



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

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

DATE: July 7, 2015

TITLE: Public Hearing Approving the Consolidated Plan for Fiscal Years 2015-
2020 Entitlement Grant Programs through the U.S. Department of
Housing and Urban Development

Recommendation

It is recommended that the City Commission approve the 2015-2020 Consolidated Plan (Plan) and authorize the City Manager to execute the necessary documents associated with the Plan and submittal to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) by August 15, 2015.

Background

Every five years, the City of Fort Lauderdale (City) is required to submit its Plan to HUD in order to continue receiving funding for the City's Entitlement Grant Programs through HUD. The last Plan submittal was completed in 2010. The Plan is required to be submitted to HUD by August 15, 2015.

The Plan provides direction for the City's use of funds under the following programs:

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

The purpose of the Plan is to identify community, economic, and housing development needs, and to develop strategies and goals to address those needs with anticipated funding from HUD federal programs over the next five years.

In addition, CDBG regulations allow the City to establish and/or recertify a Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Area (NRSA) for concentrated revitalization activities. HUD requires that NRSA's create opportunities in distressed neighborhoods to stimulate reinvestment through partnerships with local residents, non-profit organizations, churches, and other stakeholders in the community.

Below are descriptions of the changes made from the 2010-2015 Plan, to the 2015-2020 Plan.

HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME):

In an effort to be more strategic with HOME funds, staff proposes that rehabilitation funds be used in the areas of greatest need. Staff proposes that at least two City streets are given first priority to receive rehabilitation funds. Staff recommends that those streets meet one of the following criteria:

- A significant number of code violations (Exhibit 2) are identified on owner occupied homes, or
- The location is supported by other City projects.

In addition to the staff recommendations, the Affordable Housing Advisory Committee (AHAC) recommends that the City consider waiving all code liens, fines, and violations on properties assisted with HOME funds.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG):

The changes from the 2010-2015 Consolidated Plan to the 2015-2020 Consolidated Plan are summarized as follows:

- The inclusion of a mandatory set-aside for Homeless Initiative funding, within the Public Service Activities Category.
- The inclusion of a mandatory set-aside for Community Investment Projects and Neighborhood Community Investment Projects.
- The inclusion of an Emergency Repair/Rehabilitation Strategy to address the code enforcement issues in target areas throughout the City.

Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) Programs:

It is recommended the City use CDBG funds to support eligible community development projects, housing projects, and/or economic development opportunities within the Central City CRA and/or Northwest-Progresso-Flagler Heights CRA to further assist with job creation in the targeted areas.

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

With possible funding reductions continuing, a paradigm shift is needed in order to create a sustainable HOPWA housing model that allows HOPWA clients to achieve housing stability without long-term dependence on HOPWA assistance. The paradigm shift is to create a sustainable housing model that would include, but is not limited to:

- Review of Literature on Best Practices;
- Working with appropriate HUD officials;
- Feedback from Community Services Board;
- Feedback from HOPWA Providers;
- Feedback from the HIV/AIDS Community; and

- Feedback from HOPWA Clients.

Attachments:

Exhibit 1 – Proposed Program Descriptions

Exhibit 2 – Heat Map of Code Violations

Exhibit 3 – 2015 CIP Map

Exhibit 4 – Program Amendment Advertisement

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