

EUGENE CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY



Work Session: Eugene-Springfield 2015 Consolidated Plan - A Five-Year Strategic Plan for Affordable Housing and Community Development

Meeting Date: February 9, 2015
Department: Planning and Development
www.eugene-or.gov

Agenda Item Number: A
Staff Contact: Stephanie Jennings
Contact Telephone Number: 541-682-5529

ISSUE STATEMENT

The Eugene-Springfield Consolidated Plan provides an assessment of local housing, homelessness, and community development needs and establishes a five-year strategic plan with priority needs and strategies for the use of federal funds received from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Completion and adoption of the Consolidated Plan is a prerequisite for receiving Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME), and other HUD funds. At this work session, staff will review the Consolidated Plan development process, discuss achievements completed under the current Consolidated Plan, and identify draft priority needs and proposed strategies for use of federal funds under the 2015 Consolidated Plan.

BACKGROUND

The Eugene-Springfield 2015 Consolidated Plan will present an assessment of local housing, homelessness, and community development needs, identify priority needs for use of funds received from HUD, and present strategies to address the priority needs. Eugene and Springfield must complete, adopt, and submit a new five-year Consolidated Plan to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) by May 15, 2015. CDBG and HOME must be used to advance the following statutory objectives that primarily support low-income and moderate-income residents:

- Provide decent, safe, and affordable housing (CDBG and HOME)
- Create suitable living environments (CDBG)
- Expand economic opportunities (CDBG)

Since 1992 and continuing with this plan, Eugene and Springfield work together to develop the Eugene-Springfield Consolidated Plan. This collaboration allows for consideration of needs for the metropolitan area as a whole, development of a shared goals and strategies, and more efficient use of limited resources for plan development and reporting. A joint plan is required given that Eugene and Springfield receive a formula allocation of HOME funds as a Consortium. Eugene and Springfield receive separate formula allocations of CDBG funds each year.

In addition to the Consolidated Plan, the Cities of Eugene and Springfield must complete and submit a One-Year Action Plan (Action Plan) for each fiscal year within the five-year period. The Action Plan describes the Cities' annual allocation process and identifies specific uses of HOME and CDBG funds allocated by Congress during a fiscal year. The next Action Plan will be completed and submitted to HUD along with the 2015 Consolidated Plan. Lastly, the jurisdictions also jointly develop a Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER) to report on outcomes and progress achieved for each year. A visual diagram of the required planning and reporting components is provided in Attachment A.

Eugene and Springfield staff have worked closely over the past six months to identify strategic changes in the management of the HOME Consortium. These changes are necessary due to decreases in HOME funding and new regulatory requirements. Since its creation, Eugene has served as the lead entity in the HOME Consortium and receives HOME funds on behalf of Eugene and Springfield. These changes were summarized in a memo sent to the council on November 14, 2014. A copy of the memo is provided as Attachment B.

Summary of the 2010 Consolidated Plan

The Eugene-Springfield 2010 Consolidated Plan provides a foundation for development of the next Plan. As part of developing the 2015 Consolidated Plan, the jurisdictions must assess progress towards the goals identified in the 2010 Plan. The 2010 Consolidated Plan included an Affordable Housing Strategic Plan as well as a Community Development Strategic Plan. The high level goals of each plan are summarized below and will be discussed in more detail during the work session.

Affordable Housing

- Increase the supply of affordable housing
- Conserve and improve existing affordable owner and renter housing stock
- Increase opportunities for low- and moderate-income households to become and remain homeowners
- Increase opportunities for low- and moderate-income households to become and remain renters
- Remove barriers to affordable and supportive housing

Community Development

- Support a human services delivery system that helps low- and moderate-income persons achieve dignity, well-being, and self-sufficiency
- Provide economic development and diversification through the creation of jobs
- Improve accessibility to public facilities
- Make strategic investments to improve low-income neighborhoods and other areas exhibiting conditions of slums and blight

Status of 2015 Consolidated Plan Development

HUD has provided new guidance for the development of the 2015 Consolidated Plan and moved to an online submission format. A summary diagram of the Consolidated Plan development process is provided in Attachment C. Required elements of the next Consolidated Plan include:

Assessment of outcomes and results achieved under the previous Consolidated Plan Staff are currently compiling and assessing the results under the previous Consolidated Plan. A summary of outcomes will inform both the overall strategic direction as well as program and project implementation to maximize impact.

