



CITY of DURHAM CITIZEN PARTICIPATION PLAN

Introduction

The purpose of the Citizen Participation Plan is to identify and set forth guidelines that the City of Durham Department of Community Development will follow to ensure that the citizens of Durham City and Durham County are adequately aware of the programs/activities that are financed with entitlement funding from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The Citizen Participation Plan will address the time frame and manner in which citizens will be informed and encouraged to participate in the planning process for the expenditure of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Home Investment Partnership Program (HOME), Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), and Housing Opportunities for People With Aids (HOPWA) funds. The Citizen Participation will also address how citizens will participate in the development of the Consolidated Plan, Annual Action Plan, and the Consolidated Annual Performance Report (CAPER).

The Consolidated Plan – The Consolidated Plan is a strategy which describes needs, resources, priorities and proposed activities to be undertaken with respect to HUD programs. As a recipient of federal grant funds from HUD, the City must submit an updated Plan every five years.

The Annual Action Plan – The Annual Action Plan is a yearly update of the Consolidated Plan in which specific projects are identified that will be funded from each of the entitlement programs for a particular fiscal year. The Annual Action Plan is due to HUD 45 days prior to the end the City’s fiscal year. The Plan must be submitted to HUD by May 15 of each year.

The Consolidated Annual Performance Report (CAPER) - The CAPER is a yearly summary that identifies the specific projects that were funded the previous year. The CAPER also identifies the amount of funds that were budgeted for each project, that have been expended to date for the particular project, as well as the number and demographic information of individuals served by each project activity.

Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC)

The Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) will serve as a primary mechanism for facilitating citizen participation throughout the affordable housing and community development planning process. The CAC comprises 15 citizens, 12 of them are appointed by the Council. The CAC will meet throughout the year to review and discuss housing and community development issues, (including CDBG, HOME, HOPWA, and ESG funded proposals to be incorporated into the Annual Action Plan). In addition, the CAC will review and comment on the Consolidated Plan /Annual Action Plan, any Plan amendments, and the CAPER. CAC meetings are typically held the fourth Monday of each month throughout the year. All CAC meetings will be conducted in an open manner, with freedom of access for all interested parties. Regular meetings are held at 6:00 p.m. at the Department of Community Development, 807 E. Main Street, Building 2-Suite 200, Durham, NC 27701.

Public Hearings

Two (2) public hearings will be held each year prior to the submission of the Annual Action Plan. Public hearings shall be held by the Durham City Council. The first public hearing shall be held to receive comments on housing and community developments needs, including priority non-housing community development needs. The second public hearing shall be held to receive comments on the draft Consolidated/ Annual Action Plan.

Public Notice

The City shall advertise public hearings as applicable at least 10 days before the date of the hearing. The City will publish notice of public hearings, draft Consolidated Plan/Annual Action Plan, amendments, and CAPER in the Herald Sun and Carolina Times newspapers and on the City of Durham's Department of Community Development's web site at <http://durhamnc.gov/ich/cb/cdd/Pages/Home.aspx>. In addition, notice will be distributed to interested persons, various community organizations and non-profit groups via electronic mailings.

Access to Citizen Participation Activities

All public hearings will be held at a convenient time and place to facilitate broad citizen participation, particularly by low- and moderate income citizens and residents of targeted neighborhoods. All public hearings will be held at locations, accessible to people with disabilities, and provisions will be made to accommodate persons with disabilities. Public notices state that a person with a disability may receive auxiliary aids or service to effectively participate in city government activities by contacting the American Disabilities Act (ADA) Coordinator no later than 48 hours before the event or

deadline. Citizens may contact the ADA Coordinator via voice at 919-560-4197, fax at 919-560-4196, Teletypewriter (TTY) 919-560-1200 or ADA@durhamnc.gov. Upon request, translators will be provided for people who do not speak English and sign language interpreters will be provided for hearing impaired people. On-line surveys in English and Spanish may also be used to gather resident input on the development of the Consolidated Plan, or filled out on paper surveys available at various Durham locations.

