



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC
AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



JANET T. MILLS
GOVERNOR

HEATHER JOHNSON
COMMISSIONER

April 21, 2020
Robert D. Shumeyko
Regional Director, New England Office
Office of Community Planning and Development
U.S. Department of Planning and Development
Thomas P. O'Neil Jr. Building
10 Causeway Street
Boston, Ma 02222-1092

Dear Mr. Shumeyko

The State of Maine, Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) is requesting a specific waiver of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program requirements to Prevent the Spread of COVID 19 and mitigate economic impacts caused by COVID 19. This waiver is requested only for the specific CDBG-CV allocation of \$ 7,022,416 to the State of Maine. Approval of this waiver will enable Maine to more efficiently and effectively respond to the needs of low- and moderate-income residents during this crisis.

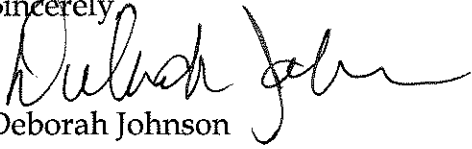
The requested waiver is as follows:

1. Waiver of the section cited below and waiver/modification of any related sections to allow the State of Maine to directly carry out CDBG activities in the non-entitlement areas.
Requirements at 42 U.S.C. 5306 that prevent a State from directly carrying out CDBG activities.

The impact in Maine that the COVID 19 pandemic has had on the non-entitlement areas of the state have been mainly economic. Most of the concentration of the actual cases of COVID 19 has been in the more densely populated urban entitlement areas. However, the Governor's Executive Orders of business closures, social distancing and stay at home are valid statewide which has had a devastating financial impact on the economy of rural Maine. That economy is driven by small businesses. This loss of revenue has resulted in many people unable to pay rent and by food amongst many other hardships. Of the over 450 UGLG in Maine, almost 400 have populations under 5,000 with the vast majority under 2,000 and under 500. These small communities are facing logistical and technical challenges as they respond to this crisis and most are operating at reduced levels during this time of crisis. In the best of times these communities are challenged by local capacity. Administrative efficiencies are available by contracting with a single entity such as a large food bank rather than multiple communities in a regional/statewide effort. Should you have any questions regarding this request please contact me at deborah.johnson@maine.gov or 207-624-9817

We deeply appreciate the support your office has continued to provide to Maine, despite the challenges of working during this COVID-19 pandemic. Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Deborah Johnson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "J".

Deborah Johnson
Director, Office of Community Development
cc: Lynn Morrow