

FRANKLIN COUNTY CITIZEN PARTICIPATION PLAN

I. Plan Purpose & Introduction

Franklin County recognizes the importance of collaborative, public participation in both defining and understanding current housing, community development, and fair housing needs, and prioritizing resources to address those needs. The County's Citizen Participation Plan is designed to provide residents of all ages, genders, economic levels, races, ethnicities and special needs equal access to become involved in the Plan each year. This Citizen Participation Plan was written in accordance with Section 91.105 of The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Consolidated Plan regulations and is written for the Use of Funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Specifically, Franklin County's Citizen Participation Plan must provide citizens with information and the opportunity to comment on the following:

1. Housing and community development needs and proposed activities for meeting those needs
2. The Citizen Participation Plan
3. The amount of funds expected to be received
4. The proposed expenditures of funds
5. The Draft Consolidated Plan
6. The Consolidated Plan Annual Performance Report (C.A.P.E.R.)
7. Assessment of Fair Housing (AFH)
8. Substantial amendments to the Consolidated Plan

The Federal Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) program year chosen by Franklin County is April 1 – March 31.

II. Franklin County Citizen Participation Plan Activities

Franklin County Citizen Participation Plan activities will include:

- Public Hearings
- Community Surveys
- Meetings with Local Service Groups and Economic Development Professionals
- Provision of Technical Assistance to Interested Parties
- Franklin County Community Development Advisory Board Meetings

Public Hearings: Public hearings are used as a medium to receive citizen comments on the Citizen Participation Plan, identify local housing and community development needs, announce the availability of funds, and assist citizens in terms of accessing and potentially administering federally funded programs.

Franklin County holds a minimum of four public hearings per year; to assess needs, to provide technical assistance and to garner public input.

The following mechanisms are used to advertise public hearings and/or forums:



- a) Advertisements are placed in the Columbus Dispatch or comparable publication that meets the HUD required threshold for informing the public.
- b) Local officials are given information to post in public buildings such as jurisdictional buildings, libraries, senior centers, etc.
- c) The allowance for virtual hearings during periods of public alert, pandemic and discord.

Community Surveys: These surveys are distributed to local officials and hosted on the internet to ask residents to identify the most important need in their community, and to indicate the priority for the use of HUD funds.

Meetings with Local Service Groups and Economic Development Professionals: These periodic meetings with standing County organizations (public and private), allow for the exchange of information that serve to inform the County's federal HUD programs and corresponding documents.

Provision of Technical Assistance to Interested Parties: Conducted on an individual and group basis, the County provides technical assistance to interested parties regarding the County's programs, planning and allocation processes.

Franklin County Community Development Advisory Board Meetings: The purpose of this advisory board is to advise and make recommendations to the Franklin County Board of Commissioners on policies and procedures related to the county's receipt and allocation of HUD entitlement funds under the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME and the Emergency Solutions Grant programs.

The Citizen Participation Plan as adopted by the Franklin County Board of Commissioners (and the corresponding Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) regulations codified in 24 CFR Part 570 – which require such a board as a condition of the receipt of HUD dollars.)

Number of Members: 11 total
 5 are local officials
 6 are resource persons drawn from any of the following:

- A HUD Program Beneficiary
- A HUD Program Beneficiary Representative
- A Social Services Representative
- An Economic Development Representative
- A Senior Citizen
- Programming Representative
- And up to Two (2) Housing Representatives
 (a reflection of the large percentage of county funds devoted to Housing initiatives.)

Appointing Authority: Franklin County Board of Commissioners



Membership Term: 2 years

Oversight Department: The Department of Economic Development & Planning

Oversight Individual: The County's HUD Grants Administrator

Locations: 150 S. Front Street, Suite 10, Columbus, Ohio 43215
&
280 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215

III. Citizen Participation Plan for the Annual Consolidated Action Plan

The Consolidation plan serves as the five-year plan used to apply for funding under the CDBG, ESG, and HOME programs. Each year, Franklin County citizen participation activities for the Annual Consolidated Action Plan include the following:

General Public hearing:

- Notices are sent to local officials and interested citizens and community organizations announcing the public hearing and the amount of funds expected to be received.
- A summary of the Consolidated Annual Performance & Evaluation Report (CAPER) for the previous year is made at the public hearing.

Local Public Hearing:

- Local public hearing in communities proposing to submit an application for funding must hold a public hearing at council or board of trustees meeting.
- Local officials must notify their residents concerning the prospective activity and document the holding of the meeting(s).
- Local officials are responsible for prioritizing and/ or selecting one project for submission to the County's annual allocation process from their jurisdiction.

Franklin County Community Development Advisory Board:

- This board reviews and comments on proposed activities for the Annual Consolidated Action Plan and amounts allocated for each activity.

30 Day Public Comment:

- A summary of the proposed Annual Consolidated Action Plan is published on the Franklin County, Ohio website and in The Columbus Dispatch or comparable publication that meets the HUD required threshold for informing the public each year. A summary will be mailed to local officials and interested citizens and community organizations.
- As allowable by HUD, reduction of the citizen comment period to 5 days (versus the normal 30 days) for plan amendments.

