

EUGENE CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY



Action: Eugene-Springfield 2017 One-Year Action Plan

Meeting Date: April 25, 2016
Department: Planning & Development
www.eugene-or.gov

Agenda Item Number: 3
Staff Contact: Stephanie Jennings
Contact Telephone Number: 682-5529

ISSUE STATEMENT

The City Council is asked to approve the Eugene-Springfield 2017 One-Year Action Plan that allocates funds received through two Federal programs administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for fiscal year 2017. Through the Community Development Block Grant program (CDBG), Eugene may allocate new entitlement funds, program income, and unused money from previous years. Through the HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME), the Eugene-Springfield Consortium may allocate new entitlement funds, program income, and unused money from previous years. The proposed allocation will advance affordable housing opportunities, support provision of human services, and expand economic opportunities in support of strategies identified in the Eugene-Springfield 2015 Consolidated Plan.

BACKGROUND

Each spring, the City Council must approve a One-Year Action Plan in order to receive federal HOME and CDBG funds for the next fiscal year. The Action Plan is due to HUD by May 15, 2016. The proposed uses of funding must align with the local community needs and strategic plan described in the Eugene-Springfield 2015 Consolidated Plan.

The Eugene-Springfield 2015 Consolidated Plan was developed through a year-long process that included significant data analysis, community consultation, and multiple work sessions with the council. The Eugene City Council adopted the Consolidated Plan that included priority needs and strategies for use of CDBG and HOME funds on April 15, 2015.

Priority Needs included in the Consolidated Plan identify five specific populations including low-income renters, low-income homeowners, people experiencing homelessness, populations with special needs that are not experiencing homelessness, and unemployed/underemployed persons. In addition, a priority need was identified for low-income areas and areas that meet HUD's definition of slums and blight.

The Consolidated Plan identifies specific affordable housing and community development strategies to address the Priority Needs. Affordable housing strategies include: 1) Increase the supply of affordable housing; 2) Rehabilitate existing housing stock affordable to low-income persons; 3) Provide down payment assistance to help low-income persons achieve

homeownership, and, 4) Remove barriers to affordable and supportive housing. Community development strategies include: 1) Support a human services system to address the needs of homeless persons and special needs populations; 2) Promote economic development and employment opportunities through the creation of jobs and business development, and 3) Make strategic investments to improve low-income areas and other areas of slums and blight. Attachment A provides additional information regarding the priority needs and strategies identified in the 2015 Consolidated Plan. A complete summary of the Eugene-Springfield Consolidated Plan is available at www.eugene-or.gov/hudconplan.

2017 ONE-YEAR ACTION PLAN PROCESS AND RECOMMENDED ALLOCATION

The development of the proposed 2017 One-Year Action Plan was guided by the Eugene CDBG Advisory Committee and the newly created HOME Consortium Governing Board. The attached draft Action Plan is unanimously supported by both bodies. The proposed allocation will advance affordable housing opportunities, support provision of human services, and expand economic opportunities in support of strategies identified in the Eugene-Springfield 2015 Consolidated Plan.

CDBG Allocation Process

Each year, City staff work with CDBG Advisory Committee to develop a recommended allocation for use of CDBG funds to the Eugene City Council. A list of the CDBG Advisory Committee members is provided in Attachment C.

A special focus for this year is the identification of potential human service capital facility projects to benefit people experiencing homelessness and special needs populations. Staff released an open Request for Proposals in January and received six applications of which five were determined to be eligible for CDBG funds. While these proposed projects need further refinement to identify a specific project budget, staff and the CDBG Advisory Committee have recommended funding to be allocated to this program to reserve funding for these projects. This proposed funding would be combined with CDBG funding from previous years to be reallocated through a Substantial Amendment presented to the council through a separate agenda item summary.

The CDBG Advisory Committee met three times to review programs and develop the recommended CDBG allocation reflected in the attached draft Action Plan. The CDBG Advisory Committee reviewed and approved a draft recommendation for use of CDBG funds on March 8, 2016. A public hearing was held at the CDBG Advisory Committee meeting on April 12, 2016. Testimony was provided by six individuals representing five human service and affordable housing agencies including ShelterCare, Looking Glass, NEDCO, Catholic Community Services, and Headstart. Five people testified in support of the recommended human service capital facilities funding allocation and one person spoke in support of the recommended down payment assistance and microenterprise training funding allocation. There were no comments received through the 30-day written comment period.

The recommended allocation includes uses for new entitlement funds and program income expected to be received during FY17. The package of recommended uses will advance affordable housing opportunities, support provision of human services, expand economic opportunities, and support administration of CDBG programs. Additional detail is provided in the Action Plan summary in Attachment B.

HOME Allocation Process

Last year, Eugene and Springfield formed the Eugene-Springfield HOME Consortium Governing Board to manage use of HOME funds for the two jurisdictions. The City is the lead entity in the Eugene-Springfield HOME Consortium and has received annual entitlement grants on behalf of the consortium since 1992. The Governing Board reviewed and approved the draft recommendation for the use of HOME funds on March 1, 2016.

The recommendation includes uses of new entitlement funds and program income. The Governing Board approved an allocation of HOME funds in support of Housing Development, operating support for Community Housing Development Organizations, and for administration of HOME funds. Housing Development funds are offered through an open Request for Proposals process that occurs at least once a year. Additional detail is provided in the Action Plan summary in Attachment B. No comments were received during the public hearing on April 15 or during the 30-day written comment period.

RELATED CITY POLICIES

In addition to the Eugene-Springfield 2015 Consolidated Plan, the One-Year Action Plan is also consistent with other local plans. These plans include the Residential Land Use and Housing Element of the Metropolitan Area General Plan, Eugene City Council Adopted Growth Management Policies, the Diversity and Equity Strategic Plan, the Lane County Ten-Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness, and the Lane County Continuum of Care Plan. The proposed uses of funds also specifically support economic development and affordable housing goals set forth in the Envision Eugene Pillars.

COUNCIL OPTIONS

The City Council can approve, not approve, or modify the Eugene-Springfield 2017 One-Year Action Plan summary for use of Federal CDBG and HOME funds in FY17 provided in Attachment B.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION

The City Manager recommends approval of the Eugene-Springfield 2017 One-Year Action Plan summary for use of Federal CDBG and HOME funds in FY17 provided in Attachment B.

SUGGESTED MOTION

Move to approve the Eugene-Springfield 2017 One-Year Action Plan summary for use of Federal CDBG and HOME funds in FY17 provided in Attachment B.

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Eugene-Springfield 2015 Consolidated Plan Priority Needs and Strategies Table
- B. Eugene-Springfield 2017 One-Year Action Plan Summary

C. Eugene CDBG Advisory Committee and Eugene-Springfield HOME Governing Board
Membership

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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