



**CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE  
City Commission Agenda Memo  
CONFERENCE MEETING**

**#15-0434**

---

**TO:** Honorable Mayor & Members of the  
Fort Lauderdale City Commission

**FROM:** Lee R. Feldman, ICMA-CM, City Manager

**DATE:** June 2, 2015

**TITLE:** Draft Annual Action Plan for Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Entitlement Grant Programs through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

---

Each year, the City of Fort Lauderdale is required to submit an Annual Action Plan to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in order to continue receiving funding for the City's Entitlement Grant Programs through HUD. The entitlement grant programs offered by the City of Fort Lauderdale include:

- HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME);
- Community Development Block Grant (CDBG); and
- Housing Opportunities for Persons with HIV/AIDS (HOPWA).

Congress has released preliminary entitlement allocations for fiscal year 2015-2016. The allocations available to the City of Fort Lauderdale will include a decrease in HOME (\$53,124), CDBG (\$16,140) and HOPWA (\$399,002) funding from last year's amounts. As a result of the funding decrease, there is the potential to serve fewer clients. The 2015-2016 estimated allocations from HUD to the City for these programs are:

HOME	\$ 453,289.00
CDBG	\$ 1,470,707.00
HOPWA	\$ 6,979,511.00

A summary of proposed activities for these programs are located within the draft budget and narrative summary, attached as Exhibit 1 and are summarized below. This conference item is presented to provide the City Commission the opportunity to review, discuss, and provide direction for future spending. This discussion will assist staff in the development of the final Annual Action Plan, which will be presented during a public hearing at the July 7, 2015 City Commission meeting.

**HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME)**

Staff recommends the following distribution of HOME funds:

- 15% – Community Housing Development Organization (*required HUD percentage*)
- 40% – Housing Rehabilitation/Replacement
- 35% – Purchase Assistance
- 10% – Program Administration (*this is the maximum percentage permitted by HUD*)

### **Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)**

For fiscal year 2015-2016, the total amount of this year's CDBG requests exceeds the amount of available funding. Requests for CDBG funds are received three ways: 1) through a competitive application process, 2) unsolicited proposals, 3) and requests from City departments. There are 13 funding requests for fiscal year 2015-2016 totaling \$1,864,533.00. Funding available to award, minus administrative costs, is \$976,566.00. HUD permits 20% of the CDBG allocation to be set aside for Program Administration. Annually, \$200,000 is set aside for administrative costs associated with construction, application processing, and file underwriting.

CDBG requests are separated and defined in five categories as listed below and further explained in Exhibit 1. All categories are funded at the City Commission's discretion, however, some categories have maximums, and in the case of administration, to mitigate any potential budgetary impact on the general fund the full 20%, should be utilized so that there is not a budgetary impact on the City's general fund.

1. Housing Programs – Rehabilitation funds are requested as the City looks to identify at least two streets within the City that are areas of need. Staff will target the investment and leverage the impact of these investments. The rehabilitation funds will be used to make emergency plumbing, roofing, electrical, and structural repairs to homes occupied by income eligible homeowners in the targeted area. This new approach will allow the City to target CDBG funds in one or more of the following ways:
  - Funds could be used in areas where a high number of code violations exist (i.e. the North of Broward Boulevard and West of Andrews Avenue);
  - Funds could be used to rehabilitate homes in areas where the City has capital projects planned, Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) projects planned, Park projects planned, and/or Transportation and Mobility projects planned. The rehabilitated homes would complement planned City projects.
2. Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Area (NSRA) Programs – The purpose of this Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Area (NRSA) is to continue the efforts of the past years to revitalize the northwest quadrant of the City. The boundaries for the NRSA consist of the contiguous low-income neighborhoods of the City, as identified by the 2010 Census. The NRSA is the low income target area that all HUD certified Community Based Development Organization's (CBDO) must operate within. Within the NRSA, CBDO's can

provide the following three services: 1) housing, 2) community development, and 3) economic development (including job training and education) activities. Currently the City has three HUD certified CBDO's. Funding requests are:

- Mount Bethel (Childcare Assistance Program and Family Resource Center) - \$220,000.00;
  - Housing Authority (STEP-UP Apprenticeship Program) - \$250,000.00;
  - H.O.M.E.S., Inc. - \$200,000.00.
3. Public Service Activities – While the City Commission has the discretion to not award any Public Service Activity (other than Fair Housing Activities), the maximum amount of CDBG funds in this category cannot exceed 15% of the annual allocation.
4. Community Services Board (CSB) Public Service Category Recommendations – The Community Services Board (CSB) met on April 13, 2015 and April 20, 2015 to rank the CDBG Public Service requests. A copy of their recommendations is provided as Exhibit 2. Additionally, the recommended performance indicators will be provided as part of the final Annual Action Plan, which will be submitted for approval on July 7, 2015.

The CSB recommends funding the eligible, top rated agency in the Public Service Categories, provided that the agency received a minimum average score of 75%. When funding remains after the top rated agency is funded, other agencies are also considered for funding. The agencies recommended for CDBG Public Service assistance are as follows:

- Broward Partnership for the Homeless - \$40,000.00
- Care Resources - \$10,606.00
- HOPE Fair Housing Center - \$30,000.00\*
- Comprehensive Homeless Strategy - \$100,000.00\*
- Jack & Jill Children's Center - \$45,000.00
- Women in Distress, Inc. - \$45,000.00

\* These two (2) agencies were not part of the Community Services Board review process.

5. Other funding Recommendations:
- a. Other Public Service Activities: Staff has received the requests for funding in this category, however, since this category is not part of the CSB review, discussion will need to take place on which activities to fund. Please note that HUD requires that the City award funding for fair housing activities. HUD does not stipulate the required maximum or minimum funding for fair housing activities, as such the City has the discretion to decide the funding level for that activity.

Staff supports the requested funding amount for HOPE Fair Housing Center.

- b. Comprehensive Homeless Strategy: According to the 2014 Broward County Point-In-Time homeless count, approximately 40% (355) of the unsheltered homeless persons counted were living on the streets in Fort Lauderdale. CDBG funds will be utilized to support operations of safe, decent and sanitary location(s) that will allow community partners to coordinate food services seven days a week for our most vulnerable homeless population.
- c. Public Works Department (Community Investment Projects (CIP) and Neighborhood Community Invest Plan Projects (NCIP)) - \$500,000
- d. Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) Programs - \$100,000
- e. Riverland Garden Apartments - \$198,927

**Housing Opportunities for Persons with HIV/AIDS (HOPWA)**

The HOPWA estimate shows a decrease in the HOPWA Entitlement allocation of approximately \$399,002.

The Community Services Board (CSB) will conduct its review of the HOPWA Request for Proposals (RFP) on May 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. Upon conclusion of the RFP process, Procurement Services will present the HOPWA recommendations in a separate Commission Agenda Memo. After the Commission has finalized its RFP recommendations, staff will prepare the final Annual Action Plan item for public hearing on July 7, 2015.

Attachments:

Exhibit 1 – Proposed Budget and Narrative Summary

Exhibit 2 – CSB CDBG Scores

---

Prepared By: Jonathan Brown, Housing & Community Development Manager

Department Director: Jenni Morejon, Sustainable Development