

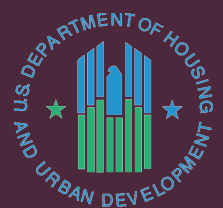
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2016-2020

CONSOLIDATED PLAN

**Housing and Community
Development Division**

525 East South Street
Orlando, Florida 32801



Orange County 2016-2020 Consolidated Plan Executive Summary - 24 CFR 91.200(c), 91.220(b)

1. Introduction

The Orange County Housing and Community Development Division (HCD) has administered formula grant entitlement programs since the late 1970s and, over the years, has developed a sound partnership with the federal government to address the needs of low to moderate income communities in Orange County. The Division is part of the Orange County Community Environmental Development Services Department and reports to the Orange County Mayor, the Honorable Teresa Jacobs, and the Board of County Commissioners of Orange County.

The mission of the Housing and Community Development Division is to create and maintain a viable urban community by providing affordable housing opportunities, neighborhood improvements, human services, and expanded economic opportunities principally for low to moderate income residents of Orange County. This is accomplished through the distribution of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME), and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds.

To receive funding through these federal entitlement programs, Orange County must submit a five-year Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for approval. The Consolidated Plan describes how the County plans to invest federal and local resources to address ongoing affordable housing, community development, economic development, and public service needs in our communities.

The 2016-2020 Orange County Consolidated Plan is a Strategic Plan that provides the framework for housing and community development programs, projects, and services offered by Orange County for the period starting October 1, 2016 through September 30, 2021. It is a comprehensive plan that specifies the County's housing, homelessness, and non-housing community development priority needs and goals. The Plan lists three major goals, which are based on the needs analysis: 1) provision of affordable housing for low to moderate income households; 2) enhanced quality of life for low to moderate income residents; and 3) elimination and prevention of homelessness.

A major component of the Consolidated Planning process is the development of an Annual Action Plan. The Action Plan describes the activities the County will fund, implement, and support to advance progress towards achieving the goals of the Consolidated Plan, using its annual federal funding allocation.

The 2016-2017 One-Year Action Plan is the first annual plan under the 2016-2020 Consolidated Plan. It contains short-term goals and objectives, and specific projects that will be funded. This is the first operational step towards improving the quality of life of Orange County's low to moderate income residents throughout the next five years.

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

Orange County developed its 2016-2020 Consolidated Plan through a collaborative community engagement process, which included community meetings; consultations with other jurisdictions, the Community Development Advisory Board, the Affordable Housing Advisory Board, local leaders, advocacy groups and focus groups; participation in public meetings; and data collection. Feedback obtained from these public and community stakeholders enabled the County to develop a strategic vision for improving the quality of life in the low- and moderate-income areas of the County.

Numerous public and human services needs were identified relating to issues of housing affordability, homelessness, services for special needs populations, job training and community infrastructure needs. Services for persons with special needs include services for the elderly, persons with disabilities, persons with limited English proficiency, veterans, and others. Other service needs include assistance to seniors and very low income homeowners who lack the financial resources to repair their homes and provide for the basic necessities of a suitable living environment.

Existing needs in Orange County are primarily the result of a service oriented economy characterized by low wages, and the current deficits in the affordable housing market. The high demand for housing is causing a significant shortage in the number of affordable housing units available for purchase or rent, and Orange County's rental market is not affordable for many working households. Additional areas of economic need cited by residents and service providers are accessible job training opportunities, employment assistance programs, and access to transportation or transportation assistance for accessing available jobs and job centers. These challenges, according to the feedback obtained from the public and stakeholders, are affecting minority households, special needs populations, and female-headed households.

Other needs impacting Orange County include our community's ability to provide quality infrastructure such as pedestrian-friendly sidewalks, and to ensure satisfactory levels of basic public services and public facilities. All of these impact the environment and affect quality of life for low to moderate-income residents of Orange County.

In order to address the identified needs, Orange County, through a collaborative planning process, has developed the following goals and measurable objectives that are to be achieved in coordination with community partners over the next five-year period:

2016-2020 Consolidated Plan – Goals and Priority Objectives

<p>Goal 1 Collaborate with local and regional stakeholders on provision of affordable housing for low to moderate income households</p>	<p>Goal 2 Enhance the quality of life of low to moderate income residents through a variety of revitalization and sustainability efforts, and social and economic activities</p>	<p>Goal 3 Utilize a comprehensive strategy to eliminate and prevent homelessness</p>
<p>Objectives to achieve established Goals</p>		
<p>Objective 1.1 (High) Preserve the existing supply of affordable housing units and ensure sustainable investments in affordable rental housing</p>	<p>Objective 2.1 (High) Support infrastructure improvements and community revitalization efforts in low to moderate income neighborhoods</p>	<p>Objective 3.1 (High) Support activities to eliminate homelessness, particularly among literally homeless, families with children, and veterans</p>
<p>Activities for Objective 1.1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multifamily rental rehabilitation • Acquisition for rental housing • Rental assistance subsidies 	<p>Activities for Objective 2.1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquisition of real property • Disposition of real property • Public improvements • Clearance/demolition • Relocation • Rehabilitation of buildings • Construction of public facilities 	<p>Activities for Objective 3.1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rapid re-housing • Support for operations and essential services of homeless facilities • Rehabilitation of homeless facilities • Outreach • Tenant Based Rental Assistance for homeless
<p>Objective 1.2 (High) Support creation of new affordable housing units</p>	<p>Objective 2.2 (High) Prevent housing discrimination in our communities</p>	<p>Objective 3.2 (High) Expand activities that lead to permanent housing and stabilization of homeless households</p>
<p>Activities for Objective 1.2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial incentives for new housing development • Land acquisition for affordable housing development • Construction of affordable rental housing • CHDO projects • Regulatory incentives 	<p>Activities for Objective 2.2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand fair housing education and outreach • Fair housing trainings • Fair housing public information campaigns • Collaboration with advocacy groups • Information sharing • Fair Housing Ordinance • Enhance coordination of fair housing complaints and enforcement 	<p>Activities Objective 3.2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand rapid re-housing activities in Orange County • Support VASH program • Shelter Plus Care Program • Expand Tenant Based Rental Assistance • Increase a number of housing units for homeless

<p>Objective 1.3 (High) Continue housing rehabilitation efforts to support preservation and maintain quality of affordable owner-occupied housing units</p>	<p>Objective 2.3 (Low) Expand access to public services for low income persons to encourage self-sufficiency</p>	<p>Objective 3.3 (High) Collaborate with the Continuum of Care (CoC) and other stakeholders to effectively share data and resources to improve delivery of homeless services</p>
<p>Activities Objective 1.3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Single-family homeowner’s rehabilitation program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minor Repairs - Major Repairs - Emergency Repairs • Lead based paint hazard program • Energy efficiency 	<p>Activities for Objective 2.3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case management/crisis intervention • Job training and placement • Education programs • Services for homeless • Services for frail elderly • Services for persons with severe disabilities • Child care assistance • Self-sufficiency skills training 	<p>Activities for Objective 3.3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation with CoC • Ensure active participation in Continuum of Care • Support operation and maintenance of Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS) • Ensure subrecipient utilization of HMIS or comparable database • Support subrecipient training (e.g. Fair Housing) • Coordinated Entry System
<p>Objective 1.4 (High) Expand the range of affordable housing choices and ensure access to affordable housing</p>	<p>Objective 2.4 (Low) Continue to provide adequate access to quality public facilities for low to moderate income residents</p>	<p>Objective 3.4 (Medium) Support activities that focus on preventing households from becoming homeless</p>
<p>Activities for Objective 1.4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiate regulatory changes, such as inclusionary housing and support for innovative housing designs, that will promote resilient and affordable neighborhoods • Infill development • Mixed income housing • Transit-oriented housing 	<p>Activities Objective 2.4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquisition and/or rehabilitation of public facilities • Increase access to persons with disabilities (ADA improvements) 	<p>Activities for Objective 3.4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing Stability Case Management • Housing search and placement assistance • Rental assistance (short and medium term) • Rental arrears • Financial assistance (for eligible relocation and stabilization costs) • Self-sufficiency programs • One-stop resource centers
<p>Objective 1.5 (High) Increase homeownership opportunities for low to moderate income households</p>		
<p>Activities for Objective 1.5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial incentives (down payment and closing costs) for first time homebuyers • Homebuyers education • Affordable single-family housing development 		

3. Summary of Past Performance

Jurisdictions receiving federal entitlement grant funding are expected to conduct a self-evaluation annually to examine accomplishments attained in the pursuit of their goals and objectives. Based on this self-evaluation, adjustments or improvements can be undertaken to more effectively address the community needs that drive the Five-Year Consolidated Plan.

