

NEW HAVENCITY PLAN COMMISSION ADVISORY REPORT

- RE:** **ORDER OF THE BOARD OF ALDERS** Approving the City of New Haven's 2015-2019 Five-year Consolidated Plan; Annual 2015-2016 Consolidated Action Plan Statement of Activities; and use of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Home Investment Partnership (HOME), Housing Opportunities for Persons with Aids (HOPWA), and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds to be submitted to the Department of Housing and Urban Development for federal financial assistance for planning and community development activities. (Mayor's Office/Office of Management and Budget)
- REPORT:** 1503-08
- ADVICE:** Approval of Plan Goals and Objectives of Five-Year Consolidated Plan
Approval of Annual Action Plan 2015-16

BACKGROUND

The Annual Consolidated Action Plan includes proposed activities to be funded by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnership (HOME), and Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) community development programs. Recommendations adhere to the guidelines, objectives, and procedures set forth in the city's local Citizen Participation Plan and the draft Five Year Consolidated Housing and Community Development Strategy and Plan for 2015 through 2019 goals and objectives.

The overall goal of HUD's community planning and development programs is to develop viable urban communities by providing decent housing and a suitable living environment and expanding economic opportunities principally for low- and moderate-income persons. This goal is consistent with the City's primary goal and mission when utilizing its Consolidated Plan resources -- the comprehensive systematic revitalization of the City and its residents neighborhood by neighborhood. This goal will be achieved through the support of new development and redevelopment, physical improvements, the provision of public facilities and services, and workforce and economic development.

The recommended FY 2015/16 Annual Consolidated Action Plan as established continues to promote neighborhood stability; provide programs for individuals to help achieve a better quality of life and support New Haven's long-range community development efforts. Programs and services in the Action Plan include providing affordable housing opportunities in a variety of configurations, improved public facilities, safe neighborhoods and public spaces. Recommendations also ensure the availability of needed public services and supportive programs for all residents, with priority given to the support of special needs populations and homeless services, including job training, elderly services, health and wellness, and youth programming. Implementation of the proposed Plan will address gaps in critically needed services as identified in the Five Year Consolidated Housing and Community Development Strategy and Plan.

The Draft Five-Year Consolidated Housing and Community Development Strategy and Plan (Five Year Plan) goals and objectives serve as a strategy and planning document that guide the budget and funding allocation process for HUD-funded community development and housing activities. The preparation of the Five Year Plan will be ongoing throughout this process and the draft, has and will continue to be the result of an intensive coordination, outreach and consultation process including involvement by city departments and agencies, public service providers, housing authority personnel, housing providers and persons from various agencies and organizations representing the homeless, special needs individuals and low/moderate income residents. Over the next several months, the Five Year Plan and Strategy will be reviewed and revised to reflect the city's current market conditions and description of needs as a means to further develop a strategy for the next five years. In accordance with the Citizen Participation Plan, outreach efforts will include public hearings on the draft documents as well as topical meetings and administrative steering committee input. This input will be compiled into a final draft to be approved by the Board and submitted to HUD for May 15, 2015.

The mayor's proposed budget for FY 2015-2016 reflects anticipated federal revenues available for each program. The national budget for these programs is subject to change, pending congressional authorization and approval by the president. The totals requested in each category are as follows: CDBG: \$4,020,208; HOME: \$965,000; ESG: \$286,068; and HOPWA: \$980,473.

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

The Commission by custom does not undertake a line-by-line review of the Consolidated Plan. However, certain aspects of the budget and plan are of particular interest to the Commission as they advance the overall efforts of sound land use planning, environmental protection, neighborhood revitalization and economic development. The Commission notes that one department position is funded in the CDBG budget for 2015-16.

The recommended FY 2015-2016 Annual Action Plan continues to promote neighborhood stability; provide programs for individuals to help achieve a better quality of life, and support New Haven's long-range community development efforts. Programs and services in the Annual Action Plan include providing affordable housing opportunities on a variety of configurations, improved public facilities, safe parks, and public spaces. Recommendations also ensure the availability of needed public services and supportive programs for all residents, with priority given to the support of special needs populations and homeless services, including job training and youth programs. Implementation of the proposed plan will address gaps in critically needed services as identified within the draft Five Year Consolidated Plan.

The Commission supports continued development of the Consolidated Plan goals that are reflected in the Comprehensive Plan. Work on the update to the Comprehensive Plan as required by State mandates was originally to be complete by 2013, but was extended by the State Legislature to 2015. City Plan has completed the "Data Book" – the base data that underlies the plan and continues to work on a number of projects/initiatives further public outreach and comment and recommendations, as well as proposed land use recommendations and proposed zoning revisions, neighborhood planning and revitalization. Specific activities include the Route 34 Downtown Crossing and Route 34 West areas, approval of the Hill to Downtown Plan, work in Wooster Square and Westville and other neighborhoods, focus on resilience and climate change which will result in better integrated land use, and waterfront strategic planning.

The Community Services Administration is concurrently engaged in development of a Promise Zone Plan; all three plans, the Comprehensive Plan, the Consolidated Plan and the Promise Zone Plan share common goals and objectives, though each may highlight and focus on a different portion of the overall City goals and objectives.


Over the next several months, the Office of Budget and Finance, the Board of Alders and others will review the draft Five Year Consolidated Plan and provide feedback. Efforts will be made to ensure that the planning process is in accord with the Citizen Participation Plan and also to ensure that the draft plan reflects the city's current market conditions and describes the needs and strategies accordingly.

ADVICE:

The Commission approves the goals and objectives of the consolidated Annual Action Plan 2015-2016 and the Draft Consolidated Plan 2015-2019 without reference to particular amounts.

ADOPTED: March 18, 2015
Edward Mattison
Chair

ATTEST:


Karyn M. Gilvarg, AIA
Executive Director