

Executive Summary

AP-05 Executive Summary - 91.200(c), 91.220(b)

1. Introduction

The Town of Chapel Hill, North Carolina, is an entitlement community for the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) as defined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The Town is also a member of the Orange County HOME Consortium in partnership with Orange County, the Town of Carrboro, and the Town of Hillsborough. Orange County is the lead entity in the Consortium and, therefore, is responsible for preparation and submission of the Five-Year Consolidated Plan. Since the Town of Chapel Hill is a member of the Consortium, HUD has determined that the County is permitted to submit one Consolidated Plan that details the needs of the entire County, including Chapel Hill. The Five-Year Consolidated Plan establishes the Consortium's goals for the next five (5) years and outlines the specific initiatives the Consortium and its member jurisdictions will undertake to address the Community's housing and community development needs. The Town of Chapel is submitting an Action Plan to provide information about its CDBG program.

The Town of Chapel Hill has received Community Development grants since 1975 under the Federal Housing and Community Development Act of 1974. This legislation provides funds to cities and counties to carry out activities that benefit low- and moderate-income families including: housing repair, public improvements, acquiring land for housing and economic development. For many years, the Town has used CDBG funds to renovate public housing, provide homeownership assistance, to support public services that serve low and moderate income households, and infrastructure improvements.

The primary objective of the Community Development program is to develop viable urban communities, by providing decent housing and a suitable living environment and expanding economic opportunities for low- and moderate-income households. Federal regulations define low-income as up to 50% of the median income and moderate-income as up to 80% of the median family income.

2. Summarize the objectives and outcomes identified in the Plan

The following six (6) priorities and subsequent goals/strategies have been identified for the Orange County HOME Consortium for the period of FY 2015 through FY 2019 for the HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) Program, and the Town of Chapel Hill's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program.

HOUSING PRIORITY – (High Priority)

There is a need to improve the availability and quality of the housing stock in the County by increasing the amount of decent, safe, sound, and accessible housing for homeowners, renters, and homebuyers that is affordable to low- and moderate-income persons and families.

Strategies include support of acquisition, housing rehabilitation, new housing construction, fair housing education and outreach, homeownership, and public housing.

HOMELESS PRIORITY – (High Priority)

There is a need for housing and support services for homeless persons, and persons who are at-risk of becoming homeless. Strategies include supporting the Continuum of Care, providing operation assistance and support services, prevention of homelessness and rapid rehousing programs, support rehabilitation and accessibility improvements to existing facilities that serve the homeless, and supporting the development of permanent supportive housing for homeless individuals and families.

OTHER SPECIAL NEEDS PRIORITY – (High Priority)

There is a continuing need for affordable housing, services, and facilities for persons with special needs, the elderly, and the disabled. Strategies include increasing the supply of housing for the elderly, persons with disabilities, and persons with other special needs, supporting social service programs for this population, and improving accessibility of owner occupied housing.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PRIORITY – (High Priority)

There is a need to improve the public and community facilities, infrastructure, public services, and the quality of life for all residents in the County. Strategies for achieving this objective include improving community facilities, infrastructure, public services including public safety and municipal services, code enforcement, clearance of dilapidated structures and neighborhood revitalization.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PRIORITY – (High Priority)

There is a need to increase employment, self-sufficiency, education, job training, technical assistance, and economic empowerment of low and moderate income residents in the County.

Strategies include supporting and encouraging job creation and retention and training services, financial assistance to businesses, and promoting redevelopment of distressed areas.

ADMINISTRATION, PLANNING, AND MANAGEMENT PRIORITY – (High Priority)

There is a continuing need for planning, administration, management, and oversight of federal, state, and local funded programs as well as an increase for cooperation amongst public and private partners and the communities in the Consortium. The Town's strategy for overall coordination is to provide

program management and oversight for the successful administration of federal, state, and local funded programs.

3. Evaluation of past performance

The Town of Chapel Hill and Orange County have a good performance record with HUD. The Town and County regularly meet the performance standards established by HUD. Each year the County, in partnership with the Town and other Consortium members, prepares its Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER). The Town submits detailed information about expenditures for and accomplishments of the CDBG program. This report is submitted within ninety (90) days after the start of the new program year. Copies of the CAPER are available for review at Orange County Housing, Human Rights, and Community Development Department, 300 W. Tryon Street, Hillsborough, NC and in Chapel Hill Town Hall.

The FY 2016 CAPER, was approved by HUD. In the FY 2016 CAPER, the Town of Chapel Hill expended 100% of its CDBG funds to benefit low- and moderate-income persons. The Town expended 10% of its funds during the FY 2016 CAPER period on public service, which is below the statutory maximum of 15%. The Town expended 20% of its funds during this CAPER period on Planning and Administration, which meets the statutory maximum of 20%. The Town is in compliance with the required 1.5 maximum drawdown ratio.

4. Summary of Citizen Participation Process and consultation process

The Town of Chapel Hill, in compliance with its Citizen Participation Plan, advertised and held two (2) public forums on the Town's housing and community development needs. The forums provided residents with the opportunity to discuss the Town's CDBG Program.

Additionally, the County held public hearings; draft plan review comments were all used to develop the Consolidated Plan.

5. Summary of public comments

The Town held its first public forum on housing and community development needs on November 1, 2017 at 7:00 pm. Comments received at that public hearing are included in the attachments at the end of this Plan. A second forum was held on March 21, 2018 at 7:00 pm to receive comments on a preliminary plan for use of FY2018 CDBG funds. The Council is scheduled to adopt the CDBG Action Plan and the HOME Program Action Plan, and approve the submission of the Annual Update to the Consolidated Plan on May 2, 2018.

Comments received at the public forums are included in the Attachments section at the end of this Action Plan.

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

All comments and suggestions received will be accepted and incorporated into the plan documents.

7. Summary

In addition to the two public forums, the Town, in collaboration with Orange County, and the Towns of Carrboro and Hillsborough, held an Application Orientation Workshop on November 28, 2017 and two Application Q&A Sessions held on December 5, 2017 and January 9, 2018.