In addition to addressing some of the traditional challenges of our community such as homelessness issues, the County has concentrated its efforts on capital improvements, particularly the availability of public facilities to serve special needs populations in our community. This need was highlighted in the 2011-2016 Consolidated Plan. The County utilized CDBG capital improvements funding to improve public facilities that serve low income residents, persons with disabilities, and homeless persons. The majority of these projects were successfully implemented, and some are still underway. The implementation of many of these projects has resulted in the transformation of communities as they received much needed facilities, such as the Holden Heights Community Center, or other improvements. Many projects have provided access to public facilities that were not available in the past, such as the Samaritan Resource Center, now available to assist homeless and at risk persons, and the Lighthouse Central Florida Warehouse which provides training and employment for the visually impaired. .

Most public service agencies continue to be on time in the submission of reimbursement requests and are able to expend their allocation successfully. Monitoring of those agencies is an on-going task that is being accomplished through careful reviews of reimbursement requests, and during site visits. Monthly programmatic and fiscal reports are reviewed by several divisions in the County for accuracy, and the HUD Integrated Disbursement and Information System (IDIS) is regularly updated.

Orange County continues to make progress in its housing rehabilitation program. Housing rehabilitation and minor home repair programs continue to be in demand in the County as more elderly residents express a desire to age in place in their homes. This program continues to be in high demand and will remain a priority housing strategy in the 2016-2020 Consolidated Plan. Due to the ongoing high demand for housing rehabilitation and minor repairs, Orange County relies on working collaborations with local housing agencies to address the need.

Orange County continues to make progress towards moving homeless families into permanent housing, despite the limited availability of funding. The most recent Point-in-Time count of the homeless population, conducted on January 27, 2016 by the Homeless Services Network of Central Florida, showed a 24% decrease in homelessness. In keeping with this trend, the focus is on stabilizing and rapidly re-housing homeless individuals and families with children, and to effectively use of the Housing First best practice approach of placing individuals in homes, then addressing the issues that contributed to their homeless status.

Orange County's homeownership programs have remained strong in the past five years. The Division assisted hundreds of households in becoming first-time homeowners. However, the need to develop affordable rental housing remains a top priority as the County continues to

attract thousands of working families every year who want to make Orange County their home. Although to date the County has almost reached its goal of 500 new units of rental housing (as established in the 2011-2016 Consolidated Plan); this housing strategy remains a high priority.

The self-evaluation process also addresses the issue of timeliness of grant related drawdowns. Orange County has met its timeliness requirement for its HUD funding each year. Staff capacity and training are important aspects of the self-evaluation process as the Department of Housing and Urban Development continues to make changes affecting the administration of grant programs, especially in the area of homelessness programs, outcomes and data reporting. Orange County's staff keeps up to date on the latest regulations by means of online webinars and trainings on a range of topics associated with compliance and administration of federal programs.

The activities and strategies pursued in the previous Consolidated Plan have been beneficial to Orange County residents in need of assistance and particularly the residents of low-income areas. Long-term benefits from capital projects include employment opportunities in the areas of construction and housing rehabilitation, and economic benefits to residents located within the areas where CDBG, NSP, and HOME funds have been expended.

Orange County has been very successful in meeting many of the objectives in the previous Five-Year (2011-2016) Consolidated Plan. Table 1 below summarizes Orange County's major accomplishments from the fiscal year beginning September 1, 2011 until the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015.

Table 1: 2011-2016 Consolidated Plan: Assessment of Objectives and Accomplishments

Goal #1: Work in collaboration with local government, County departments, nonprofits, and housing industry partners to stabilize low to moderate income communities through redevelopment, infill and affordable housing initiatives.						
Objectives	Sources of Funds*	Performance Indicators	Expected Five Years	HUD Outcome/ Objective	Actual Number Served by Fiscal Year	% or cumulative number achieved
Statutory Objective #1: Providing decent affordable housing (DH).						
DH 1.1. Increase affordable homeownership for low to moderate income households through financial incentives to purchase homes.	CDBG HOME NSP-1, 3 SHIP	Number of Individuals receiving financial incentives	500	Decent Housing/ Affordability	2011- 120	24%
					2012- 81	40%
					2013- 144	69%
					2014- 149	99%
					2015-	In progress
DH 1.2. Increase access to affordable housing units for sale through acquisition and rehabilitation of foreclosed homes.	CDBG NSP-1,3	Number of Units acquired and rehabilitated	100	Decent Housing/ Accessibility and Availability	2011- 48	48%
					2012- 70	100%
					2013- 65	183%
					2014- 32	215%
					2015-	In progress
DH 1.3 Increase the availability of affordable rental housing units for low to moderate income persons	HOME NSP-1 SHIP	Number of Rental Units created	500	Decent Housing/ Accessibility and Availability	2011- 163	33%
					2012- 0	33%
					2013- 27	38%
					2014- 24	43%
					2015-	In progress
DH 1.4 Support the preservation of affordable	CDBG HOME	Number of Units	400	Decent Housing/ Affordability	2011- 163	41%
					2012- 371	100%

housing stock through housing rehabilitation, weatherization and accessibility programs to enable low income homeowners to remain in their homes	NSP SHIP	preserved			2013- 301	200%
					2014- 345	295%
					2015-	In progress
DH 1.5 Support the efforts of Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDOs) seeking to undertake affordable rental housing projects	HOME	Number of Units assisted in CHDO projects	200	Decent Housing/ Affordability	2011- 0	0%
					2012- 0	0%
					2013- 27	14%
					2014- 0*	14%
					2015-	In progress
DH 1.6 Assist households at risk of homelessness to remain in their homes	CDBG ESG HPRP	Number of Individuals stabilized	300	Decent Housing/ Affordability	2011- 302	100%
					2012- 343	215%
					2013- 53	233%
					2014- 202	300%
					2015-	In progress
DH 1.7 Support affordable housing redevelopment initiatives including infill housing and mix-use affordable housing	CDBG HOME NSP	Number of Units created	50	Decent Housing/ Affordability	2011- 0	0%
					2012- 10	20%
					2013- 13	46%
					2014- 22	90%
					2015-	In progress
DH 1.8 Increase the availability of affordable housing for the elderly, frail elderly and disabled	CDBG HOME NSP SHIP	Number of Units created	150	Decent Housing/ Affordability	2011- 0	0%
					2012- 93	62%
					2013- 0	62%
					2014- 2	63%
					2015-	In progress

Five Year Consolidated Plan Goal #2: Utilize capital projects, affordable housing and public services as a platform to improve the quality of life of low and moderate income residents.

