

## **Item 25-0376: Draft 2025-2029 Consolidated Plan for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program**

**Community Development Committee**

Wed, Apr 23, 2025 4:30PM

**Alderperson Vaya Jones (District 10)** 14:33

All right, moving on to information items. 25-0376, draft 2025 to 2029 Consolidated Plan for the Community Development Block Grant Program.

**Olivia Galyon (Community Development Specialist)** 14:50

Hi, my name is Olivia Galyon. I'm the city's community development specialist. I think maybe I've met a few of you, but not everyone, quite yet. So, I manage our state and federal grants that we receive, and then also help with our neighborhood program and other things that we do that are just under that community umbre—community development umbrella.

**Olivia Galyon (Community Development Specialist)** 15:10

For this information item, though—so the city of Appleton is an annual recipient of Community Development Block Grant funds from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development. We're an entitlement community, so we get these funds every year. We don't have to reapply for them as long as we follow all of the regulations and submit the required annual and then five-year plans. So this item is specifically focused on our Consolidated Plan which is a required plan that we develop every five years to tell the federal government how we plan to spend the Community Development Block Grant funds we receive, and those funds are typically used for assistance to low and moderate income households and to provide things like access to affordable housing, expanded economic opportunities, suitable living environment through home rehabilitation or other programs, and then some supportive services or social services or other things are often—public service activities are included in there as well, and then also public facilities updates and stuff like that. So chan—replacing the fire system at Pillars has been a project example. Just so you know, kind of the variety of things that are included under the block grant.

**Olivia Galyon (Community Development Specialist)** 16:27

So, every five years, like I said, we have to develop this Consolidated Plan, and we have to include specific, measurable goals and targets for how we're going to spend the money and then how many beneficiaries in the community we'd like to impact with the funds depending on the activity type. So that's kind of detailed on the second page of the memo in front of you. And these goals and strategies that we've come up with are developed in conjunction with both public feedback on needs and issues in the community, as well as census data that can tell us what kinds of things we might be lacking in the community or where people are having challenges with housing issues or affordability or other things like that. So, it's a pretty robust use of both data and public feedback. And then we also contacted organizations that provide public services to get their feedback in terms of what they're hearing from their clients and the challenges that they're facing.

**Olivia Galyon (Community Development Specialist)** 17:25

So following that kind of data analysis and public engagement portion, moved into the actual writing of the plan, and we again used the—we created a community development block grant specific survey to kind of target the specific things that we do with the block grant, and then also just kind of used other surveys that have been put out by the Health Department and then through our comprehensive plan updates, the public feedback we've

gathered, to just get a better understanding of issues like housing availability and affordability, and, you know, people's knowledge of what resources exist in the community or how they can access those.

**Olivia Galyon (Community Development Specialist) 18:06**

And so, through all of that, we kind of came up with these major areas of concern, which included housing affordability and availability, which also includes rehabilitation and newer development. We don't really do as much on the new development side, but we do provide funds for a lot of rehab of housing and then some new homeowner support. And then also other major areas of interest were improvements to public facilities like city parks or homeless shelters, and then other public and community spaces, and then public services for low- and moderate-income persons, and then some interests as well in economic development opportunities. So those are kind of the big areas that came out.

**Olivia Galyon (Community Development Specialist) 18:47**

And then, like I said, with that memo in front of you, through our five-year goals, you can kind of see those major areas, both of interest within what the public responded and then what we've done in recent years in projects. So, these goal outcome numbers are based on the success that we've had in recent years funding these types of projects, and kind of how many people we've been able to assist with the variety of funding that we offer.

**Olivia Galyon (Community Development Specialist) 19:16**

And, yeah, like I said, the majority of funds and interest in funds are to housing. That's been—about 56% of our funding in recent years has gone to something housing related. But we also do have public facilities, public services, economic development, and then city administration to cover my role and then what, like, finance department does, and some other stuff is a portion of that as well.

**Olivia Galyon (Community Development Specialist) 19:41**

And I would say overall, the types of goals that you'd see on that chart haven't really changed. It's just making sure that our outcomes and the people that we're expecting to serve are aligned with our success in recent years, to make sure those are achievable numbers, basically.

