



# Howard County

## Internal Memorandum

**Subject:** Testimony and Fiscal Impact Statement for:  
Resolution No. \_\_\_ - 2017  
Adopting the FFY2017 Annual Action for Community Development  
Block Grant (CDBG) & HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME)

**To:** Lonnie R. Robbins  
Chief Administrative Officer

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

**Date:** March 16, 2017

Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_ approves the FFY2017 Annual Action for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program and the Home Investment Partnership Program (HOME). The FFY2017 Annual Action Plan is required as a precondition to receiving the County's annual entitlement of CDBG and HOME Program funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

### BACKGROUND

In 2016, Council Resolution 51-2016 adopted Howard County's current Five-Year Consolidated Plan. 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 is the implementing document for the strategies in the Consolidated Plan, is required by HUD in order to obtain the CDBG and HOME Program funding.

The primary objective 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 FFY2017, which will begin on July 1, 2017, 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. The FFY2017 Annual Action Plan is the second year under the current Consolidated Plan covering FFY16-FFY20. Howard County Department of Housing and Community Development has developed the draft Action Plan in consultation with multiple county agencies, various nonprofit agencies, local advocates, the Housing and Community Development Boards and several local and regional service providers of housing and human services.

Howard County, in compliance with the County's Citizen Participation Plan, advertised and held three (3) public hearings on the needs and goals of the County's CDBG and HOME Programs. The public hearings provided residents with the opportunity to discuss the programs and to offer their suggestions on future program priorities. The public hearings were advertised in The Howard County Times and Columbia Flier on November 17, 2016, December 22, 2016 and February 9, 2017.

Additionally, during the planning phase of the Howard County's FFY2017 Annual Action Plan, the Department's staff created an online survey to acquire additional feedback from human service and housing providers, as well as advocates serving clients in Howard County. The survey was posted on the County's website for anyone that was interested in taking the survey. The survey remained accessible from December 5, 2016 until February 10, 2017.

The draft FFY2017 Action Plan was available for the required 30-day public review and comment period at Howard County Housing's offices at the Gateway building. The comment period ran from February 14 thru March 15, 2017. The Plan was also available on the County's website on the department's webpage at [www.howardcountymd.gov](http://www.howardcountymd.gov).

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

The entitlement awards to Howard County will provide funding in the total amount of \$1,369,042.00 (CDBG: \$1,034,767; HOME: \$334,275). The grants cover both program and related administrative costs. The amounts have been incorporated into the County Fiscal Year 2017 budget.

The Department recommends approval of this Resolution.

Cc: Allan H. Kittleman, Howard County Executive (w/draft Action Plan)  
B. Diane Wilson, Chief of Staff (w/draft Action Plan)  
Jennifer Sager, Legislative Coordinator (w/draft Action Plan – 8 copies)  
Gary W. Kuc, County Solicitor (w/draft Action Plan)  
Holly Sun, Budget Administrator  
Elizabeth Meadows, Chief, Community Planning and Grants Management  
Housing and Community Development Board