Objectives	Sources of Funds	Performance Indicators	Expected Number	HUD Outcome/ Objective	Actual Number Served by Fiscal Year	% or cumulative number achieved
Statutory Objective #2: Creating a Suitable Living Environment (SL)						
SL 2.1. Improve the safety and livability of low to moderate income communities through infrastructure improvements	CDBG CDBG-R	Number of Individuals	10,000	Suitable Living Environment/ Sustainability	2011- 1,690	17%
					2012- 200	19%
					2013- 7,880*	98%
					2014- 4,000	137%
					2015-	In progress
SL 2.2. Increase access to quality public facilities	CDBG CDBG-R	Number of Public facilities acquired or renovated	5	Suitable Living Environment/ Accessibility	2011- 2	40%
					2012- 1	60%
					2013- 1	80%
					2014- 3	140%
					2015-	In progress
SL 2.3. Revitalize distressed neighborhoods through acquisition, rehabilitation and disposition of foreclosed homes	CDBG NSP-1, 3	Number of Housing Units acquired/rehab and disposed	100	Suitable Living Environment/ Sustainability	2011- 32	32%
					2012- 70	100%
					2013- 68	170%
					2014- 32	200%
					2015-	In progress

Objectives	Sources of Funds	Performance Indicators	Expected Number	HUD Outcome/ Objective	Actual Number Served by Fiscal Year	% or cumulative number achieved
SL 2.4. Revitalize distressed neighborhoods through demolition of dilapidated and vacant structures not suitable for rehabilitation	CDBG NSP	Number of Homes/ Structures demolished	30	Suitable Living Environment/ Sustainability	2011- 7	23%
					2012- 10	57%
					2013- 8	83%
					2014- 0	83%
					2015-	
SL 2.5. Expand neighborhood connectivity through streets and sidewalk improvements	CDBG	Number of individuals served	5,000	Suitable Living Environment/ Accessibility Suitable Living Environment/ Sustainability	2011- 0	0%
					2012- 0	0%
					2013- 0	0%
					2014- 0	0%
					2015-	In progress
SL 2.6 Support public services benefiting low income persons, especially those addressing elderly, youth, disabled and homeless individuals	CDBG	Number of Individuals receiving public services	15,000	Suitable Living Environment/ Availability and Accessibility	2011- 2,210	15%
					2012- 1,405	24%
					2013- 1,597	35%
					2014- 856	40%
					2015-	In progress
SL 2.7 Support public services related to job training and placement	CDBG	Number of Individuals trained	500	Suitable Living Environment/ Availability and Accessibility	2011- 121	24%
					2012- 104	45%
					2013- 95	64%
					2014- 149	94%
					2015-	In progress

Objectives	Sources of Funds	Performance Indicators	Expected Number	HUD Outcome/ Objective	Actual Number Served by Fiscal Year	% or cumulative number achieved
SL 2.8 Promote energy conservation in all housing and capital improvement projects	CDBG HOME NSP 1, 3	Number of Energy efficient units	500	Suitable Living Environment/ Affordability	2011- 264	53%
					2012- 106	74%
					2013- 188	112%
					2014- 95	130%
					2015-	
SL 2.9. Continue working with municipalities through inter-local agreements and in the implementation of housing and community development initiatives in low to moderate income neighborhoods	CDBG HOME ESG NSP	Number of Individuals served in municipalities	1,000	Suitable Living Environment/ Sustainability	2011- 140	14%
					2012- 93	23%
					2013- 0	23%
					2014- 0	23%
					2015-	In progress
SL 2.10 Support fair housing choice and enforcement	All federal grants	Number of individuals Provided with training or technical assistance	75	Suitable Living Environment/ Availability and Accessibility	2011- 270	360%
					2012- 423	924%
					2013- 250	1,257%
					2014- 300	1,657%
					2015-	
SL 2.11 Address housing needs and service needs of homeless, and at risk populations, including outreach/ assessment, emergency shelter, transitional housing, and permanent housing for homeless and chronically homeless persons.	CDBG ESG	Number of homeless Individuals or at risk of homelessness assisted	2,500	Suitable Living Environment/ Availability and Accessibility	2011- 2,013	80%
					2012- 2,824	113%
					2013- 1,410	250%
					2014- 1,903	326%
					2015-	In progress

Objectives	Sources of Funds	Performance Indicators	Expected Number Five Years	HUD Outcome/ Objective	Actual Number Served by Fiscal Year	% or cumulative number achieved
SL 2.12 Revitalize distressed neighborhoods through acquisition, rehabilitation and rental of foreclosed housing	HOME NSP	Units of rental units acquired/rehabilitated	300	Suitable Living Environment/ Affordability	2011- 264	88%
					2012- 0	88%
					2013- 0	88%
					2014- 48	104%
					2015-	In progress
SL 2.13 Continue to address crime and safety concerns through our working collaboration with Code Enforcement by redeveloping or eliminating blighted properties	CDBG NSP	Units of Blighted/ dilapidated Housing demolished	50	Suitable Living Environment/ Sustainability	2011- 7	14%
					2012- 10	34%
					2013- 8	50%
					2014- 0	50%
					2015-	In progress
SL 2.14 Assist in efforts to provide homeownership education and counseling to low to moderate income households	SHIP	Number of Individuals given homeownership education	500	Suitable Living Environment/ Availability and Accessibility	2011- 1,403	280%
					2012- 1,880	656%
					2013- 1,855	1,027%
					2014- 2,351	1,488%
					2015-	In progress

Five Year Consolidated Plan Goal #3: Expand job opportunities for low to moderate income residents through capital projects, affordable housing and economic development activities.						
Objectives and Strategies	Sources of Funds*	Performance Indicators	Expected Number Five Years	HUD Outcome/ Objective	Actual Number Served by Fiscal Year	% or cumulative number achieved
Statutory Objective #3: Expand economic opportunities (EO)						
EO 3.1. Expand opportunities for job creation and retention	CDBG NSP CDBG-R HOME	Number of jobs created or retained	300	Economic Opportunity/ Accessibility	2011- 45	15%
					2012- 120	55%
					2013- 83	82%
					2014- 149	132%
					2015-	In progress
EO 3.2 Collaborate with local economic development initiatives to empower low to moderate income persons with entrepreneurial and economic opportunities	CDBG NSP	Number of small businesses participating in contracts	10	Economic Opportunity/ Accessibility	2011- 3	30%
					2012- 3	60%
					2013- 81	810%
					2014- 16	1,000%
					2015-	In progress
EO 3.3 Expand coordination and implementation of Section 3 goals to expand job opportunities for local low income residents	All federal grants	Number of jobs created or retained	100	Economic Opportunity/ Accessibility	2011- 60	40%
					2012- 39	99%
					2013- 28	127%
					2014- 45	172%
					2015-	
EO 3.4 Assist in redevelopment efforts in distressed neighborhoods through infrastructure, improvements and rehabilitation with emphasis on job opportunities for L/M residents	CDBG HOME NSP	Number of individuals	50	Economic Opportunity/ Affordability	2011- 15	30%
					2012- 34	98%
					2013- 28	154%
					2014- 37	228%
					2015-	In progress

4. Summary of citizen participation process and consultation process

The Orange County's Citizen Participation Plan provides details about the methods of obtaining public participation and comments throughout the Consolidated Planning process. The Plan outlines the process through which the public can access general information, receive technical assistance, provide comments on critical issues, and receive timely responses to questions or comments raised. The Citizen Participation Plan emphasizes the involvement of low- and moderate-income residents and outlines strategies for including hard-to-reach populations, non-English speaking persons, and persons with disabilities.

