

# NYS CDBG-CV: CARES ACT

## GRANTS FOR BROADBAND & WIFI EXPANSION



### Basic Requirements

Units of local government (UGLG) (i.e. Town, Village, City, County) and Not-for-Profits may apply. Funds will be made available to support community-based public activities that are either a new service or a quantifiable increase in the level of the service or, improvements to public facilities. CV funding can be used to ensure that low-to-moderate (LMI) persons can readily access online services, telehealth appointments, remote work, remote schooling, and other essential resources on the internet.

This activity must prepare, prevent, or respond to impacts of COVID-19 and potential variants or, future pandemics. Applicant must demonstrate at the time of application that 51% of the persons served are low-to-moderate income LMI.



### Examples of Eligible Activities

- Installation of hotspots at a public facility
- Installation of broadband antennae on existing communication towers
- Installation of broadband infrastructure in underserved areas
- Providing LMI households with broadband devices
- Purchase of instructive sessions for seniors on using internet-based services



### COVID Connection Examples

- Reduction of transmission of airborne illnesses and increasing ability to socially distance
- Increasing access to services and resources that are available online only
- Addressing loneliness caused by COVID-19 isolation
- Compliance with social distancing



### Program Compliance

CDBG Activities must meet at least one of the “National Objectives” below:

#### LMI Area Basis (LMA)

At least 51% of the area being served must be low/moderate income (LMI). Requires either a screenshot of the targeted community(ies) using the [HUD LMI Data Tool](#) OR conducting a community wide income survey to determine LMI area eligibility.

#### LMI Limited Clientele (LMC)

Activity benefits a defined group that HUD presumes are low/moderate income (LMI). Requires documentation showing that the activity is designed to be used exclusively by that group.

#### LMI Housing Benefit (LMH)

For single unit households, the household occupying the assisted unit must be LMI. For multi-unit households, at least 51% of the units must be occupied by LMI persons at the end of the project. Requires household(s) to certify income and provide worksheet to applicant as supporting documentation.



### 12 Month Deadline

All activities must be completed within 12 months from the date project is awarded.



### Contact Us

Email questions about CDBG CARES funding to [CDBGCARES@hcr.ny.gov](mailto:CDBGCARES@hcr.ny.gov).



Homes and  
Community Renewal



## Project Example 1: Expanding Broadband Infrastructure

### Project Description & COVID Connection

Town will use \$600,000 (includes program delivery and grant administration costs) to install wireless broadband devices in low-to-moderate income (LMI) households to ensure they have access to critical online resources and services in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and be more resilient in future emergencies.

### Use of Funds

Funds will be used to provide WiFi equipment to low-to-moderate income eligible households.

### Program Compliance & Required Documentation

**LMI Housing** — The project will assist at least 100 LMI households in the area.

**Required documentation for LMI Housing** — Income self certification to demonstrate housing units are occupied by at least 51% LMI persons.



## Project Example 2: Public WiFi for LMI Areas

### Project Description & COVID Connection

City will use \$400,000 (includes program delivery and grant administration costs) to ensure low-to-moderate (LMI) communities have access to critical online resources and services in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and be more resilient in future emergencies.

### Use of Funds

Funds will be used to install mobile hotspots and wireless mesh repeaters in three public spaces where predominantly LMI persons reside.

### Program Compliance & Required Documentation

**LMI Area Basis** — The project will assist an estimated 5,000 LMI persons as determined by HUD's LMI Data Mapping Tool.

**Required documentation for LMI Area Basis** — Screenshot of the HUD LMI Data Tool demonstrating that the three public areas are greater than 51% LMI.



## To Access Funding



All CDBG CARES materials, including the consultation form and application materials can be found on:

<https://hcr.ny.gov/cdbg-cares>