Public Hearing

- Franklin County Board of Commissioners holds a public hearing each year to invite citizens to comment on the proposed Annual Consolidated Action Plan.



IV. Citizen Participation Plan for the Assessment of Fair Housing (AFH)

This document is updated every 3-5 years, and serves as the reports, goals, and actions that the county, in partnership with the City of Columbus, will take to address housing disparity needs and access to opportunity; creating balanced living patterns; and fostering and complying with civil rights and fair housing laws. The AFH is a legal

requirement of the county to further the purposes of the Fair Housing Act. **During a plan update year**, Franklin County citizen participation activities for the Assessment of Fair Housing include the following:

1. A summary of the Assessment of Fair Housing (AFH) will be sent to all local officials, interested citizens and community organizations. A notice of the availability of the Report will be published in The Columbus Dispatch.
2. Public Hearing: A summary of the Report will be provided at the **Annual General Public Hearing** to identify housing and community development needs and inform citizens about the funds expected to be received.

V. Citizen Participation Plan for Making Substantial Amendments to the Consolidation Plan

What is a Substantial Amendment? A substantial amendment is made when the following occurs:

- A project is added to the program.
- The cancellation of a program which has expended funds.
- A major change in the scope of activities or who will benefit.
- The cost of a project or activity goes up or down by 20% or more.

How are program amendments made?

1. If a local government wishes to change or drop a project, it must hold a local public hearing and make a request to the Franklin County Board of Commissioners. Franklin County Board of Commissioners also holds a public hearing.
2. Applications may be sought from participating jurisdictions and interested individuals and community organizations.
3. Notice of a program amendment and available funds is published.

30 Day Comment Period

- The proposed amendment will be published in The Columbus Dispatch or comparable publication that meets the HUD required threshold for informing the public. A summary will be mailed to local officials, interested individuals and community organizations.



Economic Development & Planning Department

VI. Opportunity to Comment on the Consolidated Annual Performance & Evaluation Report (CAPER)

The CAPER is a yearly report that describes the accomplishments undertaken with federal funds during the previous year, including how funds were used for activities that benefitted low-and-moderate-income residents.

1. A summary of the Consolidated Annual Performance Report (CAPER) will be sent to all local officials, interested citizens and community organizations. A notice of the availability of the Report will be published in The Columbus Dispatch or comparable publication that meets the HUD required threshold for informing the public.
2. Public Hearing: A summary of the Report will be provided at the **Annual General Public Hearing** to identify housing and community development needs and inform citizens about the funds expected to be received.

CITIZEN COMMENTS ON COUNTY'S 2019 COVID-19 AMENDED PLAN

- No comments received
- No comments rejected

The County held public hearings on April 9th & 10th per the attached public notice.

The program cost summaries begin on the next page.



I. CDBG 2019 Proposed Program Cost Summary

<u>Housing Stabilization and Improvement Program</u>		<u>\$</u>
900,000		
HS09a	Home Rehabilitation – Urgent Repair Grants	800,000
HS09b	First-time Homebuyers downpayment-assistance	100,000
<u>Economic Development Program</u>		<u>\$1,130,795</u>
ED09a	Microenterprise Loan Program (COVID 19 CDBG)	1,000,795
ED09b	Food for Thought	50,000
ED09c	Minority Contractor Initiative Program	80,000
<u>Public and Social Service Support Program</u>		<u>\$815,000</u>
PS09a	Housing Retention Specialist	60,000
PS09b	Lifecare Alliance – Nutritional Program	40,000
PS09c	Rebuilding Together	50,000
PS09d	Housing Counseling – Homes on the Hill	15,000
PS09e	M.O.B.I.L.E	25,000
PS09f	Stepping off to College/Helping hands	25,000
PS09g	Children’s Hunger Alliance	25,000
PS09h	Homelessness Outreach	75,000
PS09i	COVID-19 Emergency Shelter	500,000
<u>Grant Program Administration and Compliance</u>		<u>\$390,000</u>
GA09a	Program Administration	280,000
GA09b	Fair Housing Services	100,000
GA09c	Housing Advisory Board	10,000

Sub-Total Planned 2019 CDBG Funds Allocated	\$3,235,795
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II. HOME 2018 Proposed Program Cost Summary

Administration Programs	\$ 253,174
H09A01 CHDO Development (15% of 2018 grant)	120,087
CHDO Operating (5% of 2018grant)	40,030
CHDO Technical Assistance – Community Dev. Collaborative	5,000
H0902 County Administrative Support	80,057



Franklin County

Economic Development & Planning Department

H09A03 HQS Inspections – Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority	8,000
County Rental Rehabilitation & New Construction	\$ 500,000
H09R02 Rental New Construction	
Rental Housing	250,000
Community Designated Rebuilding Lives Project	250,000

Sub-Total Planned 2018 HOME Funds Allocated	\$753,174
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III. Emergency Solutions Grant Proposed 2018 Program Cost Summary

Emergency Solutions Support
\$762,435

E09S01 Community Shelter Board/YWCA Family Center
166,845
COVID-19 ESG

595,590

Sub-Total Planned 2018 ESG Funds Allocated

\$762,435

Grand Total 2018 CPD Program Allocations

\$ 4,751,404