**Olivia Galyon (Community Development Specialist) 19:58**

And then—so through part of this process, there's also required public engagement, as I said, and part of that is hosting public hearings like the one we had just earlier, and then also a 30-day public comment period. We haven't received any public comment or interest from any of the hearings or public comment period that we held, but we did have a little over a 30-day public comment period from March 11 to April 13. And if we do receive any comments in the next few month or so before we approve, before we send the plan for approval, that would, of course, be included, and it is required to be taken into consideration during the development of the plan. But at this point, this is just kind of a progress update for you guys. We wanted you to know that we're working on the Consolidated Plan. It will be submitted to HUD this year, but we have to wait until we receive our actual CDBG allocation for 2025 because we have to build those numbers into a portion of the plan. So just making sure that everything's accurate there. And then, once it's ready, we'll bring it forward one more time for another public hearing, just to see if we can get any more comment beyond kind of what we've already done, and if—that would be reflected, of course, in there. And then we would bring the plan forward to community development committee and Common Council for final approval prior to submission to HUD, and that would also be the time to approve the specific numbers for the projects that we've put in there. So, the actual allocation amounts would be wrapped up into that as well. So.

**Alderson Vaya Jones (District 10)** 21:37

Two-part question, real quick. With the federal cuts, what is that looking like for you moving forward with the paperwork and whatnot you have to do? And secondly, I know that City of Appleton uses those funds to fund a lot of things. What is that looking like? Do you have any information or?

**Olivia Galyon (Community Development Specialist)** 21:58

Yeah, so we—

**Alderson Vaya Jones (District 10)** 22:01

Just wanted to make sure it's asked, even though there's no answer.

**Director Kara Homan (Community And Economic Development)** 22:11

We are anticipating that our block grant will remain steady. We're hopeful we'll get that estimate sometime in mid-May, which aligns with when we got the award notice last year. We have plans in place for how we can continue while we wait. So, it's nothing that I'm worried about at present.

**Olivia Galyon (Community Development Specialist)** 22:34

And this really takes care of most of that paperwork requirement that you asked about. This is the big kind of—we don't do an application for CDBG funds, but this kind of serves as our application to HUD, of sorts, to make sure that they know what our plan is.

**Alderson Vaya Jones (District 10)** 22:48

You need to do this whether or not you have a certain funding amount.

**Olivia Galyon (Community Development Specialist)** 22:53

Yep, exactly

**Alderson Vaya Jones (District 10)** 22:53

And moving forward is normal.

**Olivia Galyon (Community Development Specialist)** 22:54

Yep, it has to be received, yep, regardless of what our funding amount is. We just can't submit it until we know that final amount. So.

**Alderson Vaya Jones (District 10)** 23:01

Alder Fenton, did you have a question?

**Alderson Denise Fenton (District 6)** 23:04

I just had a little thank you for the very, very detailed report, because I'm sure that that is required by our friends in DC, and a real thank you for the executive summary and the detailed memo that makes it digestible and comprehensible, so that I could tell my constituents exactly what it is we do with these federal monies. So, thanks for that.

**Olivia Galyon (Community Development Specialist)** 23:29

Yeah, of course. I know that document is a very long one, the Consolidated Plan, so sorry if you went all the way through it, but.

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**Aldersperson Vaya Jones (District 10) 23:37**

Any other questions or concerns? So, with the CDBG Advisory Board, once you have your applications, they read through them and have their process. Are those available to look at for members of the committee as well, just to kind of see what projects are going on?

**Olivia Galyon (Community Development Specialist) 23:55**

Yeah, the existing applications, we can make the ones from—the 2025 applications available to you guys. We don't have—again, because we haven't received our official allocation yet. And those were—that was kind of a preliminary vote by the advisory board, and then when it was brought through. We don't have any official contracts or anything like that, but we could make the application information available. And yeah, just want to note too with those you might notice they say they'll have a goal for the number of people they're serving, but it really depends on what that funding came in on. So just kind of to keep that in mind while you're reading through those applications, that that may look a little bit different when we get into the project year. If they requested \$50,000 received \$30,000 of course that impacts the capacity to serve additional people so but yeah, and I don't—is that in...

**Deputy Director David Kress (Community and Economic Development) 24:47**

Just to add, the meeting of the CDBG advisory board from January 28 has a good deal of that information from all the applications that would have been submitted late in 2024 making requests for the 2025 program year. All that's available within the Granicus system, if you toggle for the CDBG advisory board.

**Aldersperson Vaya Jones (District 10) 25:06**

And as far as meetings go, I think it's pretty digestible. It's not long or boring, so I think it's worth a watch. Any other follow up questions or comments? Wonderful.