The first step in the process involved consultation and collaboration with other jurisdictions and County Divisions. The development of fair housing strategies and administering of one online survey were conducted in consultation with the City of Orlando. Of the 125 entities contacted in the survey, a total of 20% responses were received. Consultation with Orange County's Neighborhood Services Division facilitated the input and communicated opinions of Orange County residents on problems that exist at the neighborhood level. This input is essential when drafting community development strategies for improving existing neighborhoods and building sustainable communities. To this end, HCD staff attended a series of neighborhood meetings to listen to residents throughout Orange County. Staff attended meetings at various locations, including the Pine Castle, Azalea Park, South Apopka, Goldenrod, Holden Heights, and Pine Hills neighborhoods.

Consultation with the Continuum of Care (CoC) was also critical for the development of homeless strategies for the Consolidated Plan and Action Plan. The CoC's designated agency, the Homeless Services Network (HSN) also participated in the evaluation of homeless project proposals. Recommendations received from an independent study, *Orange County's Investment in Programs to Prevent and End Homelessness*, conducted by Barbara Poppe and Associates, were adopted to ensure funded partners use Housing First best practices to increase the number of successful outcomes for homeless clients and improve the data collection to better evaluate their performance. Other consultations included the Affordable Housing Advisory Board, the Housing Authority of the City of Winter Park, and the Orlando Public Housing Authority.

The second step in the process involved the formation of five (5) focus groups to identify the level of needs within Orange County. Focus group sessions were held in February and March of 2016, as part of the citizen participation process for the Consolidated Plan. These focus group discussions included questions related to Affordable Housing, Anti-Poverty/Public Services, Homelessness, Community Development and Economic Development Needs, and Special Populations Needs and Fair Housing.

Provided below is a summary of the input received from the five focus groups.

Homelessness Focus Group - February 2nd, 2016

In attendance:

Tia Aery – Family Promise of Greater Orlando
Jennifer Taylor – Homeless Services Network of Central Florida
Barry Fuentez – Covenant House Florida
Jonathan Sebastian Blount – Hygiene for the Homeless
Sarai Cabrera – Heart of Florida United Way
Michelle Chapin – Orange County Government
Carol Wick – Harbor House of Central Florida
Brent Trotter – Coalition for the Homeless of Central Florida
Shawn Tan – Orange County Government
Andrew Powell – Central Florida Commission on Homelessness

Discussion Summary:

What are the challenges for homeless families to find and maintain housing?

- Employee wages do not pay enough for housing
- Lack of affordable housing
- Restrictive funding
- Need higher wages and more affordable housing
- Not enough explanation as to why things are funded the way they are
- Need more transitional to permanent housing
- Regional connectivity is important for transportation access
- There is a problem in education

How do you rate Orange County's past efforts to address homelessness within County?

- B+ for effort
- Grants do not provide enough flexibility
- Program over-crowding is an issue
- HMIS capacity
- More staff assistance is needed
- Funders need to think of administrative cost
- More awareness has been made about the issue
- Samaritan Center is a great program/model to expand

What else can the County do to eliminate homelessness?

- Job training opportunities
- Public transportation access
- Legal aid assistance
- Economic development efforts are important
- Affordable child care
- Life skills acquisition opportunity
- Case management for homeless clients
- Customized services (one size fits all approach does not work)

- Partnership between leaders and property managers

What is your organization doing that seems to work best to address the needs of homeless individuals and families?

- Collaboration with all other counties
- Bringing as many services under one roof as possible
- Client advocacy
- Partnering with providers
- Keeping families together
- Mental health aid and assistance
- Affordable Housing Program

What can be done to improve the coordination of homeless services in Orange County?

- Provider CEO/Executive Directors meetings (monthly/quarterly)
 - Flexibility of funding
- Timely payment processing

Anti-Poverty Focus Group - February 4th, 2016

In attendance:

Keith Theriot – United Against Poverty
 Kathielly Soto – Florida Consumer Debt Services
 Lauren Damiano – City of Orlando
 Arancha Lattanzio – City of Orlando
 Thomas Alston – Holden Heights Community/CBG

Discussion summary:

How do you rate Orange County's past efforts to address the needs of low income persons? What else can be done?

- Orange county is doing better than most counties
- Vacant land should be utilized to build more affordable homes
- Not much innovation is taking place
- Has been *output* focused instead of *outcome* focused

What are the key challenges for public services providers?

- Limited funds available
- Need to have more buy-in
- Need more money from corporations
- Need real information from actual people who are affected
- Few staffing agencies exist

What essential services are needed to address the challenges that low income individuals face in obtaining and maintaining housing stability?

- Financial literacy

- Budgeting skills training
- Need to understand the poverty mindset and learn the middle class mindset

What is your organization doing that seems to work best to address the needs of low income individuals and families?

- Case management flexibility
- One stop center for:
 - Resource connection
 - Resource protection
 - Resource creation
- Data collection
- Partnerships with universities
- Going directly to the community
- Free workshops at libraries

What specific actions can be implemented to assist individuals in transitioning out of poverty?

- Data coordination between agencies/service providers
- Transportation/improved access to transportation

In your opinion, which services should be readily available to low income individuals that are not currently available?

- More funds for rehabilitation of homes for elderly homeowners

Community Development and Economic Needs Focus Group - February 4th, 2016

In attendance:

Alfredo Ortiz – Orange County Public Schools
 Michelle Owens – Pine Hills Neighborhood District
 Lavon Williams – Orange County Neighborhood and Preservation Services
 Luis Nieves-Ruiz – East Central Florida Regional Planning Council
 Ignacio Esteban – Florida Community Loan Fund
 Zoe Colon – Hispanic Federation
 Teresa Shipley – Orange County Public Schools
 Jonathan Sebastian Blount –Homeless Advocate

Discussion Summary:

Tell us what do you like and dislike about living in Orange County. How could we improve any negative factors?

- We like to talk about the good things in our community but look away at the bad
- Diversity (good)
- Lots of potential for growth (good)
- Not enough involvement (bad)
- Not enough education for the youth

- Big gap between the “haves” and “have nots”
- Need more bike and pedestrian friendliness
- Innovative city (good)
- Need better advertising so people don’t only think of Disney
- Homeless issue not being addressed
- Low income inequality
- Many older communities are aging rapidly

How do you rate Orange County’s past efforts to address the needs of low income communities?
What else can be done?

- Average between fair and good
- Funds are being dedicated to low income people, but there are not enough resources for all that need them
- The poor are getting poorer
- 60% of students qualify for price reduced meals
- Good in the housing rehab and section 8 areas
- Need to increase economic development at a smaller scale (neighborhoods)
- Intentions = 8-9 / Implementations = 3

Tell us what is your organization doing that seems to work best to address the needs of low income communities or individuals?

- Aligning financing to sources of subsidy
- Pursuing funding targeting the low-income schools
- Tutoring
- Providing a migrant program
- Providing college courses
- Assisting homeless students
- Spending money in the community as needs arise
- Providing housing advocacy and legal services

What specific actions can be implemented to assist low income communities become more sustainable? For example, are there services or capital improvement needs that are not currently available?

- Weatherization program reinvestment
- Retro-fitting neighborhoods
- Keeping areas safe and clean
- More home owner assistance to decrease the number of people renting
- Funding for entrepreneurship and small business owners

Select a critical need in low income communities that is not being addressed and explain why.

