

**NOTICE FOR PUBLIC HEARING AND PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD
ON A SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT TO THE
MIDDLETOWN TOWNSHIP
ANNUAL ACTION PLAN FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019**

The Township of Middletown is an Entitlement Community which receives CDBG funds directly from the Federal Government. Middletown Township is proposing to amend its FY2019 One Year Action Plan component of the 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan. Middletown Township expects to submit the Substantial Amendment to HUD on or before April 24, 2023.

The Annual Action Plan identifies the needs of homeless, low-income, and special needs populations and describes activities the Township intends to undertake to address the priorities and specific objectives for housing and community development. The Plan also identifies the public and private funding sources that will be used to carry out the needs and objectives outlined in the Plan.

HUD requires the Township to submit an Annual Action Plan each year, identifying the activities it intends to undertake with Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds. The Township is following the Citizen Participation Process outlined in the Township's Citizen Participation Plan. A thirty-day public comment period is required for all substantial amendments to the FY2019 Annual Action Plan. The Township must hold a public hearing and public comment period to obtain citizen input on any proposed changes in projects or funding allocations contained in the Action Plan, whenever the proposed changes meet the definition of a Substantial Amendment as outlined in the Citizen Participation Plan.

PUBLIC HEARING AND PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

The Township held a public hearing to invite public comment and input on the proposed expenditures of the Community Development Block Grant Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act allocation on Friday, March 3, 2023, 4pm-4:30pm.

The thirty-day public comment period began on February 16, 2023, and ended at midnight on March 18, 2023. The Township was accepting comments from the public on this Amendment during this time period.

The Public was hereby notified that comments on the Substantial Amendment would be accepted by mail to: Township of Middletown, Department of Planning and Community Development, 1 Kings Highway, Middletown, NJ 07748, ATT: Jill Cammarosano, Community Development Manager or by email Jcammarosano@middletownnj.org.

The Substantial Amendment is available on the Township Community Development page of the Township of Middletown website at www.middletownnj.org. No comments will be accepted by telephone.

SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT OVERVIEW:

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act was signed on March 27, 2020, in response to the growing effects of the public health crisis. In response to COVID-19, the United States Congress has authorized the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to provide supplemental Community Development Block Grant (CDBG-CV) funding to entitlement communities such as Middletown Township.

Community Development Block Grant Program:

The Township is amending its FY 2019 Action Plan and allocating \$137,104 in funds as outlined below.

<u>Old Activity</u>	<u>New Activity</u>	<u>Prior Allocation</u>	<u>Funding Change</u>	<u>Change in allocation</u>
Child Care	Tutoring Program	\$156,171	\$137,104	\$19,067

CDBG-CV

Middletown Township Tutoring Grant Program including but not limited to transportation to the tutoring facility, books, and supplies.

In 2020, Middletown Township received a supplemental Community Development Block Grant (CDBG-CV) funding totaling \$559,604. The township proposed to utilize the CDBG COVID-19 funding with an allocation of \$156,171 for a Child Care Grant Program and \$403,433 for a Small Business Program.

However, an additional \$19,067 from the Child Care Grant Program was reallocated to the Small Business Program. Therefore, eligible applicants for the Small Business Program were able to receive the amount requested. A substantial amendment was not required to shift additional funds from Child Care to the Small Business Program because the amount reallocated was not more than 15% of the entire grant amount.

Middletown Township was able to provide a total of \$422,500 to the Small Business Program. The remaining funds in the Child Care Grant Program is \$137,104.

Middletown Township would like to propose to utilize the remaining CDBG COVID-19 funding for a Tutoring Grant Program including, but not limited to, transportation to the tutoring facility, books and supplies for low- and moderate-income households, instead of the current Child Care Program. Many children have fallen behind academically due to coronavirus-related school closures and challenges with distance learning, which disrupted traditional student learning for over two years. Most children need to have in-person instruction to learn and absorb material. However, tutoring services will strain family finances. This is a burden we would like to eliminate for our low and moderate-income households. Middletown Township recognizes that having the choice to enroll their child in a tutoring program is a luxury few can consider even if it is imperative for their child's academic future.

Utilizing the CDBG COVID-19 funding, Middletown's Tutoring Grant Program would offer grants to eligible households using HUD's income limits to help pay for tutoring service and will include, but is not limited to, transportation to the tutoring facility, books, and supplies. The grant funding would be provided directly to the provider and not the individual family but will alleviate the financial strain on low to moderate income families.

Grantee's name: Township of Middletown		Program: CDBG-CV	
Project Title: Tutoring Program		Objective Category:	LMI Limited Clientele
Location: Township wide		Outcome Category:	Sustainability
Priority Need: Public Service		Project ID: new	Local ID: T-18-56-850-800-475
Census Tract #:	Block Group #	CDBG Eligible Area:	HUD Matrix Code: 5
		Type of Recipient: LMC	IDIS Activity #: new
FY2019 Funding Sources:			
CDBG	\$137,104	Assisted Housing	
Choose an item.		PHA	
Choose an item.		Other Funding	
Prior Year Funds:	\$0	Total:	\$137,104
Description & Links to Consolidated Plan Goals:			
<p>Middletown Township would like to propose to utilize the CDBG COVID-19 funding for a Tutoring Grant Program including, but not limited to, transportation to the tutoring facility, books and supplies for low- and moderate-income households, instead of the current Child Care Program. Many children have fallen behind academically due to coronavirus-related school closures and challenges with distance learning, which disrupted traditional student learning for over two years. Most children need to have in-person instruction to learn and absorb material. However, tutoring services will strain family finances. This is a burden we would like to eliminate for our low and moderate-income households. Middletown Township recognizes that having the choice to enroll their child in a tutoring program is a luxury few can consider even if it is imperative for their child's academic future.</p> <p>Utilizing the CDBG COVID-19 funding, Middletown's Tutoring Grant Program would offer grants to eligible households using HUD's income limits to help pay for tutoring service and will include, but is not limited to, transportation to the tutoring facility, books, and supplies. The grant funding would be provided directly to the provider and not the individual family but will alleviate the financial strain on low to moderate income families.</p>			