Public Comment Period

The public will be provided with a 30-day comment period on the draft Consolidated Plan/Annual Action Plan. Copies of the Plans will be made available at the following locations: the Department of Community Development, the City and County Clerk's Offices, the Durham County Public Main Library, the front desk of City Hall, and on line at <http://durhamnc.gov/ich/cb/cdd/Pages/Home.aspx>. Citizen comments received during the citizen participation process will be summarized in writing and included in an attachment to the final Plan submitted to HUD. The summary will include staff response to the comments that are received.

Complaint Procedures

The Department of Community Development staff shall be responsible for receiving and responding in writing to written citizen complaints and grievances that are related to the Consolidated Plan/Annual Action Plan activities. Staff will make every effort to respond to any written complaint or grievance related to Consolidated/Annual Action Plan activities within 15 working days, where practicable.

Access to Records

The City and County shall provide for full and timely disclosure of program records and information consistent with applicable state and local laws regarding personal privacy and obligations of confidentiality. Program documents must be retained for a minimum of five years. Upon written request, documents relevant to the program shall be available at the Department of Community Development during normal business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. The City may charge a fee for copies to recover cost of materials and operations.

Technical Assistance

Upon request, the Department of Community Development staff will meet with neighborhood groups or advocacy interest groups to obtain their views on housing and non-housing needs. Staff will be available during the funding application period to offer assistance in the process only as requested. Staff will advise applicants on technical

questions, such as determining the eligibility of a request and federal program requirements.

Relocation and Displacement

The City will endeavor to take all reasonable steps to minimize the displacement of persons/households as a result of activities conducted through its program. Persons who are displaced receive relocation assistance in accordance with the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Act of 1970 (URA or Uniform Act).

Solicitation of CDBG, HOME, ESG, and HOPWA Applications

Annually, the City shall hold a workshop to discuss the application process for the use of CDBG, HOME, ESG, and HOPWA funds. The City will provide public notice of the workshop and will encourage applicants to contact the DCD for technical assistance and program requirements. Using a formal application process, applications are made available on the Department's website during defined periods. Notices shall inform citizens of the amount of funds available, deadline for proposal submission, the range of CDBG, HOME, ESG, and HOPWA activities that are proposed to be undertaken, and other pertinent program requirements. Applications submitted after the date and time indicated will not be considered for funding.

Consolidated Annual Performance Report (CAPER)

Each year the City must produce a CAPER describing and evaluating the community development activities undertaken during the previous program year. The CAPER is due to HUD 90 days from the end of the fiscal year. Typically, the CAPER is due to HUD by September 30. The City will provide public notice of the draft CAPER as previously described under the Public Notice section. The public will be provided with a 15-day comment period on the draft CAPER. The CAPER will be made available for public review at the same locations as described for the Consolidated Plan/Annual Action Plan. Citizen comments received during the citizen participation process will be summarized in writing and included in an attachment to the final CAPER submitted to HUD. The summary will include staff responses to the comments that are received.

Amendments to Consolidated Plan/Annual Action Plan

A public hearing shall be conducted for all substantial amendments to Consolidated Plan/Annual Action Plan. The public will be provided with at least a 10-day notice prior to the date of the hearing and a 30-day comment period to receive citizen comments on the proposed amendment prior to implementation. A substantial amendment is constituted as:

1. The addition or deletion an activity not previously described in the Plan,
2. A change in purpose, scope, location, or beneficiaries of an activity, and
3. A change in the allocation or distribution of funds is defined as when the dollar amount of that change is equal to, or greater than 25% of the City's current fiscal year federal allocation.

Substantial amendments will be made available for public comment at the same locations previously described for the Consolidated Plan/ Annual Action Plan. Citizen comments received during the citizen participation process will be summarized in writing and included in an attachment to any amendments submitted to HUD. The summary will include staff responses to the comments that are received.

Public Review Sites

Documents that require a Public Comment period will be available for review at the following locations:

Departmental Website: <http://durhamnc.gov/ich/cb/cdd/Pages/Home.aspx>

Department of Community Development
807 E. Main Street, Building 2- Suite 200
Durham, NC 27701

City Hall
Clerk's Office and
behind the Durham One Call Desk
101 City Hall Plaza
Durham, NC 27701

Durham County
Clerk's Office
Administrative Complex, 2nd Floor
200 E. Main Street
Durham, NC 27701

Durham County Main Branch Library
300 N. Roxboro Street
Durham, NC 27701