- Crime intervention
- Local employment opportunities and job training
- Recreational programs for youth
- Access to educational programs

- Public transportation
- Infrastructure needs

Special Needs Populations Focus Group- February 8th, 2016

In attendance:

Mark Batchelor – Lighthouse Central Florida
 Robbi Sukanek – Aspire Health Partners
 Maribel Rivera – Seniors First
 Bill McCormac – Primrose Center
 Alexandra Gleason – Aspire Health Partners
 Bakari Burns – Health Care Center for the Homeless

Discussion Summary:

What are the obstacles for persons with disabilities living in Orange County?

- Transportation
- Not enough units out there
- Expensive (cost of living)
- Wheelchair accessible units

Are there any gaps in the provider system/social services system in Orange County?

- Not enough case managers to cover all shifts
- Need more funds

What are the challenges for persons with disabilities to find and maintain housing?

- Wheelchair accessible unites
- Transportation
- Incentives for developers to build more units

Affordable Housing Focus Group - February 2nd, 2016

In Attendance:

Jill McReynolds – H.A.N.D.S.
 Bob Ansley – Orlando Neighborhood Improvement Corporation
 Frankie Elliott – Orlando Regional Relator Association
 Patricia Rice – Winter Park Housing Authority
 Kimberlee Riley – Ability Housing
 Arancha Lattanzio – City of Orlando
 Elizabeth Badillo – Picerne Development
 Shawn Tan – Orange County Government
 Terry Eckert – Habitat for Humanity of Greater Orlando
 Regina Ramos – Orange County Planning

Discussion Summary:

What specific groups should be considered a priority for subsidized rental housing? What are the particular housing needs of these groups?

- People living only on social security
- Large single-mother families need larger units
- Veterans
- Accessibility for persons with disabilities
- Families at risk of becoming homeless
- Mothers without health insurance on maternity leave
- Elderly disabled

What strategies are working to create new affordable rental units in our community? What else can be done?

- More projects with 9% tax credits
- Donated land (land acquisition)
- Land banking
- More accessibility to get an area rehabbed; it is currently impossible and delaying
- Need more creative thinking
- Combine SHIP between the City of Orlando and Orange County
- Training for landlords on how to reduce barriers
- Process (time wise) for affordable housing is tough; need to expedite the process

What strategies are working in expanding homeownership opportunities for low to moderate income households in Orange County? What else can be done?

- Down payment assistance
- Moderate-income assistance
- Need Hispanic lenders
- Information /ownership classes
- SHIP funds (Sadowski Trust Fund)
- Rehab Housing assistance program

What are the main regulatory barriers to affordable housing and what can be done to overcome those barriers?

- Regulations are too strict on rehab and code enforcement

What can be done to overcome nimbyism towards affordable housing developments in our community?

- Reduce public hearings
- Tracking how the property was purchased and what the value of the property was

What type of incentives (if any) could be implemented to expand the number of landlords (or create landlord pools) for affordable housing units?

- Financial incentives
- Apartment associations
- Landlord education

How would you rank the following barriers to access affordable housing?

Bad Credit (1)

Criminal Record (3)

Lack of funds to come up with deposits/first month rent (2)

Lack of affordable units for large families (3 bedrooms or more) (4)

Lack of affordable units near transportation hubs (5)

What else can be done to improve access to safe and healthy housing?

- Fair housing education
- Homeowner education (how to clean, maintain, etc.)

Fair Housing Focus Group - February 18th, 2016

In attendance:

Adriana Escander – Fair Housing Continuum

Armando Tautiva – Home Bridge Financial

Barbara Hoosier – X-Tending Hands, Inc.

CJ Miles – Fair Housing Continuum

Denise Weathers – Weathers Consulting

Diane DeWalt – Osceola County Board of County Commissioners

Jascha Fields – Jewish Family Services of Greater Orlando

Jean Garcon – Center for Multicultural Wellness and Prevention

Jill McReynolds – H.A.N.D.S .of Central Florida

Katherine Hazelwood – BB&T Bank

Kathielly Soto – Consumer Credit Counseling Services Orlando

Liz Alicea – Habitat for Humanity of Greater Orlando

Luis Hernández – Real Estate Professional

Marina Babic – Professional Management, Inc.

Michelle Chapin – Orange County Government

Sandra Evans – Life Concepts (Quest), Inc.

Stephen Fussell – Seminole County Government

Thomas Alston – Community Builders Group

Tia Aery – Family Promise of Greater Orlando

Tim McKinney – United Global Outreach

Todd Luna – Homeless Services Network of Central Florida

Vranerlie Valcin – Harbor House of Central Florida

Candice Howard – Life Concepts (Quest), Inc.

Matthew Ramirez – Orange County AHB

Gaile Plowden – Orlando Housing Authority

Kimberlee Riley – Ability Housing

Discussion Summary:

Is your organization's staff fully trained in Fair Housing policies? How are they followed?

- Departments dealing with fair housing are trained; organizations as a whole are not

- Property managers are adequately trained
- One issue is not having enough realtors' training other than training to pass the exams
- Clients and social agencies' staff need more training
- The community needs more fair housing education
- More education of the law and penalty enforcement if law is not followed
- Fair housing authorities should embed training across all sectors/communities

How is affordability of housing likely to change considering changes to home values and/or rents? And how will they affect our community?

- Affordability is likely to worsen rather than get better due to population increase, affordable housing shortage, and low wages
- SHIP funding is key to housing affordability
- Rental levels are high
- Need to focus on transitional housing with agencies (local governments are too strained)
- Lack of housing leads to more selective qualification criteria
- Housing options are very limited with long waiting lists
- Generational renters seem to be at an all-time high (trends towards rental housing vs. homeownership)
- Workforce housing should be introduced again (create awareness of housing instability among low paid workers)
- Enforcing federal, state/local ordinances that preserve land for affordable development
- Post-purchase education needed
- Need to ease HUD's regulations for felons
- Low inventory of affordable housing
- Create lease-to-purchase program
- Lending rules need to be softened
- Smaller housing units needed

How do you perceive lending institutions marketing the availability of mortgage and home improvement loans in minority neighborhoods and encouraging protected classes to apply (defined as race, ethnicity, national origin, disability, sex, familial status, marital status)?

- No known cases among specific protected classes but other concerns and limitations; e.g.: qualifications SHIP; qualifying for down payment assistance does not necessarily mean you will be able to actually find a home you can purchase
- New lending standards have disproportionately excluded many minorities from the market (10% - 20% down payment, higher credit requirements)
- Personal finance education needed
- HMDA data on bank loans to protected classes needs to be available
- Lending is better but only due to CRA (Community Rating Act)
- Lenders bear all the risk of "riskier" loans (no government backup)

What do you believe are the characteristics of the housing market in areas of racial/ethnic minority concentration? What can be done to improve housing conditions in these areas?

- Rehabilitation of housing is needed. Housing in some areas lacks water, heating, etc.

