



CITY OF MANCHESTER

PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Planning and Land Use Management
Building Regulations
Community Improvement Program
Zoning Board of Adjustment

Leon L. LaFreniere, AICP
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MEMORANDUM

To: Alderman Jim Roy,
Chairman, CIP Committee

From: Leon L. LaFreniere, AICP 
Director, Planning and Community Development

Date: August 24, 2015

Re: 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan

The Planning and Community Development Department recently received approval for its submission of the City's 5 Year Consolidated Plan to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. This strategic plan outlines priority needs and goals to steer the City's future allocations of Federal CDBG, ESG and HOME funds.

Attached is the Executive Summary of the plan. If you are interested in reviewing the entire plan it can be accessed on the City's website at:
<http://www.manchesternh.gov/Departments/Planning-and-Comm-Dev/Community-Improvement-Program/HUD-Submittals>

If you would prefer a copy, please contact Todd Fleming, CIP Coordinator, and he will provide you with one.

2015-2019 Consolidated Plan

2015 Annual Action Plan

For the Department of Housing and Urban Development

CITY OF MANCHESTER PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT



CITY OF MANCHESTER
PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

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Executive Summary

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

1. Introduction

The Consolidated Plan is the result of a collaborative process designed to establish a unified vision for the City of Manchester's community development actions for the next five years. The plan presents an opportunity to shape the City's various housing and community development programs into effective, coordinated neighborhood and community development strategies. It also provides an opportunity for strategic planning and citizen participation to take place in a comprehensive context designed to reduce duplication of efforts.

The plan includes a needs assessment, a series of goals and needs and a one-year action plan to identify where and how various HUD funds will be used to address the needs of low and moderate income individuals and families in the city. The plan also provides evidence of the needs that exist for the all the programs offered to the City's low-income population and demonstrates how a comprehensive, well-thought out plan offers the City and its citizens' direction on how to use its entitlement funds in the most cost-effective manner.

Finally, the plan is a means to meet the submission requirements for the Community Development Block Grant (CBDG), HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME), and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) formula programs.

The City of Manchester Planning and Community Development Department undertook the process of developing its Consolidated Plan in accordance with the applicable requirements as set forth by HUD. The process involved the continuation of existing partnerships, direct consultation with area public and non-profit agencies in accordance with the City's Citizen Participation Plan. Since the development of the City's first Consolidated Plan, the elements, goals and strategies of the plan have generally been consistent. However, over the past several years since the last Consolidated Plan was prepared in 2005, the City has undergone steady and significant changes which impact current and future needs and priorities.

A review of HUD's 2014 Low and Moderate Summary Income Data indicates that 44.9% of Manchester's households have incomes that are less than 80% of the median income compared to 52.2% in 2010, 47% in 2005 and 43% in 1990. American Community Survey 2009-2013 data shows that 14.2% of Manchester's population is below poverty level and 23.9% of all families in the city with children under 5 years old are below poverty. As the percentage of low and moderate income households has exceeded

43% since 1990, the City's demographic makeup has changed becoming more diverse and assimilating many new immigrants from all over the world into the community. These latest citizens bring with them new, differing and not insignificant demands upon the local support infrastructure. Coupled with the needs of a growing low income population, the City has been challenged to appropriately and effectively provide the varied services necessary for these community members.

The goals and Needs in the Consolidated Plan were created by addressing the needs of both of these populations, however the ability of the City to carry out its goals and strategies has been made more difficult as a result of decreasing resources. Since FY 2005, the City of Manchester has sustained CDBG reductions in excess of 19% which effectively has reduced the public service cap making public services assistance to the increasing low income households and minority populations of Manchester even more difficult. The City's ability to address increasing demands and changing priorities while complying with the applicable CDBG regulations has been greatly facilitated by having a section of the City designated as a Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Area (NRSA) which is served by the Manchester Community Resource Center (MCRC), the City's designated Community Based Development Organization (CBDO).

