

October 28, 2020 CDBG-CV Round 3 Virtual Public Engagement Meeting Online – 7:30PM

1. How has the COVID-19 pandemic impacted your household's ability to manage your daily life responsibilities?
 - a. A reduction in social activity with family and friends
 - b. Financial setback
 - c. Lack of internet resources
 - d. Loneliness and isolation from others
 - e. Need for childcare with facilities closing down
 - f. Restrictions on community resources (e.g. library)
 - g. Losing basic utilities due to job loss
 - h. Unable to work

2. What housing and community development needs have been amplified the most by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic? What type of support is most critical to helping low to moderate income households adapt and become more resilient to the pandemic?
 - a. Ability to pay utility bills
 - b. Minor repairs to maintain home
 - c. Need for rent and mortgage assistance
 - d. Job security for individuals with low earning wages
 - i. Tax credits for hiring for low paying jobs
 - e. Homelessness organizations are overwhelmed (e.g. Turning Point, Room at the Inn)
 - f. Rent and mortgage assistance
 - g. More resources for health issue / caretakers

- h. More COVID-19 testing
 - i. On-site options for those who are unable to leave their home
 - i. Better use of funding to get as many people as possible to have a roof over their head
- 3. What is your hope for our City's future as we continue to work through this crisis and become more resilient as a community?
 - a. We need robust support for people who struggle. There are individuals and families who work and are barely surviving due to lack of resources. We need to prioritize safety measure to reduce exposure of COVID-19
 - b. Make this an opportunity to gather as a community and unite to help one another. The City of Columbia must look for ways to foster individuals and promote an effort to "pitch in and help others"
 - c. As a community we focus on the university, we live in a diverse environment, wages differ in a town that is segregated. Everything revolved around the students. Lack of jobs (major employers) in Columbia. Strive harder to increase small businesses and entrepreneurs. Do not let the developers decide the future for the city. What should our city center look like?
 - d. Look into more renewable energy options. Focus on energy efficiency. Look into ways of taking recycling materials and turn in items of use (long-term plan)