




Howard County

Internal Memorandum

Subject: Testimony and Fiscal Impact Statement for:
Resolution No. ____-2013
Adopting the FFY2013 Action Plan For Community Development Block Grant
(CDBG) & Home Investment Partnership Program (HOME)

To: Lonnie Robbins
Chief Administrative Officer

From: Thomas P. Carbo 
Director
Department of Housing and Community Development

Date: March 12, 2013

Resolution No. ____-2013 approves the FFY2013 Action Plan for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Home Investment Partnerships Program (HOME). The Annual Action Plan is required as a precondition to receiving the County's annual entitlement of CDBG and HOME funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

BACKGROUND

In 2011, Council Resolution 45-2011 adopted Howard County's current Consolidated Plan, a five-year strategic plan stipulating a course of action for the use of CDBG and HOME funds. The 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 and anticipated to implement the strategies; and presents specific goals and objectives for each strategy. The Annual Action Plan, the implementing document for the Consolidated Plan, is required by HUD in order to obtain the annual entitlement of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Home Investment Partnership Program (HOME) Funds.

The primary objectives of the CDBG and HOME Programs are to develop viable communities by providing decent affordable housing, creating suitable living environments, and expanding economic opportunities, principally for persons of low and moderate income

In order to receive the annual entitlement grants for FFY 2013 and to continue to be eligible as an Urban County Entitlement community, Howard County must adopt an Annual Action Plan. The attached draft Annual Action Plan outlines the proposed activities that will be undertaken for the upcoming program year. Howard County Housing has developed the draft Action Plan in consultation with several county agencies, the Housing and Community Development Board, Committee to End Homelessness, a subcommittee of the Board to Promote Self-Sufficiency, and several local and regional service providers of housing and human services.

The attached schedule identifies the various milestones in the Action Plan development process, including funding solicitations and required Public Notices and Public Hearings.

Specific to the funding solicitation process, Howard County Housing conducted a public meeting and public hearing for local providers and the community at large, including current and prior year subrecipients and other interested agencies. Agencies in attendance included Howard Community College Educational Foundation, Inc., Bridges to Housing Stability, Inc., Department of Recreation and Parks, Office of Human Rights, Community Action Council, Making Change, Inc., Consumer Credit Counseling Services, the Domestic Violence Center of Howard County and Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center. All proposed projects/activities listed in the draft Action Plan are consistent with one or more of the goals of the current five-year Consolidated Plan.

The draft Action Plan will be distributed and available for public review in Howard County Public Libraries and at the Howard County Housing office beginning on March 22, 2013 and concluding on April 22, 2013. The Plan will also be available on the County's website under the Howard County Housing link at www.howardcountymd.gov.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The projected entitlement awards to Howard County will provide funding in the amount of \$1,147,667 (CDBG-\$851,735; HOME-\$295,932). The grants cover both program and related administrative costs and reflect an anticipated reduction of approximately 5% as a result of Sequestration. The projected award amounts have been incorporated into the Fiscal 2014 budget for Howard County Housing.

The Administration recommends the approval of this Resolution.

cc: Ken Ulman, Howard County Executive (w/draft Action Plan)
Jessica Feldmark, Chief of Staff (w/draft Action Plan)
Jennifer Sager, Legislative Coordinator (w/draft Action Plan— 8 copies)
Ray Wacks, Budget Administrator
Shirelle M. Bennett, Deputy Director
Ada Best, Chief Financial Officer
Angela Frantom, Grants Administrator
Housing and Community Development Board

Attachments:
Draft FFY2013 Action Plan (8 copies)
Action Plan Schedule

Program Year 2013 Action Plan Schedule-Publication Copy

December 27, 2012	Public Notice published in Howard Times / Columbia Flier
January 10, 2013	Initial Public Meeting and Application for Funding released (RFP) - Gateway Building Room #401 – 6:00 pm
January 24, 2013	Notice of Public Hearing (PH#1) published in Howard Times / Columbia Flier
February 4, 2013	RFP Submission Deadline
February 14, 2013	Public Hearing #1 – Housing & Community Development - Gateway Building Room #303 – 6:00 pm
February 21, 2013	Funding Recommendations Review
March 4, 2013	Notice of conditional selection/rejection to applicants
March 22, 2013	Preliminary Action Plan public comment period begins (30-day review period)
March 28, 2013	Council Resolution regarding Action Plan Introduced to County Council
April 15, 2013	Public Hearing #2 - County Council Hearing -Testimony on Proposed Action Plan
April 16, 2013	Public Hearing #3 – Housing and Community Development Board to vote on Action Plan submission, 7:30 pm
April 22, 2013	Action Plan Public comment period ends
May 6, 2013	County Council vote on resolution regarding Action Plan*
May 15, 2013	FINAL Action Plan due to HUD (45 days prior to end of fiscal year)
July 1, 2013	CDBG / HOME Award

* Council has the authority to delay vote until their next legislative session on June 3, 2013.