

Program Year 2021
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Action Plan Summary
for
Community Development Block Grant
Housing Opportunity for Persons with AIDS
HOME Investment Partnership
Emergency Solutions Grant



Introduction

The City of Columbus is proposing use of Program Year 2021 funding allocated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The funding is planned for expansion of existing programing and new programing to serve low-to-moderate income residents of Columbus. Expenditures are consistent with community needs, priorities and strategies stated in the City's 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan. The City will receive allocations from the Federal Government for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program which primarily benefits low-income individuals, the Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) program, the HOME Partnership (HOME) program which funds affordable housing opportunities and the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) program which provides homelessness prevention and shelter assistance.

The City is budgeting for these programs based on entitlement awards announced by HUD, program income, and funds recaptured from a Revolving Loan Fund.

Estimated Budgets

2021 CDBG Budget including Revolving Loan Fund and Program Income	\$13,229,840
2021 HOPWA Budget	\$1,585,171
2021 HOME Budget	\$4,534,140
2021 ESG Budget	\$636,217

Public Participation Process

First Public Comment Period for the 2021 Action Plan and Budget:

A thirty (30) day public comment period began on October 26, 2020 when a draft Action Plan Summary was presented at the Columbus City Council Meeting. The document was made available on the City's Department of Finance and Management, Grants Management Division webpage. Public comments were accepted through November 25, 2020 via phone, email and in writing. No public comments were received.

Public Hearing: the Department of Finance and Management, Grants Management Division with other City department representatives and City Council held a virtual public meeting on November 17, 2020 at 3:00 PM. Each project included in the draft plan was discussed and there was one citizen testimony. The meeting was virtual due to social distancing protocol during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Second Public Comment Period for the 2021 Action Plan and Budget:

A thirty (30) day public comment period began on April 25, 2021 when the 2021 Action Plan and this document (Action Plan Summary) was made available on the City's Department of Finance and Management, Grants Management Division webpage. Public comments are accepted through April 25, 2021 via phone, email and in writing.



Public Hearing: City Council will present and authorize the submission of the 2021 Action Plan for the City of Columbus during a regular City Council Meeting on April 19, 2021.

Community Development Block Grant Programing

Goal: Provide Educational / Recreational Youth Programing

1.) Columbus Recreation and Parks Department Capital Kids

\$630,000

The Capital Kids program incorporates trained staff, state of the art technology, high expectations and high performance standards designed to gauge student's academic achievement and to also provide participants with a safe place to learn and play when school is out.

2.) Columbus Recreation and Parks Department Fitness Camps

\$90,000

Provide a camp for children ages 6 to 14 years that operates during the summer & winter when school is not in session. The School's Out program is designed to especially benefit the children of working parents. School's Out offers a day long, well supervised program that allows children to take part in a variety of recreational, educational, cultural and physical fitness activities in a safe and secure environment.

3.) Columbus Recreation and Parks Department Center Managers

\$126,000

Community Development Block Grant funds will be utilized for salaries for managers at eligible recreation centers in low-to-moderate income neighborhoods.

Goal: Public Facilities / Infrastructure Improvements

1.) Myrtle Avenue and Cleveland Avenue Intersection and Crosswalk Improvement Design

\$250,000

This project includes the costs for engineering and design for intersection improvements at the Myrtle and Cleveland Avenues intersection.

2.) J. Ashburn Jr. Youth Center Parking Lot Resurfacing

\$65,000

In order to accommodate visitors at the J. Ashburn Jr. Youth Center as well as the new early childhood learning center located adjacent, the City will fund parking lot improvements.

3.) Linden Lighting Improvements

\$111,875

The project will replace South Linden light luminaires and will include tree trimming.

4.) Franklinton Sidewalk Gaps

\$365,000

The project constructs 4,181 feet of sidewalk. Existing roads, alleys, sidewalks, and other existing infrastructure components that are impacted by this project will be repaired/replaced as necessary.



