

**Results of Entitlement Cities Survey on using**

**CARES Act funds for emergency rental assistance**

**June 16, 2020**

Housing security continues to be a priority need for Hoosiers during the pandemic, with the [data showing](https://www.prosperityindiana.org/Policy-News/9008081) that COVID-19 income loss is the main cause. Indiana needs statewide rent assistance, and CARES funds allocated to entitlement cities can be part of that if coordinated. Through a survey of cities conducted from late May through mid-June, here’s what we know to date about use of CARES Act resources by Indiana’s cities for emergency rental assistance.

Some cities across the state of Indiana are using CARES Act funds create city rental assistance programs for their residents. For example, Anderson, Bloomington, Columbus, Elkhart, Evansville, Fort Wayne, La Porte, Michigan City, Muncie, and South Bend are all currently or planning to use a portion of their Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for rental assistance programs. Hammond reported that they will be using their HOME Investment Partnership (HOME) and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds. Indianapolis plans to use Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) funds for assistance and is currently assessing the specific needs and allocations for rental assistance, shelter operations, and prevention.

Kokomo, Terre Haute, and West Lafayette reported that they are not using or planning to use CDBG for rental assistance at this time.

With the exceptions of Columbus, Indianapolis, La Porte, and South Bend, city responses did not include the amount of allocated funding that they will be using. Columbus is allocating $125,000 of CDBG funds for rental and utility assistance. La Porte’s plan is to designate $197, 129 of CDBG-CV funds for rental, utility, and prescription assistance. According to their staff member, South Bend plans to use $328,00 of the CDBG funds for rent and utility assistance and $350,000 of the ESG CARES for emergency shelter and rent assistance. In addition, Indianapolis and Marion County, the only local units in the state to receive Coronavirus Relief Funds, will use $15 million in CRF for a rental assistance program.

The following chart outlines the allocation of CARES Act funds in Indiana, along with notes of city responses to our survey as of June 16, 2020.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **NAME** | **04/02/2020 CDBG-CV1** | **04/02/2020 ESG-CV1** | **06/09/2020 ESG-CV2** | **04/02/2020 HOPWA-CV** | **Funds Reported Being Used for Rental Assistance** | **Notes** |
| Anderson | $547,410 | $0 | $0 | $0 | CDBG; HOME TBRA |  |
| Bloomington | $525,656 | $0 | $0 | $0 | CDBG; Jack Hopkins | Agencies will receive the funding to oversee the programs |
| Columbus | $183,761 | $0 | $0 | $0 | CDBG | $125,00 from the CDBG funds for rental and utility assistance. They have also set aside an additional $75,000 if more assistance is required. |
| East Chicago | $787,698 | $0 | $0 | $0 |  | Still in planning phase and deciding which program to fund |
| Elkhart | $447,978 | $0 | $0 | $0 | CDBG |  |
| Evansville | $1,592,787 | $790,410 | $941,088 | $0 | CDBG; ESG | Rent and mortgage assistance through HOPE of Evansville with CDBG CV funds; ESG CV diversion from homelessness through Aurora of Evansville |
| Fort Wayne | $1,196,985 | $598,952 | $1,157,870 | $0 | CDBG | CDBG CARES for Tenant Legal Aid Clinic; Financial Assistance Program for rent and utilities with CDBG-CV; Exploring the possibility of providing rental assistance with HOME |
| Gary | $1,974,302 | $997,166 | $1,093,079 | $0 | ESG-CV | ESG-CV set aside for Rapid Rehousing and homelessness prevention; no funds designated from CDBG-CV; Continuing HOME TBRA program |
| Goshen | $160,517 | $0 | $0 | $0 |  | Did not respond. |
| Greenwood\* | $211,126 | $0 | $0 | $0 |  | Did not respond. |
| Hammond | $1,257,099 | $635,393 | $649,003 | $0 | ESG; HOME |  |
| Indianapolis | $5,601,075 | $2,792,797 | $7,122,695 | $232,202 | CDBG, ESG, HOPWA; CRF | Assessing specific needs and allocations for rental assistance, shelter operations, and prevention; $15 million from the Coronavirus Relief Fund is allocated for rent assistance.\*\* |
| Kokomo | $486,873 | $0 | $0 | $0 |  | Will not be using CDBG funds for rent assistance |
| Lafayette\* | $394,084 | $0 | $0 | $0 |  | Did not respond. |
| La Porte | $275,815 | $0 | $0 | $0 | CDBG-CV | Allocating $197,129 of CDBG-CV funding under public services for rental assistance, utility bill assistance, and prescription assistance to Catholic Charities and to the Center Township Trustee. |
| Michigan City | $394,911 | $0 | $0 | $0 |  | Will be using unknown designated funds to expand current rental assistance program once received |
| Mishawaka\* | $282,298 | $0 | $0 | $0 |  | Did not respond. |
| Muncie | $749,824 | $0 | $0 | $0 | CDBG; HOME |  |
| New Albany\* | $397,196 | $0 | $0 | $0 |  | Did not respond. |
| South Bend | $1,491,174 | $759,783 | $787,585 | $0 | CDBG; ESG | $328,000 CDBG designated for rent/utility assistance; $350,000 ESG-CARES for emergency shelter/rent |
| Terre Haute | $902,204 | $0 | $0 | $0 |  | Will not be using funds for tenant based rental assistance |
| West Lafayette | $262,562 | $0 | $0 | $0 |  | Will not be using CDBG funds for rent assistance |

\*Did not respond to emails and/or calls by June 16, 2020.

\*\*Indianapolis is eligible for the Coronavirus Relief Fund as a unit of local government with a population that exceeds 500,000 (Source: “[The CARES Act Provides Assistance for State, Local, and Tribal Governments](https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/cares/state-and-local-governments)”, U.S. Department of Treasury).

Source: “[CPD PROGRAM FORMULA ALLOCATIONS AND CARES ACT SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING FOR FY 2020](https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/comm_planning/budget/fy20/)”, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and Survey of Indiana entitlement cities