

FY 2013 CONSOLIDATED PLAN CONFERENCE CALL

The New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (DCA) has scheduled a conference call to obtain public input on the housing and community development needs throughout the State; the comments received will assist DCA in developing its FY 2013 Consolidated Annual Action Plan.

The conference call which is scheduled for Thursday, February 28, 2013 from 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM will allow anyone desiring to make a comment or discuss policy to participate directly from their home, business etc.

Anyone interested in participating in the call must register in advance; please contact Lisa Downes via e-mail lisa.downes@dca.state.nj.us or phone (609) 292-8548 at least 24 hours prior to the conference call for instructions on how to access the conference call.

For those persons who are unable to attend the conference call, written comments on the needs of the State may be submitted to Sheri Malnak, NJ Department of Community Affairs PO Box 051, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0051 or emailed to sheri.malnak@dca.state.nj.us until March 1, 2013.

Background:

In accordance with the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the State of New Jersey must prepare a Consolidated Plan in order to receive federal funding for the following housing and community development programs:

- 1. Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG)** which provides funds to rehabilitate housing, create suitable living environments and enhance economic opportunities in non-entitlement areas throughout the State.
- 2. Emergency Solutions Grant Program (ESG)** which provides grants to create, expand or improve the quality of shelters and transitional housing facilities. The program also provides temporary financial assistance and services to prevent households from becoming homeless; divert people who are applying for shelter into other housing; and help those who are experiencing homelessness to be quickly re-housed and stabilized.
- 3. HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME)** which provides funds to develop affordable housing units and provide rental assistance to victims of domestic violence and disabled households.
- 4. Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDs (HOPWA)** which provides housing assistance to low- income persons with HIV/AIDS.

The 2013 Annual Plan will provide a summary of actions and activities that will occur next fiscal year to address the goals and objectives identified in the 5 year Consolidated Plan. The 2013 Plan is the annual update to the 2010-2014 Consolidated Plan which was approved by HUD on August 24, 2010.

Five Year Goals:

1. Expand the availability and supply of safe, decent, affordable, and accessible rental housing for very-low and low-income individuals and families.
2. Improve and preserve the existing affordable housing stock and neighborhoods.
3. Increase homeownership opportunities for low and moderate-income households.
4. Assist homeless households, households at risk of becoming homeless and special needs households obtain and maintain permanent housing, with needed support services to become self-sufficient.
5. Support local jurisdictions' planning process to reduce and end homelessness.
6. Promote lead-based paint education and abatement efforts.
7. Preserve and maintain safe and decent housing stock to assure a mix of housing options in all neighborhoods, including temporary and permanent housing.
8. Support community and economic development programs that expand business enterprises and increase job opportunities for low- and moderate-income households.
9. Promote fair housing practices and educate the public about the benefits and the need for affordable housing.

Objectives

Objective #1: Suitable Living Environment		
Outcome 1: Enhance suitable living environment through improved/new accessibility	Outcome 2: Enhance suitable living environment through improved/new affordability	Outcome 3: Enhance suitable living environment through improved/new sustainability
Number of units that have been modified to improve accessibility for special needs populations for the purpose of creating a suitable living environment	Number of units made more energy efficient through LIHEAP and Weatherization funds for the purpose of creating a suitable living environment	Number of households that have access to public sewer and potable water for the purpose of creating a suitable living environment
Number of homeless persons who have access to short-term shelter with appropriate case management services that focus on movement to permanent housing and necessary support services.		Number of units where lead-based paint hazards have been mitigated for the purpose of creating a suitable living environment
Objective #2: Decent Affordable Housing		
Outcome 1: Create decent housing with improved/new availability	Outcome 2: Create decent housing with improved/new affordability	Outcome 3: Create decent housing with improved/new sustainability
Number of new affordable housing units built for low-income households for the purpose of creating affordable housing	Number of households provided with on-going rental assistance for the purpose of creating affordable housing	Number of "Green" sustainable/energy-efficient units built for the purpose of creating affordable housing
Number of new rental units built for moderate-income for the purpose of creating affordable housing	Number of persons living with HIV/AIDS that were assisted with on-going housing subsidies for the purpose of creating affordable housing	Number of existing housing units rehabilitated for the purpose of creating affordable housing
Number of new shelter beds created for homeless individuals and families for the purpose of creating affordable housing	Number of households that received down payment assistance and below-market rate mortgages to become first-time homebuyers for the purpose of creating affordable housing	Number of existing housing units preserved for the purpose of creating affordable housing
Objective #3: Creating Economic Opportunities		
Outcome 1: Provide economic opportunity through improved/new accessibility	Outcome 2: Provide economic opportunity through improved/new affordability	Outcome 3: Provide economic opportunity through improved/new sustainability
Number of jobs created for very-low, low-and moderate-income households for the purpose of creating economic opportunity	Number of towns provided with Special Improvement District Grants and Loans for the purpose of creating economic opportunity	Number of Main Streets provided with technical assistance for the purpose of creating economic opportunity
		Number of building facades, streetscapes rehabilitated for the purpose of creating economic opportunity

