

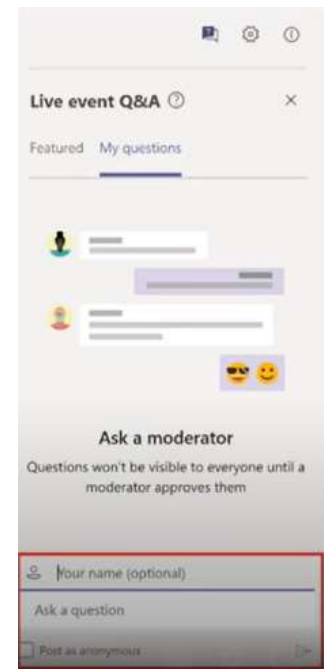
A 3D illustration featuring several white, stylized human figures interacting with large, light green puzzle pieces on a purple surface. One figure is placing a piece into a larger assembly, while others stand nearby. A large green puzzle piece in the foreground contains the numbers 1 through 6. A pink rectangular block is visible in the upper right corner of the scene.

# Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program COVID-19

COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ  
INFORMATIONAL MEETING  
MAY 15, 2020

# How to ask a question

- ▶ Webinar questions
  - ▶ Click “Ask a question” to submit a question to the housing team
  - ▶ You may ask question anonymously, but adding your name or organization can be done by typing it in “Your Name” box
  - ▶ We may answer some questions at the end of the presentation
  - ▶ Questions and answers will be posted after the live event



# What is CDBG?

- ▶ Funding program created by the federal Housing and Community Development (HCD) Act of 1974
- ▶ Funds for local community development and housing projects and programs
  - Funding levels vary based on annual and disaster appropriations by Congress
- ▶ Smaller (“non-entitlement”) jurisdictions, including the County of Santa Cruz apply for CDBG funds from the State
- ▶ The current COVID funds (CDBG-CV) are from a disaster appropriation and will be distributed by the State through a non-competitive formula.
- ▶ The County’s allocation of CDBG-CV is approximately \$504,711.

# CDBG Purpose



- ▶ CDBG funds must be used to meet at least one of three “National Objectives”:
  - ▶ Benefit lower-income residents
  - ▶ Eliminate “slums and blight”
  - ▶ Address urgent community needs (e.g., disaster recovery, extreme economic conditions, etc.)
- ▶ Nowadays, most communities in CA usually use CDBG funds to address Objective 1: Benefit lower-income residents, with:
  - ▶ Affordable housing, human services programs, public improvements / facilities in lower-income neighborhoods, programs to house and assist homeless people

# State of California CDBG-CV Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA)



- ▶ CDBG-CV Expected to be released week of May 18th
- ▶ Applications Due: immediately after Board Hearing in June
- ▶ County allocation estimated to be about \$504,411 (a portion of funds will be administration funds for the County)
- ▶ Activities must be directly COVID-19 related
- ▶ All funding must be expended within 12 months
- ▶ Application title must include “COVID-19”

What is NOT  
Eligible for  
CDBG  
funding?  
General  
government  
and/or  
political  
activities

- Government buildings, general government expenses
- Political activities
- Furnishings, construction equipment, fire protection equipment, and personal property
- Income payments to individuals
- New housing construction, except as authorized
- Operating and maintenance expenses for public streets, parks, water and sewer facilities, neighborhood facilities, parking, other public facilities.
- Staff salaries, utility costs or similar operating costs of public works and facilities

## Who is “Lower-Income” in Santa Cruz County?

CDBG statutes and guidelines refer to this income level (up to 80% AMI) as “Low and Moderate Income” or “Low-Mod”, but most state, federal and local housing programs refer to this as “Low Income” or “Lower-Income”. The current Low-Income limits for Santa Cruz County are higher than you might expect:

### Low Income Limits (80% of Area Median Income “AMI”) Santa Cruz County, 2020

Household Size							
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
\$74,350	\$85,000	\$95,600	\$106,200	\$114,700	\$123,200	\$131,700	\$140,200


# How do interested agencies apply?



- ▶ Submit Letter of Interest & Pre-Application:
  - ▶ Letter of Interest
    - ▶ Tip: Use County Guiding Principles to prepare Letter of Interest
  - ▶ Project/Program Description
  - ▶ Amount of CDBG funding request, include budget and expenditure timeline
  - ▶ Submittals can be made via email to [HousingProgramsInfo@santacruzcounty.us](mailto:HousingProgramsInfo@santacruzcounty.us) by 5pm on May 22<sup>nd</sup>
    - ▶ Subject line should state “CDBG-CV proposal”
  - ▶ The Board of Supervisors will select most competitive proposals at Board public hearing on June 16<sup>th</sup>



# Key Dates

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- ▶ NOFA and Application Release: May 2020
  - ▶ Pre-applications due to County: May 22, 2020
  - ▶ Review/evaluation of proposals: May 26-28, 2020
  - ▶ Board Hearing and Selection of proposals for County application: June 16, 2020
  - ▶ County Application due to HCD: To be announced



# State of California 2019-2020 Annual Action Plan Substantial Amendment

[https://www.hcd.ca.gov/policy-research/plans-reports/docs/State of California DRAFT 2019 2020 Annual Action Plan CARES Act Substantial Amendment.pdf](https://www.hcd.ca.gov/policy-research/plans-reports/docs/State%20of%20California%20DRAFT%202019%202020%20Annual%20Action%20Plan%20CARES%20Act%20Substantial%20Amendment.pdf)



▶ If your proposal is selected by the Board, you will work with County staff to finalize the County application:

**[HousingProgramsInfo@santacruzcounty.us](mailto:HousingProgramsInfo@santacruzcounty.us)**

Thank  
you!

▶ Housing Division Home Page:

▶ **<http://www.sccoplanning.com/PlanningHome/Housing.aspx>**

▶ State CDBG Info:

▶ **<http://www.hcd.ca.gov/grants-funding/nofas.shtml>**

