



Richland County Community Development
Substantial Amendment to the 2018 Annual Action Plan | July 2025

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF PROPOSED SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT
TO THE 2018 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN**

Jurisdiction: Richland County, South Carolina Jurisdiction Web Address: http://richlandcountysc.gov	Responsible Entity: Community Development Office: Address: Richland County Government 2020 Hampton Street, Suite 3058 Columbia, SC 29204 Telephone: (803) 576-2230 CD@richlandcountysc.gov
https://www.richlandcountysc.gov/Government/Organization/Departments/Community-Development	

Timeline for Substantial Amendments Process:

Public Notice Published: Friday, July 25, 2025 in *The State* newspaper

30-Day Public Comment Period: July 25 – August 25, 2025

Public Hearing: Tuesday, August 12, 2025 at 6:00PM

Council Approval: Tuesday, August 26, 2025

Submission to HUD: Following Council approval.

Summary of Substantial Amendments:

The proposed Substantial Amendment to the 2018 Annual Action Plan will reallocate **\$100,000.00** of available Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds from a cancelled 2018 Public Facility Activity on Atlas Road to public facility improvement activities already underway in unincorporated Richland County prior to their *upcoming expiration date of September 26, 2025*.

A Substantial Amendment to any Annual Action Plan is required whenever the proposed action meets the following criteria as listed in the County's CDBG Citizen Participation Plan:

- any addition or deletion of major proposed activities
- an increase or decrease greater than 50% in a budget line item

Grant Funding Background

CDBG grant funds are provided on an annual basis to the County following allocation by Congress and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The County is required to develop and



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Annual Action Plan (AAP) with public participation to guide each year's allocation of grant funds. The County has seven (7) years to expend CDBG funds on an eligible project.

The proposed Substantial Amendment to the 2018 Annual Action Plan is the result of a cancelled Public Facility project for a park on Atlas Road.

Staff Recommendations, Best Practices, and Strategic Funding Reallocations

Staff is recommending the following reallocation of CDBG Funds:

- **Project Changes:** The amendment to the 2018 Annual Action Plan is being conducted to remove an allocation of CDBG funds from a cancelled Public Facility Improvement activity for a community park on Atlas Road, allowing funds to be made available to qualified, shovel-ready projects. The project was in a development stage from 2015-2019 with the Richland County Recreation Commission, but was stalled due to the COVID-19 pandemic and staff turnover. The project did not receive Council approval; the acquisition and development opportunity are no longer viable. County staff are actively engaged in public facility improvement projects that serve the Low/Mod population in unincorporated areas of the County. *These projects are positioned to expend the \$100,000 in CDBG funds prior to their expiration in September 2025.*
- **CDBG Expiration of Funds and Timeliness Test:** CDBG funds must be invested in an eligible project within seven (7) years or funds will be “recaptured” by HUD. If these funds are not invested on an eligible project by September 26, 2025, the funds will be recaptured. Further, HUD annually evaluates whether Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Grantees are carrying out their programs in a timely manner as evidenced by their use of CDBG funds. This assessment occurs each year on August 2nd. Reallocating unused funds enables Richland County Community Development to meet HUD’s annual timeliness test and ensure continued program compliance.

It is a best practice in the development of Annual Action Plans to include broadly defined Projects that allow for maximum flexibility, the ability to pivot investment priorities in response to changes in the housing market and economy, and to maneuver through unexpected challenges that arise with potential Subrecipients.

Impacted Projects:

The Substantial Amendment will reallocate \$100,000.00 in CDBG funds to a shovel-ready Public Facility Project from the following Project:



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Table I: Details on Impacted CDBG Projects

These CDBG funds will be made available to qualified, shovel-ready Public Facility Improvement projects to support Transitional Housing Rehabilitation already underway and included in the 2024

Program Year & Project/Activity	Available CDBG Funds	Activity Status
2018: Atlas Road Community Park	\$100,000.00	Project cancelled following COVID-19 Pandemic and loss of opportunity.
To be Reallocated:	\$ 100,000.00	

Annual Action Plan.

Investing these Funds:

Once the Substantial Amendment is approved by Council and HUD, County Staff are positioned to immediately invest as supplemental support for CDBG activities already underway and included in the 2024 Annual Action Plan. These activities include rehabilitation to thirty-one (31) Transitional Housing units at Homeless No More and the Midlands Housing Alliance. Funds may also be used to supplement minor home repair projects. *The goal is to ensure all 2018 CDBG funds are invested prior to expiration in September 26, 2025.*

Impact on Annual Action Plan Goals and Objectives

The proposed Amendments are in keeping with the 2017-2021 Five-Year Consolidated Plan and 2022-2026 Five-Year Consolidated Plans and associated Annual Action Plans. There are no changes to the goals as originally proposed. Goals associated with the improvement of public facilities serving the LMI community remain.

Public Comment

In alignment with Richland County's Citizen Participation Plan, a public notice was posted in *The State* newspaper Friday, July 25, 2025 and a 30-Day public display and comment period for the proposed Substantial Amendments will occur from July 25, 2025-August 25, 2025. In addition, a public hearing is scheduled to be held regarding the proposed Substantial Amendments on Tuesday, August 12, 2025 at 6:00 PM in the Council Chambers prior to its approval by County Council for submission to HUD.

A summary of public comments received regarding the proposed Substantial Amendments will be included in the final submission to HUD.

Attachment: Notice of 30-Day Public Comment Period.