



Howard County

Internal Memorandum

Subject: Testimony and Fiscal Impact Statement for:
Resolution No. [REDACTED] - 2025
Adopting the FFY2025-2029 Consolidated Plan / FFY2025 Annual Action
for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) & HOME Investment
Partnership Program (HOME)

To: Brandee Ganz
Chief Administrative Officer

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

Date: June 16, 2025

Resolution No. [REDACTED]-2025 requests approval of the FFY2025-2029 Consolidated Plan / FFY2025 Annual Action for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program and the Home Investment Partnership Program (HOME). The FFY2025-2029 Consolidated Plan is Howard County's planning document used to identify housing and community development needs along with the long-term strategies. The FFY2025 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 FFY2025-2029 Consolidated Plan / FFY2025 Annual Action is required as a precondition to receiving the County's annual entitlement of CDBG and HOME Program funds from HUD. This resolution also grants delegated authority to the Director of Housing and Community Development to sign as the certifying officer for housing and community development plans and activities with 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 five-year strategy; identifies available federal, state and local resources needed 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 the CDBG and HOME Program awards.

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 low and moderate income households, to meet HUD's national objective. The grant funds from these

programs will provide financial tools to support low-to-moderate income individuals, families, and communities to address homelessness, affordable housing challenges, aging infrastructure and economic hardships.

Howard County must adopt a new 5-Year Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan to continue to receive the annual entitlement grants for FFY2025, which will begin on October 1, 2025, and to continue to be eligible as an Urban County Entitlement community. The Annual Action Plan outlines the proposed activities that will be undertaken for the upcoming program year. The FFY2025 Annual Action Plan is the first year under this Consolidated Plan.

Howard County Department of Housing and Community Development hired Root Policy to conduct community engagement sessions and needs assessments to develop 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 Board, residents, and 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 were held on January 9th, January 10th, June 11th and June 12th and provided residents with the opportunity to discuss the programs and offer suggestions on future program priorities. The public hearing notices were published in the Baltimore Sun and posted at all public library branches at least 1 week prior to the public hearing dates. The fifth and final public hearing will take place at the County Council public hearing on July 21, 2025.

The draft FFY2025-2029 Consolidated Plan / FFY2025 Action Plan is available for the required 30-day public review and comment period at the Housing Department's office at Patuxent Woods. The comment period runs from July 1 – July 31, 2025. The Plan is also available on the County's website on the department's webpage at www.howardcountymd.gov/dhcd.

As HUD is transitioning from paper forms to automated management systems for program funding and activities, the Director of Housing and Community Development is requesting delegated authority to be the formal designee for the chief executive officer of the responsible entity, i.e. the County Executive, and to sign as the certifying officer for housing and community development plans and activities with HUD. This is a federal legal responsibility, so HUD requires a formal designation by the governing body identifying the certifying officer.

FISCAL IMPACT

Based on FFY2024 entitlement award amounts, Howard County expects to receive grant awards totaling \$1,823,419.65 (CDBG: \$1,326,730.; HOME: \$496,689.65). The grants cover both program and related administrative costs. The amounts have been incorporated into the County Fiscal Year 2026 budget. A list of proposed grantees and amounts has been provided to the County Council in advance of this public hearing.

Cc: Calvin Ball, Howard County Executive (w/draft 5-Year Con / Action Plan)
Angela Cabellon, 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
Kim Zanti, Chief, Community Planning and Grants
Housing and Community Development Board