

Staff Report
CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP - CDBG CONSOLIDATED PLAN
March 18, 2014

As you will recall, on January 28, 2014, our Housing Coordinator provided the City Council with background information regarding the City's CDBG program. At that meeting, some City Council members requested that staff break with tradition. It was suggested that the Council sit in during the public input sessions that the staff conducts to drive our recommendation about the Goals and Priorities for the 5 year Consolidated Plan, as well as the individual projects that are identified for each of the five years to address our Goals and Priorities in the Annual Action Plan. **In response to this request, we have scheduled the March 18th Council workshop as the time to solicit public input regarding the possible goals for the Consolidated Plan. We will schedule a follow-up workshop to gain public input regarding specific projects (Annual Action Plan) that are desired to meet the Goals at a later date.**

The following information is provided as background for the upcoming workshop.

Consolidated Plan:

As an entitlement community, the City is required under the Community Development Block (CDBG) Program to submit a Consolidated Plan to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and an Annual Action Plan of the projects to be implemented for the program year. The Consolidated Plan may be submitted every three or five years; and Ames has elected to do so every five years.

The Consolidated Plan is the overall planning document – the Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy, or CHAS – for the jurisdiction. This Plan must include detailed background information on the community provided by HUD, as well as census data and other comprehensive studies performed by the community. **The Plan must also identify, over the specified period, the goals and priorities to address the housing and community development needs of low- and moderate-income persons and the housing and community development needs of NON low- and moderate-income persons in the community.**

Historically, staff has conducted public forums to educate the citizens about the program and to gain feedback on goals and priorities for the Plan. Staff has then presented the feedback to City Council with staff's recommendation for final action. The City's third 5-year Consolidated Planning period begins on July 1, 2014, and will run through June 30, 2018 (2014-2018).

The public forums are normally held in February. However, in accordance with the City Council members' desires, the upcoming public forum will be held in conjunction with the City Council's monthly workshop meeting on March 18th to allow for direct City Council participation. This first public forum will only focus on the discussion of the goals and priorities for the 5-year plan. Staff will conduct the forum as it has in the past.

Annual Action Plan:

Discussion of specific projects that will be pursued for each of the five years of the Consolidated Plan will be scheduled for an additional public meeting (City Council workshop) once the City has been notified of its 2014/15 CDBG allocation.

March 18th Meeting Agenda:

Staff has prepared the following tentative agenda for the March 18, 2014 forum (workshop):

1. Overview of the CDBG Program and new Consolidated Planning Requirements.
2. Overview of current and previous 5-year Goals and Priorities (see Attachment A).
3. Breakout small group discussions to review and discuss revised or new 5-year goals and priorities.
4. Reconvene large group and have each group report out their goals and/or priorities.
5. Tentative Timeline for next steps (see Attachment B).

ATTACHMENT A

**2004-09 City of Ames
Goals and Priorities to Address the
Major Housing and Community Development Needs of
Low and Moderate Income residents in the community:**

1. Construct/Acquire/and Rehabilitate affordable housing and support to homeowners, home buyers, and renters to obtain and remain in affordable housing.
2. Support a continuum of care for new or expanded housing and services targeted for homeless, transitional housing clients and persons with special needs. Any proposed project from Human Services Agencies must have prior approval through the ASSET process.
3. Increase and improve public facilities, infrastructure and other activities and redevelopment of non-public facilities.
4. Expand job opportunities by assisting with microenterprise business development and by providing training and access to employment.
5. Support activities and services that meet the social, health, recreational and educational needs of low and moderate income residents.

**Goals and Priorities to address the major Housing and Community Development needs
of NON Low and Moderate Income residents in the community**

1. CDBG funds should be used for slum and blight removal in non low and moderate income areas to assist in redevelopment projects to decrease the number of substandard housing units through acquisition, demolition, and new construction.

2009-14 City of Ames

**Goals and Priorities to Address the
Major Housing and Community Development Needs of
Low and Moderate Income residents in the community:**

1. CDBG funds should be used to strengthen neighborhoods by implementing affordable housing programs and services through acquiring, demolishing, and rehabilitating housing units that support homeowners, homebuyers, and renters to obtain and remain in affordable housing.

2. CDBG funds should be used to promote one community by implementing programs that support a continuum of new or expanded housing and services targeted for homeless, transitional housing clients, and persons with special needs.
3. CDBG funds should be used to strengthen neighborhoods by implementing programs that will increase or improve public facilities, infrastructure, and services

Goals and Priorities to address the major Housing and Community Development needs of NON Low and Moderate Income residents in the community

1. CDBG funds should be used for slum and blight removal in non low and moderate income areas to assist in redevelopment projects to decrease the number of substandard housing units through acquisition, demolition, and new construction.

ATTACHMENT B

Tentative Timeline for Next Steps

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| 1. Presentation to City Council: | January 2014 |
| 2. HUD Training: | February 2014 |
| 3. Public Forum Consolidated Plan : | March 18, 2014 |
| 4. Consolidated Plan Adoption by Council: | March 25, 2014 |
| 5. Prepare 2014-2019 Consolidated Plan: | April 2014 |
| 6. 30-day Public Comment Period for Consolidated Plan: | May 6 to June 5, 2014 |
| 7. Public Hearing for Consolidated Plan: | June 10, 2014 |
| 8. Submit Consolidated Plan to HUD on or before: | June 13, 2014 |
| 9. Public Forum for Annual Action Plan : | April 10, 2014 |
| 10. Annual Action Projects adoption by Council: | April 22, 2014 |
| 11. Prepare Annual Action Plan: | April-May 2014 |
| 12. 30-day Public Comment Period for Action Plan: | June 3-July 2, 2014 |
| 13. Public Hearing on Action Plan: | July 8, 2014 |
| 14. Submit Action Plan to HUD on or before: | July 15, 2014 |