



Howard County

Internal Memorandum

Subject: Testimony and Fiscal Impact Statement for:
Resolution No. 54- 2020
Adopting the FFY2020-FFY2024 Consolidated Plan / FFY2020 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 27, 2020

Resolution No. 54 - 2020 requests approval of the FFY2020-CCY2024 Consolidated Plan / FFY2019 Annual Action for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program and the Home Investment Partnership Program (HOME). The FFY2020-FFY2024 Consolidated Plan is Howard County's document used for identifying housing and community development needs along with the long-term strategies. The FFY2020 Annual Action Plan, contained within this document, is Howard County's application to the U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for CDBG and HOME funding. The FFY2020-FFY2024 Consolidated Plan / FFY2020 Annual Action is required as a precondition to receiving the County's annual entitlement of CDBG and HOME Program funds from 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 four-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 and is required by HUD in order to obtain the CDBG and HOME Program funding.

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 persons of low and moderate income.

This year, in order to receive the annual entitlement grants for FFY2020, which will begin on July 1, 2020, and to continue to be eligible as an Urban County Entitlement community, Howard County must adopt another 5-Year Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan. The Annual Action Plan outlines the proposed activities that will be undertaken for the upcoming program year. The FFY2020 Annual Action Plan is the first year under this Consolidated Plan.

Howard County Department of Housing and Community Development has developed the draft Five-Year Consolidated Plan and the Annual 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 five (5) 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 21, 2019, December 19, 2019, February 27, 2020, and March 26, 2020.

Additionally, the County 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 was open from December 9, 2019 until February 21, 2020.

The draft FFY2020-FFY2024 Consolidated Plan / FFY2020 Action Plan was available for the required 30-day public review and comment period at the Housing Department's office at Patuxent Woods. The comment period ran from February 24 thru March 25, 2020. The Plan was also available on the County's website on the department's webpage at www.howardcountymd.gov.

FISCAL IMPACT

The entitlement awards to Howard County will provide funding in the total amount of \$1,785,855.81 (CDBG: \$1,320,312.81; HOME: \$465,543). The grants cover both program and related administrative costs. The amounts have been incorporated into the County Fiscal Year 2021 budget. A list of proposed grantees and amounts has been provided to the County Council in advance of this public hearing.

The Department and Housing and Community Development Board recommend approval of this Resolution.

Cc: Calvin B. Ball, Howard County Executive (w/draft 5-Year Con / Action Plan)
Sameer Sidh, Chief of Staff (w/draft 5-Year Con Plan / Action Plan)
Jennifer Sager, Legislative Coordinator (w/draft 5-Year Con Plan / Action Plan – 12 copies)
Gary W. Kuc, County Solicitor (w/draft 5-Year Con Plan / Action Plan)
Holly Sun, Budget Administrator
Elizabeth Meadows, Chief, Community Planning and Grants
Housing and Community Development Board