



Town of Paradise
 Community Development Department
 Business & Housing
 5555 Skyway
 Paradise, CA 95969
 (530) 872-6291

Public Review Draft

Town of Paradise

Substantial Amendment to the 2019-2020 Annual Plan

<p><u>Jurisdiction:</u></p> <p>Town of Paradise</p> <p>www.townofparadise.com</p>	<p>CDBG Contact Person and Address:</p> <p>Sarah Richter 5555 Skyway Paradise, CA 95969 Phone: (530) 872-6291 x 122 Fax: (530) 877-5059 Email: srichter@townofparadise.com</p>
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According to federal regulations and the Town of Paradise Citizen Participation Plan, any changes to an adopted CDBG budget that amounts to more than 25% of the annual allocation, and/or a cancellation or addition of a new project/activity, requires: (a) public notification for solicitation or comments, (b) a public hearing, and (c) Town Council approval. All public comments submitted to staff will be attached to the amendment submitted to HUD for acceptance.

The following amendment to the 2019-2020 Annual Plan is proposed for Council consideration:

1. **Reallocate \$200,000 from an emergency rental assistance activity to Public Services to prepare, prevent, and respond to COVID.** CDBG-CV funds are currently allocated to an emergency rental assistance activity, but this program has been undersubscribed. In the Consolidated Plan, the Town identified priority needs, which included improvement of the community’s well-being by participating with residents and local stakeholders in community building efforts and created a goal to provide public services for low-to-moderate-income individuals and those with special needs. To support this goal, staff recommends the reallocation of funds to public services that can be carried out by subrecipients that directly benefit Paradise residents meeting the definition of limited clientele. Activities planned to meet this public service goal are reimbursement of net unfunded costs for meal deliveries to disabled and senior residents to support their continued ability to serve Paradise, and funding to the Paradise Recreation and Parks District to expand the Neighbor-to-Neighbor program to create activities specifically to benefit the emotional wellness of senior and disabled residents.

Chico Meals on Wheels, which took over for Paradise Meals on Wheels after the Camp Fire, has identified just under \$77,000 in net unfunded costs incurred between March of 2020 and the beginning of 2024. Meal deliveries made to disabled and senior residents doubled between June and December of 2020, and have not subsided to 2020 levels since. They delivered 9,962 meals to disabled and senior residents of Paradise during this time. Reimbursing Chico Meals on Wheels for their unfunded costs assists this organization regain



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financial stability so they can continue to provide meals to the residents most vulnerable to COVID. This funding is not a duplication of any other funding received in response to COVID.

Paradise Recreation and Parks District received a Neighbor-to-Neighbor grant from the state of California. The Neighbor-to-Neighbor program was created to build more connected, supportive, and resilient neighborhoods. This funding will allow the Parks District to increase their offerings and outreach with the express purpose of improving the emotional wellness of vulnerable Paradise residents through new and expanded social connections. Improving emotional wellness prepares and prevents COVID infections by increasing immune resistance and resilience, fosters development of peer-to-peer support networks, and reduces the anxiety and depression of isolation. It is understood now, that COVID is a disease that changes frequently. We can't predict future variations, the severity, or symptoms of COVID, but we can increase the general well-being of our residents. Per the Surgeon General, "...Loneliness is far more than just a bad feeling—it harms both individual and societal health. It is associated with a greater risk of cardiovascular disease, dementia, stroke, depression, anxiety, and premature death. The mortality impact of being socially disconnected is similar to that caused by smoking up to 15 cigarettes a day, and even greater than that associated with obesity and physical inactivity... People who are less socially connected may have increased susceptibility and weaker immune responses when they are exposed to infectious diseases... several reports have found that lower community social connection is linked to poorer health outcomes. This was made clear when examining the spread of the COVID-19 virus. One study in the United States compared changes in the county-level spread of COVID-19 against several measures of social capital. These included family structure and involvement, trust in community institutions, popularity of volunteerism, levels of participation in political discussions and voting efforts, and cohesion among community members. After controlling for potential alternative explanatory factors, the researchers found that lower levels of social capital were associated with a higher number of cases and deaths from COVID-19 infection. Further, counties with strong social ties experienced fewer deaths during the COVID-19 pandemic." (Our Epidemic of Loneliness and Isolation: The US Surgeon General's Advisory on the Healing Effects of Social Connection and Community (2023) by Dr. Vivek H. Murthy)

CDBG Annual Plan Amendment

Project Name	CDBG-CV Public Services
Target Area	Townwide
Goals Supported	Provide public services for low-to-moderate-income individuals and those with special needs
Needs Addressed	Improvement of the community's well-being by participating with residents and local stakeholders in community building efforts
Funding	CDBG-CV: \$200,000



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Description	Public services to prepare for, prevent, and respond to COVID
Target Date	12/31/2025
Estimated number and type of families that will benefit from proposed activities	500 senior or disabled residents
Location Description	Townwide
Planned Activities	Reimbursement for unfunded costs of meal deliveries (approx. \$77,000); Classes, events, group activities to improve emotional wellness of senior and disabled residents (approx. \$100,000); program administration, reporting, and monitoring (approx. \$23,000)