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

The statutes for HUD's formula grant programs set forth three basic goals against which the Consolidate Plan and the City of Manchester's performance under this plan will be reviewed by HUD. The Consolidated Plan as a result must state how it will pursue these goals for all community development programs, as well as all housing programs. The three objectives are: (1) Decent, Affordable Housing; (2) Suitable Living Environment; and (3) Economic Opportunities. The three outcomes are: (1) Availability/Accessibility, (2) Affordability, and (3) Sustainability.

In compliance with the above directives, this Consolidated Plan sets for the following priority needs and goals.

Priority Needs

1. Affordable Housing
2. Provide Fair Housing Counseling and Representation
3. To Provide Emergency Shelter
4. To Provide Outreach to Individuals Living in Streets
5. To Provide Tenant Based Rental Assistance
6. To Provide Transitional Housing
7. To Provide Rapid Re-Housing Opportunities
8. For all applicable Agencies to Use HMIS System
9. To Provide Homeless Prevention Activities
10. Provide Home Ownership Down Payment Assistance
11. Safe and Sanitary Housing

12. Supportive Neighborhood Living Environments
13. To Prevent Youth from Engaging in Crime
14. Youth Counseling, Programming and Supportive Service
15. Provide Elderly Independent Living Support Service
16. Provide Childcare Options for Working Parents
17. Access to Health Care
18. Access to Supportive Services that Target Refugees
19. Provide Support to Abused/Neglected Children
20. Economic Wellbeing for all Manchester Citizens
21. Provide Support to Manchester Businesses
22. Provide Youth and Summer Recreation Programming
23. Safe and Affordable Places for Physical Activity
24. ADA Access to Sidewalks, Streets, etc.
25. To Address Deteriorating Streets, Sidewalks, Etc.
26. Address Deteriorating Conditions in City Buildings
27. Effective Administration of State/Federal Programs
28. To Implement Various Planning Studies
29. To Teach Job Skills Through Classroom & Training

Goals

1. Increase the Number of Affordable Housing Units
2. Equal Access to Affordable Housing Opportunities
3. Address Homelessness Issues
4. Increase Community Supportive Living Environments
5. Increase Manchester High School Graduation Rate
6. Perpetuate the Independent Living of the Elderly
7. Increase Access/Availability to Affordable Childcare
8. Support Health Care Activities for Underinsured
9. Assimilate Refugees Into The Community
10. Decrease the Number of Abused/Neglected Children
11. Increase Manchester Employment Opportunities
12. Increase Recreation Programming for Low/Mod Youth
13. Increase Year Round Access to Recreation Facilities
14. To Create a Universally Accessible City
15. Support the City's Infrastructure System
16. Improve Condition of Buildings Accessed by Public
17. Facilities Efficient Planning/Public Management
18. Prepare Individuals for Gainful Employment

3. Evaluation of past performance

During the past two to three program years, the City continued to experience a significant increase in both the number of requests for assistance and the amount of funds requested by non-City organizations; primarily for operational support. The significant number and types of projects contained within our 2016 CIP (19 agencies funded) reflects the City's response to their requests. The 2016 CIP also continued the trend of supporting non-capital City Public Service initiatives that were carried out with Entitlement Funds as well, with four City Departments administering Programs funded with CDBG funds.

Planning Staff is happy to report that goals and needs that have been under represented in previous years have been funded in the 2016 CIP. Projects include but are not limited to: Dupont Pool Splash Pad; ADA Access Improvement, Sidewalk Reconstruction and a Small Business Assistance Program. This has resulted in a small decrease in the funding that has been appropriated to the City's CBDO. Given the demand for operational support by the nonprofits, and requests for Public Service initiatives by City Departments still exists, the City will continue to rely upon its CBDO to meet the needs of the community. As proposed, the City will subgrant approximately \$428,000 to MCRC to support activities that are consistent with the CBDO's mission. As a result, a number of sub-grantee agencies will receive funding to operate programs without impacting the City's 15% Public Service cap. The City continues to view the CBDO / NRSA designation as critical in order to be able to respond to the needs of the Community. However, it is important to note that Planning Staff is mindful that Entitlement funding should be distributed in a manner that best achieves all of the goals and needs that have been identified in the Consolidated Plan.

