



## COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

ROOM 32 ▪ CITY HALL ▪ BURLINGTON, VERMONT 05401  
(802) 865-7144 ▪ (802) 865-7142 (TTY) ▪ (802) 865-7024 (FAX)

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### MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Miro Weinberger and City Council

FROM: Peter Owens, CEDO Director  
Marcy Krumbine, Assistant Director for Community Development

DATE: May 1, 2013

RE: Proposed 2013 Five Year Consolidated Plan  
Community Development Block Grant Proposed Allocations  
Proposed 2013 Action Plan for Housing & Community Development

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Enclosed is a draft of the new Consolidated Plan for Housing & Community Development. The City is required to have this Plan as a condition of its receipt of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME funds from the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD), and must be rewritten every three to five years. The Plan is focused on addressing the needs of low and moderate-income residents. The draft Plan has been published on CEDO's website for public comment.

The Consolidated Plan provides detailed information about city demographics, the local housing market and the local economy. It outlines housing, community and economic development needs and priorities for the City. This Consolidated Plan covers the five-year period beginning in July 2013.

The three goals for the CDBG program are: decent housing, expanding economic opportunities and providing a suitable living environment. The Consolidated Plan, through a Needs Assessment and Market Analysis prioritizes these goals for the City.

- Decent housing continues to be the highest priority under the new Consolidated Plan. With a significant number of renters and owners experiencing cost burden due to housing costs, a very low vacancy rate and an aging housing stock, the need to invest in affordable housing projects continues.
- Creating economic opportunities is the next priority under the new Consolidated Plan. With low-income residents experiencing barriers to employment like affordable and quality childcare and limited English and opportunities to earn a livable wage; and businesses finding it difficult to hire qualified local workers, the need to invest in job

creation, entrepreneurial training, early childcare education and cultural access program remains.

- A suitable living environment is the City's third overall priority. With aging public and nonprofit facilities and infrastructure, brownfields and increased service need among the low-income population, the need to invest in public facility and infrastructure renovation and the 15% cap in Public Services persists.

Also enclosed are the recommendations of the CDBG Advisory Board for allocating the City's 2013 Community Development Block Grant funds. This information has been distributed to all persons and agencies that requested funding, and is available on CEDO's website.

In addition, enclosed is a draft Action Plan for Housing & Community Development. The Action Plan is required each year by HUD. It combines the recommendations of the CDBG Advisory Board with the Priorities, Goals and Objectives of the proposed 2013 Consolidated Plan, and shows how the recommended expenditures of 2013 CDBG and other HUD resources (HOME and Lead Paint Hazard Reduction dollars) correspond with identified needs and action strategies. The draft Action Plan is also available on CEDO's website.

The proposed allocation of CDBG, HOME and Lead Hazard Reduction funds is projected to (among other things):

- Work to complete the Thayer School (DMV) project, add 36 units for seniors
- Work to preserve 140 housing units with expiring subsidies at Rose Street Artists Co-op, Pearl Union SRO, ONE Housing, Burlington Rental Housing Improvement Project and Housing for Homeless Plus.
- Begin predevelopment work on several adjoining properties on Bright Street with the ultimate goal of 30-40 new housing units.
- Help 860 residents to remain housed and living independently through homesharing, home-based and center-based services for seniors, access modifications and other housing retention services.
- Provide 565 homeless residents with emergency shelter, case management and housing placement services.
- Support the creation/retention/expansion of 8 new businesses, with 10 associated permanent jobs, through technical assistance, business loans and entrepreneurial training.
- Provide families with high-quality, affordable childcare and early education for 83 children.
- Provide free tax preparation, clothing and employment services, community integration services to help 1,144 low-income residents (including many with limited English proficiency) increase their self-sufficiency.
- Provide food to 5,601 residents; summer English skills learning programming to 45 youth; and dental care services to 350 homeless residents.

- o Renovate the kitchens of two public facilities including an emergency shelter and senior center.
- o Support the assessment, remediation and redevelopment of 4 brownfields sites, including the Moran Plant, to result in the development of affordable housing units and new commercial/public facility space.

The draft Consolidated Plan, the proposed allocations and the draft One-Year Action Plan will be the subject of a public hearing, scheduled for your regular meeting of Monday, May 6, 2013. We will ask for your approval of the Consolidated Plan and Action Plan at your following meeting on May 20, 2013, in the form of action on a resolution authorizing submission of the Plans to the U.S. Department of HUD, unless HUD advises us to wait for funding allocations.

**As of the date of this Public Hearing we are utilizing a 5% reduction in funding as directed by the Deputy Secretary of HUD as a proxy until further information is received from HUD. Should the funding level increase or decrease by more than 10%, we will follow the Citizen Participation Plan and amend the Action Plan. We do not plan to add or subtract any activities with a change in funding level.**

Please do not hesitate to contact the Community & Economic Development Office should you have any questions.