



Howard County

Internal Memorandum

Subject: Testimony and Fiscal Impact Statement for:
Resolution No. - 2021
Adopting the FFY2021 Annual Action Plan for Community Development
Block Grant (CDBG) & HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME)
funds

To: Lonnie R. Robbins
Chief Administrative Officer

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

Date: March 17, 2021

Resolution No. - 2021 is requesting approval of the FFY2021 Annual Action Plan for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program and the Home Investment Partnership Program (HOME). The FFY2021 Annual Action Plan is Howard County's application to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for CDBG and HOME funding. The FFY2021 Annual Action is required as a precondition to receiving the County's annual entitlement of CDBG and HOME Program funds from HUD.

BACKGROUND

In 2020, Council Resolution 54-2020 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 and 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 FFY2021, which will begin on July 1, 2021, and to continue to be eligible as an Urban County Entitlement community, Howard County must adopt another Annual Action Plan. The Annual Action

Plan outlines the proposed activities that will be undertaken for the upcoming program year. The FFY2021 Annual Action Plan is the second year under this Consolidated Plan.

Howard County's Department of Housing and Community Development has developed the draft 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 19, 2020, December 17, 2020, February 25, 2021, and March 25, 2021.

The draft FFY2021 Action Plan was available for the required 30-day public review and comment period, February 22nd through March 24th, at the Housing Department's office at Patuxent Woods and on the department's webpage on the County's website at www.howardcountymd.gov.

FISCAL IMPACT

The entitlement awards to Howard County will provide funding in the total amount of \$1,859,160.81 (CDBG: \$1,373,903.81; HOME: \$485,257). The grants cover both program and related administrative costs. The amounts have been incorporated into the County's Fiscal Year 2021 budget. A list of proposed grantees and funding 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 Action Plan)
Sameer Sidh, Chief of Staff (w/draft Action Plan)
Jennifer Sager, Legislative Coordinator (w/draft Action Plan – 12 copies)
Gary W. Kuc, County Solicitor (w/draft Action Plan)
Holly Sun, Budget Administrator
Elizabeth Meadows, Chief, Community Planning and Grants
Housing and Community Development Board