



# Howard County

## Internal Memorandum

**Subject:** Testimony and Fiscal Impact Statement for:  
Resolution No. - 2023  
Adopting the FFY2023 Annual Action for Community Development Block  
Grant (CDBG) & HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME)

**To:** Brandee Ganz  
Chief Administrative Officer

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

**Date:** March 23, 2023

Resolution No. - 2023 requests approval of the FFY2023 Annual Action for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program and the Home Investment Partnership Program (HOME). The FFY2023 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 FFY2023 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 to receive CDBG and HOME Program funding.

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

For the County to receive the annual entitlement grants for FFY2023, which will begin on July 1, 2023, and to continue to be eligible as an Urban County Entitlement community, the County must adopt an Annual Action Plan. The Annual Action Plan outlines the proposed activities that will be undertaken for the upcoming program year. The FFY2023 Annual Action Plan is the fourth year under the current Consolidated Plan.

Howard County 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 17, 2022, December 22, 2022, February 16, 2023, and March 23, 2023.

The draft FFY2023 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 20 thru March 22, 2023. The Plan was also available on the department's webpage at [www.howardcountymd.gov](http://www.howardcountymd.gov).

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

The total amount of entitlement funds awarded to the County is \$1,881,379.81 (CDBG: \$1,341,756.81; HOME: \$539,623). The grants cover both program and administrative costs. The amounts have been incorporated into the County FY 2023 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 recommends approval of this Resolution.

Cc: Calvin B. Ball, Howard County Executive (w/draft Action Plan)  
Angela Cabellon, 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 (w/draft Action Plan)  
Elizabeth Meadows, Chief, Community Planning and Grants  
Housing and Community Development Board