- High income housing next to low income neighborhoods affecting income levels in census tracts to qualify for CDBG and other federal programs
- Extended use of contractors and possible use of vouchers by home owners (for some type of work) would help
- Treat all neighborhoods equally and provide basic infrastructure; work on breaking stereotypes and language barriers (through homeownership classes, etc.)
- Improvements needed in addressing housing conditions
- More access to recreation areas/sidewalks
- More internet access—more classes/libraries in low income areas
- Create outreach programs targeting new immigrants—basic skills—tools to integrate them in society
- No healthy growth to economic development
- Educate buyers on how to be responsible homeowners and take care of their properties
- Create more tax credits

Discuss and prioritize actions that should be taken in consideration to address the following needs:

- A. Addressing the social needs of underserved areas (underserved areas, according to HUD, are those which are distressed, lack economic opportunities, or are low-income areas)
- B. Fostering and maintaining affordable housing
- C. Reducing the number of poverty-level families
- D. Enhancing coordination between public and private housing and social service agencies

- Foster development of CDCs (nonprofit community development corporations)
- More after school care programs
- More education and awareness about programs
- Need for Drop-in centers for homeless and needy families
- Target more education, job training programs
- Support public/private partnerships
- More programs to reduce number of poverty level households
- Coordinated, multi-faceted approach to services
- Improve quality of housing and create mixed income developments
- Attract more businesses into low income areas
- Social agencies must expand their boundaries—reach out to create new alliances
- Increase the number of parks/green spaces
- More public transportation; transportation is expensive or not available at times
- Not enough public transportation outside of city
- Some populations need supportive services along with affordable housing

The information obtained through the focus groups served as the basis for the development of goals and objectives for each planning element described in the Strategic Plan section of the 2016-2020 Consolidated Plan.

The third step in the citizen participation and consultation process for the Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan was the publication of a public notice announcing the funding opportunities and making an initial announcement of the 2016-2020 Consolidated Plan and 2016-2017 Action Plan.

This notice was published in The Orlando Sentinel on February 28, 2016 and in El Sentinel, a weekly publication in Spanish.

The fourth step involved a Request for Applications (RFA) process for nonprofit organizations, community organizations, County Divisions, and participating jurisdictions interested in submitting proposals to address the housing and community development needs in the community. Two technical assistance workshops were conducted on March 8, 2016 to assist applicants with the RFA process. Two public meetings were held on April 13, 2016 and April 21, 2016 to entertain project proposals. A third public meeting was held on May 25, 2016 to discuss project recommendations and the proposed 2016-2017 One-Year Action Plan budget.

The fifth step in the Consolidated Plan and Action Plan citizen participation and consultation process was a second public notice in local newspapers informing the public about the availability of the draft documents, including the Fair Housing Plan and updated Citizen Participation Plan, summarizing the proposed goals and objectives of the Consolidated Plan, and listing recommended funding of activities for the Annual Action Plan and other documents. The second public notice was published on June 12, 2016 in the Orlando Sentinel, and another public notice was published in Spanish in El Sentinel.

Once the public notice is advertised, the draft plan is made available to the public through the internet, at the local public library, and at the Office of Housing and Community Development. Comments and suggestions are recorded and considered as additions and/or revisions to the plan. The comment period for these documents was from June 13, 2016 through July 13, 2016.

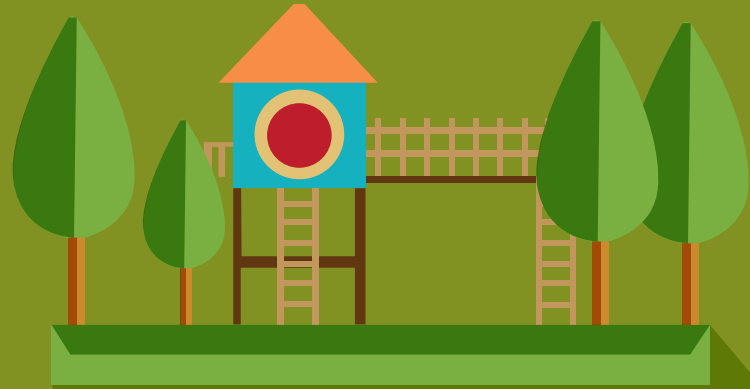
Orange County residents are provided another opportunity to comment on the proposed Consolidated Plan and the Action Plan at a fourth public hearing. The public hearing for the 2016-2020 Consolidated Plan and 2016-2017 One-Year Action Plan was held on June 15, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. at the Orange County Internal Operations Center located at 400 E. South Street in Orlando. All comments recorded during the public review period and public hearings are added to the final Consolidated Plan and Action Plan.

5. Summary of public comments

All comments received during the public review period of June 13- July 13, 2016 and at the public hearing of June 15, 2016, will be added to the Consolidated Plan.

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

All comments will be included in the final Consolidated Plan.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2016-2017

ACTION PLAN



**Housing and Community
Development Division**

525 East South Street
Orlando, Florida 32801



7. Summary of 2016-2017 Action Plan

Orange County anticipates receiving \$7,964,579 for housing and community development activities during Fiscal Year 2016-2017. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) determines this allocation amount based on a formula using Orange County's population, poverty, housing overcrowding and age of housing. The total HUD allocation in entitlement grant funds will be comprised of \$5,576,866 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program funds, \$1,896,464 in HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) program funds, and \$294,749 in Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) program funds. Approximately \$950,000 in prior year funds will be reprogrammed for a total of \$8,914,579.

The following budget reflects Orange County's funding allocations for FY 2016-2017, which begins October 1, 2016 and ends September 30, 2017.

2016-2017 ACTION PLAN BUDGET

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG)

CAPITAL PROJECTS

Harbor House of Central Florida, Inc.	\$ 80,000
Health Care Center for the Homeless, Inc.	\$ 500,000
Jewish Family Services of Greater Orlando, Inc.	\$ 75,804
Pathways Drop-In Center, Inc.	\$ 80,000
Life Concepts, Inc.	\$ 100,000
Total Capital Projects	\$ 835,804

HOUSING PROJECTS

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Orlando, Inc.	\$ 476,000
Habitat for Humanity of Seminole County and Greater Apopka, Inc.	\$ 330,000
Multi-unit Rental Housing Rehabilitation Projects	\$ 200,000
Grand Avenue Economic Community Development Corp.	\$ 296,675
Single Family Homeowners Rehabilitation	\$ 987,014
Lead Based Paint Hazard Program	\$ 100,000
Housing Rehabilitation Administration	\$ 400,000
Total Housing Projects	\$2,789,689

PUBLIC SERVICES

Aspire Health Partners, Inc.	\$ 52,000
Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Florida, Inc.	\$ 38,000
Center for Independent Living in Central Florida, Inc.	\$ 36,000
Coalition for the Homeless of Central Florida, Inc.	\$ 45,000
Community Coordinated Care for Children, Inc.	\$ 186,000
Community Initiatives, Inc. (Public Allies Central Florida)	\$ 30,000
Covenant House Florida, Inc.	\$ 30,000
Grand Avenue Economic Community Development Corp.	\$ 30,000
Harbor House of Central Florida, Inc.	\$ 30,000
Health Care Center for the Homeless, Inc.	\$ 43,000

Jewish Family Services of Greater Orlando, Inc.	\$ 48,000
Life Concepts, Inc.	\$ 48,000
LifeStream Behavioral Center, Inc.	\$ 35,000
Lighthouse Central Florida, Inc.	\$ 40,000
Primrose Center, Inc.	\$ 30,000
Seniors First, Inc. (Meals on Wheels)	<u>\$ 115,000</u>
Total Public Services	\$ 836,000

ADMINISTRATION

Fair Housing Activities and Training	\$ 10,000
General Administration	<u>\$1,105,373</u>
Total Administration	\$1,115,373

TOTAL CDBG BUDGET **\$5,576,866**

HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM (HOME)

Tenant Based Rental Assistance	\$1,100,000
Housing Rehabilitation	\$ 100,000
Rental Rehabilitation	\$ 222,348
Community Housing Development Organizations	\$ 284,470
Administration	<u>\$ 189,646</u>

TOTAL HOME BUDGET **\$1,896,464**

EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT (ESG)

