

CITY OF ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS

2015 - 2019 CONSOLIDATED PLAN 2015 ANNUAL PLAN

Draft Plan for 30 Days Comment Period October 1 - 31, 2014



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Executive Summary

ES-05 Executive Summary - 24 CFR 91.200(c), 91.220(b)

1. Introduction

The Consolidated Plan serves as a planning document meeting the federal government statutory requirements in 24 CFR 91.200-91.230, with revisions for preparing a Consolidated Plan and guiding the use of CDBG, HOME, HOPWA, and ESG funding based on applications to the U.S. Department of HUD. The major sections of the Consolidated Plan include a Housing Market Analysis, Housing and Homeless Needs Assessment, 5-year Strategic Plan, a 1-year Action Plan, and Consultation and Citizen Participation, with accompanying documentation relating to public comment. The Strategic Plan addresses specific needs that were identified in the data analysis, with specific goals and program targets for each category designated for funding. The Action Plan is a subset of the Strategic Plan, addressing funding options for the next fiscal year. The Consolidated Plan can be used by organizations in the community as a guide for identifying activities through which they can help the jurisdiction reach their housing and community development goals. The Consolidated Plan also serves as the baseline for measuring program effectiveness, as reported in the Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) required by HUD for each fiscal year's funding allocation. Incorporated into the Consolidated Plan are an analysis of the local housing market and a review of housing and homeless needs in Rockford as a means of defining the current environment in which federal funding is being used. The Consolidated Plan provides a strategic plan for meeting priority needs that were identified through the community participation process. The analytical parts of the document draw from the 2005-2009 and the 2008-2012 American Community Surveys and 2005 CHAS data provided by HUD. Other data sources include the 2010 U.S. Census and other information gathered locally, including the Rockford, Winnebago and Boone Counties Continuum of Care and a survey of citizens that was used to assist in prioritizing needs. The survey was available on the City's website and was distributed at community meetings. Public housing information was provided by the Rockford Housing Authority.

2. Summary of the objectives and outcomes identified in the Plan Needs Assessment Overview

This Consolidated Plan contains a range of goals, objectives, and outcomes formulated to address needs identified for homelessness, other special needs, affordable housing, non-housing community development, barriers to affordable housing, lead-based paint hazards, institutional structure, and coordination. These objectives include:

- Continue to collaborate with homeless providers to supply a continuum of services.
- Support services aimed at the homeless prevention and elimination of homelessness and Rapid Re-housing.

- Improve the condition of housing for low-income homeowners.
- Increase the viability for potential homeownership and rental housing opportunities.
- Increase accessibility for persons physically challenged and persons with disabilities to owner occupied and rental housing.
- Removal of slum and blighted conditions to create marketable sites for new housing development and improve the physical condition and comply code violations for existing housing.
- Address community needs through community-based public service programs.
- Expand business opportunities by supporting economic development services and providing economic development assistance.
- Create marketable sites for new business development.
- Expand Small Business Technical Assistance Programs and access to financing.

These objectives are supported by a collection of associated strategies and performance goals. These strategies seek to work toward meeting the objectives stated, addressing the need for more affordable housing, housing rehabilitation, public facilities and infrastructure improvements, and public services. Specifics can be found in the Strategic Plan and Annual Action Plan.

3. Evaluation of past performance

The City of Rockford has a history of successful programs funded through the Community Development Block Grant and HOME Investment Partnership Program. Of particular importance to the health of the city have been programs that address the condition of the housing stock. The City has successfully funded housing rehabilitation activities targeting lower income and elderly households unable to properly maintain their homes. The City also operates a successful program that provided downpayment and mortgage assistance to new homebuyers. The City has worked actively with local homeless services providers to expand both the stock of units/beds available to homeless persons and services aimed at helping those persons find employment, housing, health care services, and educational opportunities. Details of past performance can be found in the City's Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER).

4. Summary of citizen participation process and consultation process

The 2015-2019 Citizen Participation Plan (CPP) was adopted for development of the 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan. The CPP provides details for public notice for all meetings and the various stages of Consolidated Plan development, public hearings before the citizens of Rockford and City Council, accommodations for persons with disabilities, and the conduct of public review of draft documents. In addition to public hearings as a means of receiving comment from the public in front of the Mayor and City Council, City staff held community meetings to provide citizens with information concerning the availability of Community Development Block Grant, HOME, and Emergency Solutions Grant funds and to incorporate their comments into the planning process. These included five technical assistance workshops which were held during the day or evening at community centers and one meeting held at

City Hall for housing, homeless, and disability service providers. A survey to establish a community involvement process for prioritizing needs was distributed among workshop attendees and other interested individuals and was also posted on the City's website for enumeration online. Additional interviews were conducted with representatives of the housing and banking industry, non-profit organizations, and the community to further explore community needs and concerns.

5. Summary of public comments

No public comments were received during the public review period.

6. Summary of comments or views not accepted and the reasons for not accepting them

No comments were received in the public review process, therefore none were rejected for any reason.

7. Summary

This document was developed through a process that included a significant community engagement component, which included focus groups, workshops, and a public review period. No comments were received from the public during the public review period, which is indicative of the extent to which community involvement was incorporated into the development of the Consolidated Plan.