



Subject: Testimony and Fiscal Impact Statement for:
Resolution No. [REDACTED] - 2026
Adopting the FFY2026 Annual Action for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) &
HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME)

To: Brandee Ganz
Chief Administrative Officer

From: Kelly Cimino *K. Cimino*
Director
Department of Housing and Community Development

Date: May 20, 2026

Resolution No. [REDACTED]-2026 requests approval of the FFY2026 Annual Action Plan for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program and the Home Investment Partnership Program (HOME). The FFY2026 Annual Action Plan, the 2nd action plan under the FFY2025 – 2029 HUD Consolidated Plan, is Howard County’s application to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for CDBG and HOME funding. The FFY2026 Annual Action is required as a precondition to receive the County’s annual entitlement of CDBG and HOME Program funds from HUD.

BACKGROUND

Howard County’s current Five-Year HUD Consolidated Plan was adopted by CR142-2025 on July 30, 2025. The HUD Consolidated Plan is a planning document that summarizes local housing and non-housing needs; housing market and inventory conditions; outlines a five-year strategy; identifies available federal, state and local resources needed to implement the strategies; and presents specific goals and objectives for each strategy. The Annual Action Plan is the implementing document for the strategies in the Consolidated Plan and is required by HUD to receive the CDBG and HOME program awards.

The primary objective of the CDBG and HOME programs is to develop viable communities by providing decent affordable housing, creating suitable living environments, and expanding economic opportunities, principally for low and moderate income households, to meet HUD’s national objective. The grant funds from these programs will provide financial tools to support low-to-moderate income individuals, families, and communities to address homelessness, affordable housing challenges, aging infrastructure and economic hardships.

Howard County must adopt a new Annual Action Plan to continue to receive the annual entitlement grants for FFY2026, which will begin on October 1, 2026, and to continue to be eligible as an Urban County Entitlement community. The Annual Action Plan outlines the proposed activities that will be undertaken for the upcoming program year.

The Howard County Department of Housing and Community Development conducted community engagement sessions and a needs assessment to develop the draft Annual Action Plan in consultation with multiple county agencies, various nonprofit agencies, local advocates, the Housing and Community Development Board, residents, and local and regional service providers of housing and human services.

Howard County, in compliance with the County's Citizen Participation Plan, advertised and held five (5) public hearings on the needs and goals of the County's CDBG and HOME programs. The public hearings were held on December 4, 2025, January 9th, March 5th, and April 9th, 2026, and provided residents with the opportunity to discuss the programs and offer suggestions on future program priorities. The public hearing notices were published in the Baltimore Sun and posted at all public library branches at least 1 week prior to the public hearing dates. The fifth and final public hearing will be held at the County Council public hearing on June 15, 2026.

The draft FFY2026 Action Plan is available for the required 30-day public review and comment period at the Housing Department's office at 9755 Patuxent Woods. The comment period runs from May 21 – June 22, 2026. The Plan is also available on the department's webpage at www.howardcountymd.gov/dhcd.

FISCAL IMPACT

Based on FFY2026 pre-award letters from HUD, Howard County expects to receive grant awards totaling \$1,829,932.24 (CDBG: \$1,325,855.; HOME: \$504,077.24). The grants cover both program and related administrative costs. The amounts have been incorporated into the County Fiscal Year 2027 budget. A list of proposed grantees and amounts has been provided to the County Council in advance of the public hearing.

Cc: Calvin Ball, Howard County Executive
Felix Facchine, Chief of Staff (w/draft Action Plan)
Jennifer Sager, Legislative Coordinator (w/draft Action Plan – 11 copies)
Gary W. Kuc, County Solicitor
Holly Sun, Budget Administrator
Kim Zanti, Chief, Community Planning and Grants
Housing and Community Development Board