

**NOTICE OF A VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE FY 2019 CDBG-CV & 2020
ENTITLEMENT CDBG PROGRAMS FOR SOMERSET COUNTY AND ON BEHALF
OF THE
TOWNSHIPS OF CONEMAUGH, JENNER AND SOMERSET AND BOROUGHS OF
SOMERSET AND WINDBER, PA**

Notice is hereby given by the County of Somerset, as a CDBG Entitlement under the Pennsylvania Community Development Block Grant Program and on behalf of the Entitlement Townships of Conemaugh, Jenner and Somerset, and the Entitlement Boroughs of Somerset and Windber, that Virtual Public Hearings will be held on Tuesday, September 8, 2020 to discuss the 2019 CDBG-CV Entitlement Applications and the 2020 Entitlement Applications. You may log onto the meetings at this link:

<https://zoom.us/j/99968665515?pwd=UzhBQ2l1WGlid1dQM2dXY0t2bVM5QT09.>

Scheduled times for each municipality are as follows:

- 1:00 P.M. - Somerset County
- 1:20 P.M. – Conemaugh Township
- 1:40 P.M. – Jenner Township
- 2:00 P.M. – Somerset Borough
- 2:20 P.M. – Somerset Township
- 2:40 P.M. – Windber Borough

The purpose of the Public Hearings is to discuss the needs of the Non-entitlement Areas of the County of Somerset and the Entitlement Townships of Conemaugh, Jenner and Somerset, and Entitlement Boroughs of Somerset and Windber, as a result of the need to prepare, prevent and respond to the COVID-19 global pandemic and the use of CDBG-CV funds, as well as discuss the requirements of the 2020 Entitlement CDBG funds. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, through the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) has allocated certain funds to these municipalities which it has received under the CARES Act to these jurisdictions for activities to provide immediate and direct response to the crisis impacting the Non-entitlement Areas of the County and the Entitlement Township as a result of the COVID-19 global pandemic.

In addition, the Public Hearing will discuss the 2020 Entitlement Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program in general, the needs of the non-entitlement municipalities within

the County of Somerset, as well as the entitlement municipalities which include Conemaugh Township, Jenner Township, Somerset Borough, Somerset Township and Windber Borough, and the County's and all entitlement municipalities' performance under the previously funded CDBG Program years, and to discuss the required Three-Year Community Development Plan of these municipalities.

The County will be preparing its application and an application on behalf of the Townships and Boroughs to DCED for the CDBG-CV funds and CDBG Entitlement funds. The County, in preparation of these applications for funds, will afford residents, local agencies, and interested parties with the opportunity to become involved in the planning process. This Public Hearing will gather information and input on the needs of the Non-entitlement Areas of the County and the Entitlement Townships and Boroughs, and ways to address the problems caused by the COVID-19 virus. Funds may be used for eligible CDBG Public Service Activities, housing assistance payments, and for Economic Development – Business Assistance Activities. At least 70% of the available funding must be used for activities which benefit low-and-moderate income persons. The proposed activities must benefit at least 51% low-moderate income persons in the service area to qualify as a low-moderate income project.

The following types of activities may be eligible for funding under the Entitlement CDBG Program: water and sewer line replacement and improvements; housing rehabilitation; construction of affordable housing; construction/reconstruction of public/community facilities; recreational facilities; public services that are new or provide quantifiable increases in the delivery of services; street improvements; historic preservation; removal of architectural barriers; code enforcement; economic development; acquisition and relocation; clearance and demolition; and general administration, planning, audit if required, and preparation of the CDBG application.

If the County of Somerset or the Entitlement Municipalities would undertake activities that result in the displacement of families or individuals, then the County of Somerset's policy for minimizing such displacement would be in effect. The County of Somerset and the Entitlement Municipalities are responsible for replacing all low- and moderate-income housing units that may be demolished or converted as a result of the use of CDBG funds.

If special accommodations are needed for persons with disabilities, those with hearing or vision impairments, or those with limited English proficiency, in order to participate in the virtual public hearing, please contact Mr. Steven R. Spochart, Executive Director, Redevelopment Authority of Somerset County, by phone at (814) 443-2780, by email at steve@somersetredevelopment.org, or by mail at 300 N. Center Avenue, Suite 520, Somerset, PA 15501, at least one day in advance of the public hearing to allow for the necessary arrangements to be made. Persons with hearing and/or speech impediments may contact the Redevelopment Authority through the PA Telecommunications Relay Services at 1-800-654-5984, or by dialing 7-1-1.

All residents, local agencies, and interested parties are encouraged to attend this Virtual Public Hearing and they will be given the opportunity to present oral or written comments concerning the needs of the Non-entitlement Areas of the County and Entitlement Townships and Boroughs and the use of CDBG-CV funds to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the needs created by the coronavirus, as well as the use of 2020 Entitlement CDBG funds. Written or oral comments may be directed to the attention of Mr. Steven R. Spochart, Executive Director, Redevelopment Authority of Somerset County, by phone at (814) 443-2780, by email at steve@somersetredevelopment.org, or by mail at 300 N. Center Avenue, Suite 520, Somerset, PA 15501, within five (5) days after the public hearing.

Steven R. Spochart, Executive Director
Redevelopment Authority of Somerset County