Assessment of Needs, Housing Market, and Community Conditions Staff have made significant progress towards the compilation and analysis of poverty, housing, market conditions, and homelessness data as required by HUD. Staff are working with partners and also utilizing previously completed analyses such as the Equity and Opportunity Assessment completed for the Lane Livability Consortium.

Community Outreach, Consultations and Public Involvement Staff are using multiple strategies to better understand the perspectives of community members, agencies, and stakeholders. Two separate surveys, one for community residents and one for agencies, were released in January. The survey results will be compiled and analyzed by the middle of February.

Staff are also conducting consultations with agencies and providers of services to low-income residents. Consultations are planned or have been completed with the Poverty and Homelessness Board, the Public Safety Coordinating Council, the Lane Integration Network, the Financial Stability Partnership of the United Way, and the Lane Workforce Investment Board. Individual consultations have occurred or are planned with St. Vincent de Paul, NEDCO, Cornerstone Community Housing, ShelterCare, Sponsors, and the Housing and Community Services Agency of Lane County (HACSA). In addition to gathering general impressions about needs, gaps and proposed strategies, there are specific pieces of information that are sought during these consultations, such as the issues facing a special population, or how the Continuum of Care efforts focused on addressing homelessness interact with this plan. The individual consultations are expected to be complete by the middle of February.

Development of Priority Needs and Strategies Following completion of the needs assessment, the next step in the development of this plan is the identification of “priority needs.” These priority needs must be drawn from the needs assessment. HUD also requires the Consortium to assign each need a high or low priority to indicate a preference for use of available funds. Any identified need must have an associated strategy and all strategies must relate to an identified need. Given the analysis to date, priority is being given to people who are low-income, unemployed or homeless. This has the effect of increasing the focus of the investments from this dwindling source. A draft of proposed priority needs is provided in Attachment D. A draft of the proposed strategies is provided in Attachment E.

Next Steps

In previous Consolidated Plan development processes, staff worked with the three advisory committees set up to advise Eugene and Springfield City Councils on the Consolidated Plan goals – the Eugene CDBG Advisory Committee, the Springfield Community Development Advisory Committee, and the Intergovernmental Housing Policy Board. Staff have formed a Consolidated Plan Advisory Committee with representatives from each of these bodies to consider the needs and proposed strategies. This body will also hold the public hearing on behalf of both jurisdictions on March 10 as an additional opportunity for the public to identify community needs. Staff will

work with Consolidated Plan Advisory Committee to make recommendations for consideration by both City Councils.

Another work session with the council is scheduled for April 22. At that time, the council will be asked to take action on the Consolidated Plan as well as the One-Year Action Plan that designates the use of CDBG and HOME funding during the next fiscal year.

RELATED CITY POLICIES

The Action Plan is also consistent with other plans adopted by the local jurisdictions, such as 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

Information only.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION

No recommendation provided at this time.

SUGGESTED MOTION

No motion required at this time.

ATTACHMENTS

- A. HUD Required Plans and Reports Diagram
- B. Memo to Council on HOME Consortium from November 24, 2014
- C. Consolidated Plan Development Process Diagram
- D. Draft Consolidated Plan Priority Needs
- E. Draft Consolidated Plan Strategies
- F. Timeline for Consolidated Plan Development, Meetings, and Completion

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Staff Contact: Stephanie Jennings, Grants Manager
Telephone: 541-682-5529
Staff E-Mail: stephanie.a.jennings@ci.eugene.or.us