



Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
**DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING &  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

Charles D. Baker, Governor ♦ Karyn E. Polito, Lt. Governor ♦ Jennifer D. Maddox, Undersecretary

April 17, 2020

Robert D. Shumeyko  
Regional Director, New England Office  
Office of Community Planning and Development  
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development  
Thomas P. O'Neill Jr. Building  
10 Causeway Street  
Boston, MA 02222-1092

Dear Mr. Shumeyko:

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Department of Housing and Urban Development is requesting a waiver of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program requirements in order to prevent, prepare for and respond to coronavirus. The waiver is requested for the following CDBG allocations, to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts: CDBG FFY 2020 and CDBG COVID-19 supplemental (CDBG-CV). Approval of this waiver will enable the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to more efficiently and effectively respond to the needs of low- and moderate-income persons impacted by the COVID-19 crisis.

The requested waiver is as follows:

Waiver of the sections cited below and waiver/modification of any related sections to allow the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to directly carry out CDBG activities.  
*Requirements at 42 U.S.C 5306 that prevent a State from directly carrying out CDBG activities.*

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has only one official county government for the CDBG Program to administer activities through and that one has no prior experience in administering CDBG funds. This requires the Commonwealth to engage directly with municipal entities on a one-on-one basis. Many of the communities in the Commonwealth do not have the capacity to manage grants under normal circumstances let alone during a crisis such as we are currently experiencing. The Commonwealth would be able to more efficiently and effectively administer and provide targeted delivery of funds to address issues communities are experiencing due to the crisis, if able to engage with regional and other entities that have the experience and the capacity to deliver needed services to low-income residents of non-entitlement jurisdictions.

We appreciate your consideration of this waiver request and for all the assistance you provide to the Commonwealth and especially during the challenges of the COVID-19 crisis.

Sincerely,