5.) **Neighborhoods ADA Curb Replacements**

\$809,355

464 ADA compliant curb ramps at 95 intersections in the Hilltop, Morse/161, Near East, Near South, and South Linden areas. Existing roads, alleys, sidewalks, and other existing infrastructure components that are impacted by this project will be repaired/replaced as necessary.

6.) **Park Improvements and Tree Planting**

\$2,280,000

Park Improvements at: Marie Moreland Park, Smith Road Park, Maybury Park, Livingston Park, Nelson Park, Sullivant Gardens Park, Waltham Woods Park, Hilliard Green Park, Kingsrowe Park, Mifflin Park, Redick Park, Hilltonia Park, Kobacker Park, Millbrook Park, Hauntz Park, Southwood Park. Street Tree Planting in CDBG-eligible block groups within the North Central, South Side, Far South and Southwest Columbus Communities.

7.) **Neighborhoods Sidewalk Improvements**

\$1,400,000

Sidewalks will be installed on the following streets: East North Broadway, Wicklow Road, Barnett Road, Steele Avenue and Woodward Avenue.

8.) **Glenwood and Windsor Pool Designs**

\$1,000,000

The Columbus Recreation and Parks Department will administer an architectural and engineering contract(s) for Glenwood Pool and Windsor Pool. The development of the design will position Columbus Recreation and Parks for the next phase of the project, replacement of the existing pools with the modern outdoor aquatic facilities appropriate for current and future aquatics programs.

9.) **Wheatland Avenue Street Improvements Design**

\$300,000

New development continues on the Hilltop's Wheatland Avenue. CDBG will be utilized to design infrastructure improvements to the street to better serves residents.

10.) **Tennis Court Lighting Improvements**

\$420,000

The Columbus Recreation and Parks Department will contract the installation of energy-efficient LED lighting at Marion Franklin Park and Scioto Southland Park.

11.) **Arts and Fitness Facilities Upgrades**

\$222,610

The Columbus Recreation and Parks Department will make improvements to recreation centers throughout the City by purchasing and installing new equipment for health and wellness programing. Facilities include: Dodge Community Center, Aquatic Center, Barnett Community Recreation Center, Blackburn Community Recreation Center, Tuttle Pool, Maryland Pool, Columbus Aquatics Center, Driving Park, Center, Marion-Franklin Pool, Glenwood Pool, Windsor Pool, Scioto Southland, Douglas Community Center, Barack Community Center, Franklin Park Adventure Center, Sammons Park.

12.) **Hiawatha Park Drive Shared Use Path Design**

\$250,000



The Department of Public Service will administer an engineering contract to design a shared use path along Hiawatha Park Drive to connect

13.) Wheatland Farms Complex – Market Building Construction

\$1,500,000

Construction of free market for low-to-moderate income families at the Wheatland Farm site located adjacent the Wheatland Crossing housing complex in the Hilltop neighborhood.

Design and engineering will be complete by Mid-Ohio and the City will fund the construction of the building.

14.) Barack Community Recreation Center Kitchen Improvements

\$400,000

The Columbus Recreation and Parks Department will complete a kitchen renovation at the Barack Community Recreation Center.

Goal: Preserve and Expand Affordable Housing

1.) Roof Repair Program

\$845,000

The Department of Development will manage a roof repair/replacement program for low-to-moderate income Columbus homeowners. The program will benefit an estimated 65 households.

2.) Critical Home Repair Program

\$800,000

The Department of Development will manage a program to address critical structural repair needs at low-to-moderate income homeowners.

3.) CHORES Minor Home Repair Program

\$250,000

The Department of Development will manage a program for small home repairs for senior homeowners.

Goal: Provide Homebuyer Education and Other Counseling

1.) Housing Counseling

\$110,000

Funding for contracts with HUD approved Housing Counseling Agencies for the provision of homebuyer and homeowner counseling.

Goal: Ensure Equal Access to Housing

1.) Fair Housing Program

\$150,000

The Department of Finance and Management will contract a vendor for the PY 2021 City Fair Housing Program services.