The City is confident that the HUD 2015 CAPER will demonstrate that all of the needs and goals identified in the 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan will be addressed. This will be achieved as a result of the development of new needs and goals based upon the self-evaluation of past programs and the citizen participation process.

4. Summary of citizen participation process and consultation process

Five public hearings for the City's 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan and 2016 (HUD FY 2015) Annual Action Plan were held by City Community Improvement Program (CIP) Staff at Manchester Community Resource Center, 434 Lake Ave. (NRSA neighborhood) on Thursday, January 29, 2015 at 6:30 p.m., on Wednesday, February 4 at 6:30 p.m. at the Cashin Senior Center on the west side, on Thursday, February 19 at 6:30 p.m. at the Southern NH Planning Commission on the west side, on Wednesday, March 4 at 6:30 p.m. at Bakersville Elementary School on the south side, and on Wednesday, May 6 at 4:30 p.m. in the Aldermanic Chambers at Manchester City Hall in the city center. A Legal Notice for all public hearings was published in the Union Leader on January 22, February 3, February 25 and April 10, 2015 (please see Legal Notices in AD-25 Attachments Citizen Participation Comments). The Legal Notice published on April 10, 2015 also confirmed the 30-day public comment period which took place April 13, 2015 through May 13, 2015.

As a recipient of HUD funds the City is required to develop a five-year plan of priority needs that are identified in the Consolidated Plan. Manchester residents and in particular, public housing residents and

residents living in areas of the City eligible for CDBG monies, public and private agencies, businesses and other interested parties were invited and encouraged to attend so they may voice their concerns and express their opinions on the priority needs of the Community.

These hearings were also held in order to provide City residents an opportunity to comment on the expenditure of the FFY 2015 HUD monies to be received by the City for expenditure beginning July 1, 2015. These HUD funds include Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Home Investment Partnerships (HOME), Emergency Solutions Grant Program (ESG), and may also include HUD Section 108 monies.

The public hearings also included discussions and citizen comments about the Manchester Continuum of Care (MCoC) and the coordination between the City and the MCoC of funds spent to support homelessness needs and services. The overall discussion topics included housing and homelessness, public infrastructure, environment, neighborhood investment and revitalization, education, public safety, recreation, economic development and social services.

In an effort to broaden public participation in the development of the Consolidated Plan the City CIP Staff sent out emails to all of the agencies on the Community Improvement Program email list encouraging their attendance and their clients' attendance at the public hearings and participation in the online survey. The City also sent out flyers to these agencies to post at their locations and neighborhoods. Encouraged by City Staff, these agencies shared the survey with their program participants many of whom were low-moderate income persons, minority and non-English speaking persons, elderly persons, and/or disabled persons. For citizens who needed assistance completing the survey, the Staff at the Manchester Community Resource Center at 434 Lake Ave. volunteered to assist individuals with the survey and provided computers with internet access (Please see attached flyers and survey results in AD-25 Attachments Citizen Participation Comments). A total of 45 participants completed the survey.

CIP Staff closed each public hearing by describing the general timeline for the budget process. In the spring 2015, the Mayor will draft a budget with potential funding amounts and the Board of Mayor and Aldermen will have an opportunity to recommend revisions to any funding amounts they believe should be different and vote on a final City budget. In accordance with the City's budget process, the public and all Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan public hearing participants were encouraged to submit written and oral comments to CIP Staff and Aldermen should they desire to.

5. Summary of public comments

Public comments are attached in section AD-25

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

All comments and views have been accepted.

7. Summary

No further discussion warranted.