

Staff Report

2024-2029 CDBG/HOME FIVE YEAR CONSOLIDATED PLAN

February 20, 2024

BACKGROUND:

As a federal entitlement community for federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding, the City must prepare and adopt a Five-Year CDBG Consolidated Plan to establish goals that guide the City's annual action plan programs. The current Consolidated Plan was approved in 2019 and is required to be updated this spring. The new Consolidated Plan will address goals and priorities for 2024-2029.

Public input is a critical component of preparing the Consolidated Plan. The workshop process involves direct Council participation in the public input session(s). At the workshop, City staff will provide an overview of 1) the CDBG and HOME Programs and 2) the Community Data Analysis for the Consolidated (Strategic) Plan. At the conclusion of the presentation, City staff will help facilitate an interactive discussion with the public regarding possible goals and priorities for the new Consolidated Plan for 2024-2029. The City Council will participate in small group discussions at the meeting.

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 Five-Year 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, a major component is 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 studies performed by the City. **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 gain feedback on the Plan's goals and priorities. Staff has then presented the feedback to the City Council with staff's recommendation for final action. The City's fifth 5-year Consolidated Planning period begins on July 1, 2024, and will run through June 30, 2029 (2024-2029). The public forums are normally held in February each year as part of determining the Action Plan projects for the coming year. However, creating a new Five-Year Plan is a major step in setting the goals and priorities for the Annual Action Plan projects. **This workshop discussion will only focus on the goals and priorities for the**

new Five-year plan. Following the workshop, staff will prepare draft goals and priorities for City Council approval.

At a future public forum, staff will seek public input regarding specific projects for the Annual Action Plan 2024-2025 that will address the Goals and Priorities of the Consolidated Plan once the City has been notified of its FY 2024 CDBG and HOME funding allocations.

Workshop Meeting Agenda

Staff has prepared the following tentative agenda for the February 2024 public forum (workshop):

1. Basic overview of the CDBG and HOME Programs.
2. Review of the Consolidated Planning Requirements.
3. Review of the Community Data Analysis from HUD and Community Survey.
4. Overview of Previously adopted Five-year Goals and Priorities .
5. Breakout into small group discussions to review and discuss revised or new 5-year goals and priorities.
6. Reconvene large groups and have each group report goals and/or priorities.
7. Tentative Timeline for next steps.

ATTACHMENT(S):