

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD NOTICE

MARTIN COUNTY CDBG-CV GRANT LEARNING CENTER PROJECT

Martin County has developed an Application for the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity Community Development Block Grant-CV Coronavirus Relief Funding (CDBG-CV). The County is seeking input from potential stakeholders and the public on the grant application.

The County is applying for approximately \$1.4 mln in CDBG-CV funds to benefit Martin County residents in response to COVID-19. Under the CDBG-CV requirements, the County is required to solicit public comment on its proposed use of funds. Since the onset of the Coronavirus Pandemic many businesses, especially retail, personal service industries, and restaurateurs, have been and still are immensely impacted by the loss of business the pandemic has caused. In most cases, businesses had to make cuts to maintain a bottom line, adapt to new businesses procedures, reduce worker hours, and in some cases close the business entirely. The pandemic has highlighted a desperate need to reeducate or up-skill the existing and entering workforce in Martin County. Staff was able to identify this need through collaborative sessions with the Business Development Board staff, economic policy groups, chambers of commerce, and various not for profit groups operating in the community. Staff is proposing the rehabilitation of Building 17 at Witham Field to operate as a Learning Center. Staff also suggests entering into a management agreement with Indian River State College, for the operation of the facility to provide the needed education. A variety of education would be provided at the facility to meet the requirements of the CDBG-CV grant and to address the continuing educational unit (CEU) and workforce education needs.

A narrative of the proposed project is posted on the County's Website and an advertisement for public hearing will be published in the local paper. The public is invited to provide comments on the CDBG-CV grant. An application is being developed and the public is invited view a hard copy by contacting George Stokus, Assistant County Administrator by phone: 772.221.2352 or email: gstokus@martin.fl.us. Written comments may be provided to George Stokus and MUST be received no later than October 25, 2021.

Las versiones en español y criollo haitiano de este Aviso y la Aplicación estarán disponibles a pedido por teléfono: 772.221.2352 or email: stokus@martin.fl.us.

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