

## Executive Summary

### ES-05 Executive Summary - 24 CFR 91.200(c), 91.220(b)

#### 1. Introduction

The City of Lynchburg receives an annual entitlement allocation of funding from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to be used for the benefit of low-income persons or neighborhoods. The funding is based on a formula and a number of community development factors including population, the extent of poverty, housing overcrowding, and slower population growth in relationship to other metropolitan areas.

The City of Lynchburg receives two different entitlement grants from HUD, the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and the HOME Investment Partnerships Program Grant. The City uses these funds to leverage other public and private funding towards community development and housing projects.

The City of Lynchburg, as an entitlement jurisdiction in the CDBG and HOME Programs, is required by HUD to submit a consolidated plan every five years. The Consolidated Plan defines a specific course of action to meet the community development and housing needs for the citizens of Lynchburg. It integrates economic, physical, environmental, community and human development in a comprehensive and coordinated fashion so that the City, Lynchburg Redevelopment and Housing Authority (LRHA), and nonprofit organizations can work together to assist in meeting the needs of families and/or individuals. The strategic plan in this document also sets forth program goals, specific objectives, annual goals, and benchmarks for measuring progress. In so doing, it helps the City and citizens keep track of results and learn what works in the community.

This Consolidated Plan corresponds to the City's next five fiscal years, which begins July 1, 2015 and ends June 30, 2020. Once a year, City staff writes an Action Plan. The Action Plan outlines projects and the amount of funding that will go towards the goals outlined in the Consolidated Plan. At the conclusion of each fiscal year, City staff writes a final report, called the Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER), to report the progress towards the Consolidated Plan goals and accomplishments by project.

The CDBG and HOME funding allocations have been trending downwards and that trend is expected to continue. However, this Plan takes into account the increasing importance of

identifying and prioritizing the most critical needs to be addressed with CDBG and HOME Program funds.

### **Structure of the Plan**

The Consolidated Plan consists of three major sections: a housing and community development needs assessment, a housing market analysis, and a strategic plan which identifies those priority housing and community development needs and strategies that the City plans to address with the available HUD resources over the next five years. This plan was formulated using HUD's eConPlan tool, which dictates the plan's structure and provides a series of pre-populated tables.

Data in the three major sections was drawn primarily from HUD's Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy (CHAS) data set, which is a special tabulation of 2007-2011 American Community Survey (ACS) data from the Census Bureau. The CHAS data is a fixed set of data in pre-populated tables. The CHAS data describes housing problems, such as overcrowding or incomplete kitchen and/or plumbing facilities, as well as cost burden, which occurs when a household pays more than 30% of its gross income on housing costs. Extreme cost burden occurs when a household pays more than 50% of its gross income on housing costs.

## **2. Summary of the objectives and outcomes identified in the Plan Needs Assessment Overview**

The Strategic Plan provides a framework to address the needs of the City for the next five years using CDBG and HOME funds. The three overarching objectives guiding the proposed activities are:

- Providing Decent Affordable Housing
- Creating Suitable Living Environments
- Creating Economic Opportunities

Outcomes show how programs and activities benefit a community or the people served. The three outcomes that will illustrate the benefits of each activity funded by the CDBG and HOME programs are:

- Improve Availability/Accessibility
- Improve Affordability
- Improve Sustainability

All future activities funded in the next five years will support at least one objective and one outcome. The City's framework for realizing the objectives and outcomes include the following goals:

- Provide Decent, Affordable Housing
- Provide a Suitable Living Environment
- Increase Homeownership
- End Chronic Homelessness

The goals listed below are intended to provide broad guidance in the allocation of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Program funds granted to the City by HUD for the five years beginning July 1, 2015 and ending June 30, 2020. The Community Development Advisory Committee (CDAC) supports the allocation of funds to achieve measurable results for both housing and non-housing goals.

The primary objective of the CDBG and HOME Program is to continue to develop viable urban communities through decent housing, suitable living environments and expanded economic opportunities for low- and moderate-income persons; the City of Lynchburg supports assisting individuals with disabilities, substance abuse or addiction, persons with AIDS, persons that are homeless, and elderly persons.

#### Housing Goals

- Increase the number of owner-occupied units.
- Rehabilitate substandard housing units. Emphasis is to be placed on programs that require an investment of funds and/or labor on the part of the owner commensurate with the owner's resources.
- Support initiatives to increase permanent affordable rental and housing ownership opportunities.
- Promote programs that assist eligible individuals in retaining their homes.

#### Non-Housing Goals

- Support efforts for the removal and redevelopment of dilapidated and condemned structures to eliminate neighborhood deterioration, blight and blighting influences.
- Support neighborhood partnerships that facilitate self-sufficiency and enable families and individuals to maintain their housing, remain in their neighborhoods, and age in place.
- Support economic development initiatives that improve the economic base, job skills, and health of the community.
- Promote public service activities which support the healthy development of the City's at-risk youth, adults, and families.

- Support efforts to develop, sustain, and coordinate a comprehensive, seamless system of services for homeless citizens in order to move the homeless population toward obtaining permanent housing.
- Support efforts to remove barriers to escape poverty and strengthen low-income households and families.

### **3. Evaluation of past performance**

In the Fifth Year of the Consolidated Plan, Program Year 2014 (FY15), the City received \$687,496 in CDBG entitlement funds and \$311,795 in HOME Program entitlement funds. Along with these entitlement funds, reprogrammed prior year funds of \$148,605.89 and \$8,176, respectively, in the CDBG and HOME Program were allocated to eligible projects. The City also estimated program income in the amount of \$2,030 for the CDBG Program. Therefore, the total amount of CDBG and HOME funds the City allocated for projects and activities during the Program Year 2014 was \$1,158,103. This represented a total of \$838,131.89 in CDBG and \$319,971 in HOME Program dollars.