HUD FUNDING LEVELS BY PROGRAM			
PROGRAM	FFY 2010	FFY 2011	FFY 2012
Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG)	\$7,846,149	\$6,279,187	\$5,678,964
Emergency Solutions Grant Program (ESG)	\$1,605,109	\$2,516,883	\$2,881,765
HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME)	\$7,758,272	\$6,765,649	\$3,800,785
Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDs (HOPWA)	\$1,180,213	\$1,178,084	\$1,184,121
TOTAL	\$18,389,743	\$16,739,803	\$13,545,635
** FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS PROJECTING A 5.1% ACROSS THE BOARD DECREASE FOR FFY 2013			

HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME)

HOME funds are used to fulfill the federal mandate of increasing the supply of decent, affordable housing, with a primary focus on providing services for very low-income families.

Eligible applicants for HOME funds are municipalities, nonprofit and for-profit developers.

Last year, the State's HOME funds were allocated to the following three funding categories:

CHDO Production provides funding to eligible Community Housing Development Organizations producing affordable units. Eligible activities include: acquisition, demolition and removal of buildings; construction of new housing; conversion of non-residential to residential space and the substantial rehabilitation of vacant buildings

Housing Production Investment provides funds to developers for the purpose of creating affordable rental and sale units. Eligible activities include: acquisition, demolition and removal of buildings; construction of new housing; conversion of non-residential to residential space and the substantial rehabilitation of vacant buildings.

HOME Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) helps reduce the housing costs of very low-income households by providing direct rent subsidy payments to their landlords.

Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG)

The State's CDBG Program addresses both affordable housing and non-housing community development needs. All project activities must meet one of the three national program objectives set forth in the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended:

1. To undertake community development activities that principally benefit persons of low and moderate-income;
2. To prevent or eliminate slums and blight;
3. To meet urgent community development needs for which no other resources are available.

Last year, the State's CDBG funds were allocated to the following 4 funding categories:

1. *Emergency Housing Repair*: corrects emergency conditions in owner-occupied housing where the owner is income-eligible and unable to obtain assistance from any other public or private source.
2. *Innovative Development*: provides assistance for activities that meet one of the three national objectives of the program, but do *not* qualify for consideration under any of the other Small Cities Funds
3. *Housing Rehabilitation*: improves the condition of single-family owner occupied housing in New Jersey
4. *Public Facilities*: assist units of local government to construct or improve essential public facilities that will primarily benefit people of low and moderate income

Emergency Solutions Grant Program

The purpose of the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) program is to:

1. Provide funds for capital costs to rehabilitate properties to create new emergency shelters and transitional housing facilities;
2. Eliminate health and safety violations in existing emergency shelters;
3. Assist individuals and families living on the streets or in emergency shelter obtain permanent housing; and
4. Provide prevention assistance to households in imminent risk of homelessness due to an eviction.

Last year the funding priorities were:

- To create additional shelter beds and transitional housing units for the homeless, particularly for families and homeless youth (18-21 years of age) and specialized populations such as the mentally ill homeless, persons with HIV/AIDS, veterans, and those with alcohol/substance abuse, victims of domestic violence and homeless ex-offenders when the need for such a facility is clearly documented
- To improve the quality of existing emergency shelters and transitional housing arrangements by eliminating code violations and improving health and safety conditions.
- To assist households who are either homeless or at-risk of homelessness obtain and maintain permanent housing.

Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDs Program (HOPWA)

HOPWA enables eligible persons with HIV/AIDS and their families to secure decent, safe and sanitary housing in the private rental market by providing tenant-based rental assistance. Community-based organizations provide the HOPWA participants with the necessary case management and ancillary services.

DCA oversees the program in the following New Jersey Counties Atlantic, Cape May, Cumberland, Mercer, Salem and Warren.