SHELTER OPERATIONS

Coalition for the Homeless of Central Florida, Inc.	\$ 125,000
Covenant House Florida, Inc.	\$ 60,000
Harbor House of Central Florida, Inc.	\$ 60,749
Family Promise of Greater Orlando, Inc.	<u>\$ 49,000</u>
Total Shelter Operations	\$ 294,749

RAPID REHOUSING AND STABILIZATION SERVICES

Heart of Florida United Way	<u>\$ 180,000</u>
Total Rapid Rehousing and Stabilization	\$ 180,000

HOMELESS MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM (HMIS)

Homeless Services Network of Central Florida, Inc.	\$ 15,000
Total HMIS	\$ 15,000

ESG ADMINISTRATION

\$ 1,500

TOTAL ESG BUDGET **\$ 491,249**

TOTAL 2016-2017 ACTION PLAN BUDGET **\$7,964,579**

REPROGRAMMED CDBG FUNDS

Holden Heights Phase IV	\$ 600,000
Facility Access – ADA Improvements (HCD)	\$ 350,000
Total Reprogrammed CDBG Funds	\$ 950,000

TOTAL BUDGET (including reprogrammed CDBG funds) **\$8,914,579**

**Description of recommended activities and funding for the
2016-2017 One-Year Action Plan**

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

**The Five Year Goal to address affordable housing in the Consolidated Plan is to
“Collaborate with local and regional stakeholders on provision of affordable
housing for low to moderate income households.”**

**Objective 1.1: Preserve the existing supply of affordable housing units and ensure sustainable
investments in affordable rental housing**

Activities for Objective 1.1 in the 2016-2017 One-Year Action Plan

- 1. Multifamily rental rehabilitation** – A total of \$200,000 in CDBG funds was designated for affordable multifamily projects. An additional \$296,675 was designated to Grand Avenue Economic Community Development Corporation (GAECDC) for the rehabilitation and roof replacement at Maxwell Garden Roof Project, a 204-unit affordable rental housing project that provides permanent housing to previously homeless households. Additionally, INVEST funds and SHIP funds will be used to renovate 8 residential buildings at the Wayne Densch Center property located in Eatonville (Orange County District 2). After renovations, the housing development will consist of a unit mix of 26 one-bedroom and 51 two-bedroom units for a total of 77 units to provide permanent supportive housing for homeless individuals and families.
- 2. Acquisition for rental housing** – There are no specific projects identified, but this activity may be funded under the 2016-2017 CHDO set aside of the HOME Program.
- 3. Rental assistance subsidies** – This activity is funded under the HOME Program for Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) for rental subsidies. The allocation under HOME is \$1,100,000 to serve approximately 200 households. Orange County places a high priority for very low to low-income seniors and/or individuals with severe disabilities. The program will also target 50 homeless families and individuals (please refer to Homeless Objective 3.2).

Objective 1.2: Support the creation of new affordable housing units

Activities for Objective 1.2 in the 2016-2017 One-Year Action Plan

- 1. Financial incentives for new housing development** – Orange County has committed a total of \$5M from local INVEST funds over the next five years for the development of affordable housing. Additionally, Orange County will receive approximately \$6M in SHIP funding for affordable housing activities that include investments in new housing development.
- 2. Land acquisition for affordable housing development** – A total of \$806,000 in CDBG funds will be used to fund the New Horizon Project located in South Apopka (Orange County District 2). The site will be acquired by two community based organizations (Habitat for Humanity of Greater Orlando and Habitat for Humanity of Seminole County and Greater Apopka, to construct 56 new affordable homes for sale. Habitat for Humanity of Greater Orlando was awarded \$476,000 to acquire the lots for 34 homes, and Habitat for Humanity of Seminole County and Greater Apopka was awarded \$330,000 to acquire the lots for 22 homes.
- 3. Construction of affordable rental housing** – In FY 2016-2017, the Goldenrod Pointe project (Orange County District 5) will receive financial assistance to aid in the construction of 72 new affordable rental housing units, including a 14-unit set-aside for homeless households, using local INVEST funds (\$1M) and SHIP funds (\$1M). The total project cost is \$10M. The long-term goal of the Consolidated Plan is to create 500 units of new affordable rental housing over the next five years.
- 4. CHDO projects** – HOME funds require a minimum 15% set-aside for activities with Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDOs). Orange County plans to utilize this set-aside for the creation of new affordable rental units. These projects must meet HOME eligibility criteria, including CHDO qualification status and a risk assessment of the project.
- 5. Regulatory incentives** – As part of Orange County’s commitment to affordable housing, the County will continue to offer expedited permitting to certified affordable housing projects and an impact fee subsidy program to affordable housing projects aimed at very low and low income households.

Objective 1.3: Continue housing rehabilitation efforts to support preservation and maintain quality of affordable owner-occupied housing units

Activities for Objective 1.3 in the 2016-2017 One-Year Action Plan

- 1. Single-family Home Rehabilitation** – Orange County has designated \$987,014 in CDBG funds and \$100,000 in HOME funds to provide very low to low-income homeowners with minor home repairs or major housing rehabilitation assistance. Local SHIP funds are also used for this purpose. The goal is to serve 100 very low to low income homeowners annually. Orange County places a high priority on projects serving seniors and homeowners with severe

disabilities.

The funding is for:

- Minor home repair assistance which includes repairs up to \$25,000 related to life, health, safety or code violations. HOME funds may be used provided that the repairs will bring the home to housing code standards. CDBG and SHIP are the main funding source for this program.
- Major rehabilitation which includes electrical, plumbing, roof repairs and other major health and safety hazards. These repairs may be funded with CDBG, HOME or local SHIP funds.
- Emergency Repairs – Orange County will implement an emergency repairs’ program for roof repairs, septic system repairs or similar repairs that constitute an urgent safety and health hazard.

Additionally, \$400,000 in CDBG funds have been designated for the administration of the housing rehabilitation program.

- 2. Lead-Based Paint Hazard Program** – This activity will be funded by CDBG in the amount of \$100,000. All housing activities supported by funding administered by HUD's Office of Community Planning and Development must comply with Title X of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1992, Lead-based paint regulation. This regulation expands the requirements to protect occupants and workers from lead-based paint hazards. In addition, it requires testing for lead, stabilization, control or abatement in the event that lead is found on the property. Orange County will continue to implement HUD’s Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction strategy through its Lead-Based Hazard Program. This strategy includes incorporating the approved Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction regulations into all housing programs operated by the Housing and Community Development Division and federally funded housing programs implemented by subrecipients. The program will assist in the detection and abatement of lead based paint hazards in owner-occupied, single-family housing units for the purpose of providing safe and decent housing for low to moderate-income households.
- 3. Energy Efficiency** – Orange County will continue to promote energy efficiency improvements in all its housing rehabilitation projects for long-term affordability.

Objective 1.4: Expand the range of affordable housing choices and ensure access to affordable housing

Activities for Objective 1.4 in the 2016-2017 One-Year Action Plan

- 1. Initiate regulatory changes** – Orange County Housing and Community Division will continue working collaboratively with other County Divisions on revising the policy framework and the Land Development Code to add provisions and requirements that will support creation of new affordable housing units within existing and new neighborhoods. Such changes might include,

but are not limited to, inclusionary zoning, innovative housing designs, and new housing types.

- 2. Infill development** – Orange County will continue its commitment to sustainable development practices, such as infill development, or redevelopment of existing communities aimed at revitalizing distressed neighborhoods.
- 3. Mixed income housing** – Orange County will continue to advocate for mixed income housing and participate in initiatives and regulatory changes that will promote mixed income housing development in the County.
- 4. Transit-oriented development** – Orange County will continue to promote residential development around existing and planned transit stations and transit hubs, which will help improve access to transit, transportation and employment centers for persons of various income levels.

