

2020-2024 CONSOLIDATED PLAN OVERVIEW

City Council Public Hearing
April 21, 2020

History and Background

The City of Ashland receives approximately \$175,000 a year in CDBG funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for projects benefiting low- and moderate-income residents. As a condition of receiving these federal funds, HUD requires the City to maintain a five-year “Consolidated Plan” which assesses and prioritizes the housing and homeless needs in Ashland. The CDBG Consolidated Plan also contains “spending priorities” which determine the types of projects for which the funds may be used. The City is required to update the Consolidated Plan every five years in order to continue receiving CDBG funds. The City’s first Consolidated Plan covered 1995-1999, and was adopted in June 1995.

What is the Consolidated Plan?



The City of Ashland 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan is a five-year strategic plan to provide an outline of action for the community as it works toward meeting the housing and community development needs of its low- and moderate-income households. The plan's development includes a profile of the community and its economy, an assessment of housing and community development needs, and the development of long-range strategies to meet those needs.

Previously Identified Priorities

Previous Plans have identified **affordable housing preservation and development**, as the highest priority need, with **homelessness prevention and homeless services** as the next highest priority for the use of CDBG funds.

Based on the feedback received through community involvement affordable housing and homeless services, continue to be the highest priority use of CDBG funding.

Priorities Identified through Questionnaire

Staff primarily looked at needs identified as “Critical” by over 50% of respondents. These were:

- Preservation and rehab of existing affordable units
- New construction of affordable rental housing for low income and small families
- Ownership assistance for low-income families
- Services for peoples experiencing mental health issues
- Crisis support services
- Homeless support services
- Job and life skill training programs
- Substance abuse services
- Housing placement
- Improved transit options

2020-2024 Goals and Priorities

Based on research compiled from a variety of sources including data analysis, and input from citizen and beneficiary groups, City staff have identified six broad areas of priority need that the City will focus CDBG resources toward over the next five years.

- To create and maintain affordable housing units/units occupied by low-, and moderate-income and smaller units for small families.
- Support services for homelessness outreach, prevention, and transition.
- Support services for people with mental illness.
- Support services for people in crisis.
- Improved transportation options for low-income and special needs populations
- Support Economic Development activities that assist in reducing poverty among low-, moderate-income and special needs populations.

2020-2024 Adjustments

- Based on agency feedback, housing development targets were lowered.
- Based on recent grant applications, higher numeric goals were devoted to rehabilitation activities.
- Due to a lack of large scale capital applications in recent years funding for public works projects has been prioritized-these are generally transportation related.

Public Involvement

Online Community Questionnaire

- ❑ Questionnaire ran from January 28th to March 5th
- ❑ Received 134 Responses representing 6.4 hours of Public Comment

Public Hearings

- ❑ **February** - Housing and Human Services Commission Reviewed Draft Plan
- ❑ **March** – Final revisions based on H&HSC feedback, public testimony, Questionnaire feedback. HHSC Review and Recommendation
- ❑ **April** - City Council Public Hearing on draft Plan-Adoption

Submit to HUD for review and approval

- ❑ **May 15, 2020** - Must be submitted 45 days before the start of the new grant Cycle