public hearing will be held via ZOOM on Tuesday, June 9, 2020 at 2:00 P.M. The link is below. Persons with special needs relating to disability access, vision impairment, hearing impairment and/or language barriers should contact Jessica Tullar at (770) 531-6570. The hearing impaired may use the Georgia Relay Service at 1-800-255-0056.

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