The City allocated the majority of its CDBG and HOME funds for projects and activities classified as housing, parks and recreation, public improvements, and public services.

### **4. Summary of citizen participation process and consultation process**

The City of Lynchburg's goal for citizen participation is to ensure a broad participation of City residents, local jurisdictions, housing, economic, and service providers in the planning and implementation of community development and housing programming. Citizen participation takes the form of advertised community meetings and public hearings, in addition to the Community Development Advisory Committee (CDAC).

The planning process for the preparation of the Five-Year Consolidated Plan and FY 2016 Annual Action Plan included the following distinct elements:

- Focus group sessions with representatives from City government (staff), non-profit organizations, and other service providers to gain stakeholder input on the identification of City needs.
- Additional meetings and telephone interviews with City departmental staff and other provider agencies and stakeholders throughout the planning process to understand the current scope of programs, issues, and concerns. The one-on-one conversations helped to develop strategies to address the community needs that were identified in the focus group sessions.

- Review of existing community development-related planning documents, including the City of Lynchburg's 2030 Comprehensive Plan (2013).

## **5. Summary of public comments**

For the development of the 2015-2020 Consolidated Plan and FY 2016 Annual Action Plan, CDAC and City Council conducted several public meetings and/or public hearings to receive input from community stakeholders and to develop their recommendations for the goals and Program Year 2015 (FY 2016) projects to be funded with the CDBG and HOME Program funds.

On February 3, 2015 CDAC conducted a public meeting to receive comments on the housing and non-housing community development needs common to low and moderate income persons and individuals with mental illness, intellectual and physical disabilities, substance abuse or addiction, persons with HIV-AIDs, persons that are homeless, and elderly persons. Individuals were asked to suggest priorities among these needs, as well as reasonable goals and objectives for addressing priority needs over the next five years.

At the meeting there were approximately 35 persons of whom 11 persons spoke to the Committee regarding the proposed goals. Two individuals submitted written comments prior to the public meeting. These comments were provided to the Committee members. The comments made to the Committee carried general themes of the need for goals that would provide for programs and activities that serve the homeless and persons in poverty; provide education awareness activities to guide persons in securing homeownership through pre-and post-counseling and maintaining/retaining their homes; and provide affordable housing for low-to-moderate income persons and persons with disabilities.

At the conclusion of the public comment period the members of the CDAC discussed the comments presented to them in relation to the proposed goals. The Committee's discussion included wanting to ensure that the proposed goals would provide a funding avenue for programs that would assist the homeless, persons in poverty, and education opportunities to better inform citizens regarding affordable rental and homeownership units in the community. City staff stated that the proposed goals lay a foundation for projects/activities that could be recommended for funding through the CDBG and HOME Program. While not all programs can be funded through these grant programs, the proposed goals support similar types of programs offered within the community by the nonprofit agencies, Lynchburg Redevelopment and Housing Authority, and economic development within the City. At the end of the discussion the Committee members

unanimously agreed to recommend to City Council that the proposed goals be approved as presented.

On February 24, 2015 City Council conducted a public hearing to receive citizens' comments concerning the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Program housing and non-housing goals for the 2015-2020 Consolidated Plan. At the public hearing, City staff gave a summary of the request with recommendations from the Community Development Advisory Committee (CDAC). Three individuals spoke and thanked Council for their past support and asked Council to continue supporting their programs. There was no one else present who wished to speak to this item, and the public hearing was closed. City Council approved the goals as recommended by CDAC.

On April 7, 2015, CDAC held a public meeting to review submitted CDBG and HOME Program applications and formulate recommendations for consideration by City Council regarding the allocation of approximately \$734,483 in CDBG entitlement, program income and reprogrammable funds and approximately \$347,926 in HOME Program entitlement, program income and reprogrammable funds.

There were representatives from the various agencies that had submitted project applications present at this meeting. CDAC members reviewed each application and asked questions of the respective agency representatives for clarifications. At the conclusion of the meeting, the Committee unanimously agreed on the recommended projects for the CDBG and HOME Program that would be submitted to City Council for approval.

On April 28, 2015 City Council conducted a public hearing to receive public input and adopt the proposed 2015-2016 CDBG and HOME Program projects. There was no one present from the public to speak to the recommended projects. There were agency representatives, who had submitted applications for funding, present at the public hearing; however, no one spoke to City Council regarding the projects. City Council unanimously approved the CDAC recommendations for projects to be funded.

On June 8, 2015 CDAC conducted a public meeting to accept comments regarding the draft 2015-2020 Five year Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan. No one present from the public spoke to the Committee regarding the Plan.

On June 23, 2015 City Council conducted a public hearing to accept comments regarding the draft 2015-2020 Five year Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan. City staff presented an overview of the components of the Consolidated Plan and the proposed projects for the

Annual Action Plan. No one present from the public spoke to City Council regarding the Plan. City staff received one written comment prior to the public hearing. This comment was from The Lynchburg Area Center for Independent Living (LACIL) and supported the goal of increasing the number of permanent affordable rental units.

For additional information on public comments and public outreach efforts, including public hearing notices and minutes, please see the attachment in AD-25, Administration, Citizen Participation Comments.

**6. Summary of comments or views not accepted and the reasons for not accepting them**

There were no public comments that were not considered by CDAC or City Council in the development of the Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan.

**7. Summary**

The public comments submitted both in writing and verbally at the public meetings and hearings were incorporated into the Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan. These comments carried general themes of the need for goals that would provide for programs and activities that serve the homeless and persons in poverty; provide education awareness activities to guide persons in securing homeownership through pre and post-counseling and maintaining/retaining their homes; and provide affordable rental housing for low-to-moderate income persons and persons with disabilities.