Goal: Program Management, Capacity Building and / or Administration



1.) Grants Management Staff

\$555,000

Grants Management Division staffing in the Department of Finance and Management for administration of U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development grants.

2.) Neighborhoods and Agency Programs

\$300,000

Staff cost to support Neighborhood Pride Centers for the Department of Neighborhoods. Neighborhood Liaisons and programs connect residents to city government and other community leaders in order to resolve community issues. Neighborhood liaisons respond to service request and issues addressing housing, crime, economic needs and opportunities for local businesses, recreational youth programs, healthy food and health care access, zoning and civic and area commissions.

Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS

Goal: Provide Housing and Services for Persons with AIDS



1.) **HOPWA Lutheran Social Services, Faith Mission**

\$412,369

Funding will be used for Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA), Short-Term Rental, Mortgage and Utility Assistance (STRMU), Permanent Housing Placement (PHP), and other supportive services. An estimated 70 households will be assisted.

2.) **HOPWA Equitas Health**

\$932,790

Funding will be used for TBRA, STRMU, PHP, and other supportive services. An estimated 200 households will be assisted.

3.) **HOPWA Lancaster Fairfield Community Action Agency**

\$149,065

Funding will be used for TBRA, STRMU, PHP, and other supportive services. An estimated 30 households will be assisted.

4.) **HOPWA Jewish Family Services**

\$100,000

Funding will be used to provide supportive services for LMI individuals living with HIV/AIDS. An estimated 30 persons will be assisted.

5.) **HOPWA Licking County Coalition for Housing**

\$149,745

Funding will be used for TBRA, STRMU, PHP, and other supportive services. An estimated 40 households will be assisted.

Goal: Program Management, Capacity Building and / or Administration

1.) **HOPWA Administration, Columbus Public Health Staff**

\$50,000

Staffing for Columbus Public Health for HOPWA administration.

HOME Investment Partnership

Goal: Preserve and Expand Access to Affordable Housing



1.) **Community Housing Development Organization Support**

\$600,000

Required set aside of 15% of HOME fund allocation for awards to city certified CHDOs.

2.) **Rental Housing Development**

\$ 1,977,500

Providing gap financing for new construction and substantial renovation rental projects. An estimated 7 household housing units will be rehabilitated. An estimated 17 new rental housing units will be constructed. 5 HOME funded rental units will serve transition aged youth.

3.) **Downpayment Assistance**

\$250,000

Up to \$5,000 for downpayment and closing costs for a low or moderate income homebuyers. An estimated 42 households will be assisted.

4.) **Homeowner Housing Development**

\$1,000,000

HOME funds will be utilized for the development and affordability assistance for 10 new homeowner housing.

5.) **Rebuilding Lives Tenant Based Rental Assistance**

\$325,000

Tenant Based Rental Assistance for those who are homeless or in danger of become homeless. An estimated 55 households will be assisted.

6.) **Community Housing Development Organization Support**

\$200,000

Operating support provided to the Community Development Collaborative to distribute to approved CHDOs.

Goal: Program Management, Capacity Building and / or Administration

1.) **Housing Division Staff**

\$400,000

Housing Division staffing in the Department of Development for administration of HOME Investment Partnership funded programs.

Emergency Solutions Grant

Goal: Increase Access to Housing and Emergency Shelter



1.) **Emergency Solutions Grants Programs**

\$636,217

Emergency shelters provide access to beds for men and women in Columbus and Franklin County. Beyond providing a secure and clean place to sleep, shelter programs provide access to basic services such as showers, meals, healthcare and material assistance, along with supportive services, referrals to additional supportive services as needed, and crisis assistance. Shelter programs have resource centers that provide internet access, telephones, employment leads, job training resources and other community resources. ESG-funded Direct Housing programs provide services and financial assistance to families exiting emergency shelter programs into their own homes, with the goal of long-term stabilization. The 2021 ESG program will assist an estimated 4,000 persons.