Objective 1.5: Increase homeownership opportunities for low to moderate income households

Activities for Objective 1.5 in the 2016-2017 One-Year Action Plan

- 1. Financial incentives for first time homebuyers (Down payment and closing costs)** – Orange County will continue to use SHIP funds to provide downpayment and closing costs assistance to qualified homebuyers in Orange County. The level of assistance will be based on the established financial assistance guidelines by household income. This non-federal program utilizes over \$1.5M annually to assist approximately 140 first-time homebuyer households with down payment and closing costs assistance.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The Five Year Goal to address community development needs in the Consolidated Plan is to “Enhance the quality of life of low to moderate income residents through a variety of revitalization and sustainability efforts, and social and economic activities.”

Objective 2.1: Support infrastructure improvements and community revitalization efforts in low to moderate income neighborhoods

Activities for Objective 2.1 in the 2016-2017 One-Year Action Plan

- 1. Construction of Public Facilities** – CDBG funds for public facilities allow Orange County to improve the quality of life of low to moderate income residents by providing facilities and access to community services. Orange County plans to utilize \$500,000 in CDBG funds to construct the Ivey Lane Community Health Center, a 12,000 square feet facility that will

provide health care services in a low income community. This activity will be carried out by the Health Care Center for the Homeless.

2. **Clearance/Demolition** – This CDBG activity involves demolishing buildings, removing debris or structures in connection to the construction of a building or improvement assisted with CDBG funds. Orange County plans to utilize \$80,000 in CDBG funds to demolish the old-unfit for habitation buildings at the Harbor House facility for victims of domestic violence.
3. **Infrastructure** – CDBG funds may be used to ensure quality infrastructure in low-income communities, including improvement and provision of streets, sidewalks, water systems, wastewater systems, and storm drainage to mitigate flooding problems. The Housing and Community Development Division plans to utilize \$600,000 in residual CDBG funds to continue to provide infrastructure improvements in the Holden Heights community.

Objective 2.2: Prevent housing discrimination in our communities

Activities for Objective 2.2 in the 2016-2017 One-Year Action Plan

1. **Fair Housing Outreach and Information (Fair Housing Education)** – These activities include educational efforts that promote awareness about fair housing laws and increase individuals’ knowledge about their rights in regards to the fair housing choice; local public announcements on television, radio, and in newspapers, particularly during National Fair Housing events. Pamphlets should also be developed and given to the general public. Fair Housing posters will be distributed among non-profits, civil rights groups, and community action agencies that deal with fair housing law.
2. **Training of Subrecipients** – In addition to attending the State Fair Housing Summit, subrecipients of federal housing programs involved in provision of housing will be required to attend fair housing training event(s). Orange County will facilitate access to fair housing trainings and consultation.
3. **Technical Assistance** – Orange County will continue to work with local fair housing advocacy and enforcement groups in providing technical assistance to alleged victims of housing discrimination.
4. **Conciliation** – Orange County will continue to offer mediation/conciliation to complaints of housing discrimination.
5. **Referral and follow-up for fair housing compliance** – Orange County will continue to work with local fair housing partners and advocacy groups to offer referral and follow-up on fair housing complaints.
6. **New collaborations to eliminate barriers to fair housing** – Orange County will continue to

explore partnerships with the private sector and other jurisdictions to promote reinvestment in housing and other sectors, particularly in disadvantaged communities.

A total of \$10,000 from CDBG Administration has been designated to conduct Fair Housing Activities in FY 2016-2017.

Objective 2.3: Expand access to public services for low income persons to encourage self-sufficiency

Activities for Objective 2.3 in the 2016-2017 One-Year Action Plan

- 1. Case management/crisis intervention** – Orange County will provide a total of \$250,000 in CDBG funding for FY 2016-2017 for case management and crisis intervention activities. These funds will be distributed as follows: \$52,000 in funding for substance abuse and behavioral health care services (Aspire Health Partners); \$48,000 in funding for mental health counseling and case management services (Jewish Family Services of Greater Orlando); \$35,000 for transitional living and substance abuse treatment (LifeStream behavioral Center); and \$115,000 in funds to provide in-home meal delivery for homebound low income seniors (Seniors First).
- 2. Job training and placement** – Orange County will provide a total of \$60,000 in CDBG funds for job training and placement activities. More specifically, \$30,000 will be provided for the Public Allies Central Florida program to train and mentor young adults from low income families (Community Initiatives). Another \$30,000 in funding will be provided for the Culinary Program that will provide job training to low to moderate income persons .
- 3. Educational programs** – There are no specific projects identified, but this activity may be funded in the future Action Plans.
- 4. Services for homeless** – Orange County will provide a total of \$118,000 in FY 2016-2017 in CDBG public service funds for services for the homeless. These funds will be distributed as follows: \$45,000 in funds for shelter and support services for households (Coalition for the Homeless of Central Florida); \$30,000 in funds for parenting education and support for homeless youth (Covenant House Florida); and \$43,000 in funds to provide mental health and substance abuse services for homeless persons (Health Care Center for the Homeless).
- 5. Services for persons with severe disabilities** – Orange County will provide a total of \$118,000 in CDBG funds for services for persons with severe disabilities. These funds will be distributed among three agencies as follows: \$48,000 in funds for supportive and transitional living program for individuals with developmental disabilities (Life Concepts dba Quest); \$40,000 in funds to provide visual rehabilitation services to older blind persons (Lighthouse Central Florida); and \$30,000 in funds to provide employment training to persons with

developmental disabilities (Primrose Center).

6. **Child care assistance** – Orange County will provide \$186,000 in CDBG funds to the Community Coordinated Care for Children to provide subsidized childcare for children of low income families. Additionally, the County will provide \$38,000 in CDBG funds to the Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Florida for their childcare and afterschool program for homeless and low income children. Another \$30,000 in funding will be provided for child care and case management services for victims of domestic violence (Harbor House of Central Florida).
7. **Self-sufficiency skills training** – Orange County will provide \$36,000 in CDBG funds for the employment and youth transition program that will provide jobs skills training and ongoing support to individuals with disabilities to help them become more self-sufficient (Center for Independent Living).

Objective 2.4: Continue to provide adequate access to quality public facilities for low to moderate income residents

Activities for Objective 2.4 in the 2016-2017 One-Year Action Plan

1. Rehabilitation of Public Facilities – Orange County plans to utilize CDBG funding in FY 2016-2017 for the rehabilitation and improvements to community or social service facilities serving limited clientele. CDBG defines public facilities as buildings or structures that provide space for the purpose of delivering a needed service to low- and moderate-income persons or limited clientele (services are limited to documented low to moderate income residents or to special populations, such as persons with severe disabilities, and the elderly). The following public facilities will be funded in FY 2016-2017:

- Jewish Family Services – \$75,804 in CDBG funds for the second phase of the ADA improvements and renovations to client services areas at their Winter Park facility. Jewish Family Services provides financial crisis intervention, mental health counseling, and food pantry services for low to moderate income clients.
- Life Concepts (dba Quest) – \$100,000 in CDBG funds for the Quest North Expansion project located in South Apopka. The proposed renovations will create rooms, provide air conditioning, and create a public gallery at a facility serving individuals with severe disabilities.
- Pathways Drop-In Center – \$80,000 in CDBG funds for reconstruction of a community room at a drop-in center for individuals with severe mental disabilities.

2. Increase access to persons with disabilities (ADA Improvements to Public Facilities) – As a general rule, CDBG funds cannot be used for costs of operating or maintaining facilities, or for improvements in government facilities. The CDBG program authorizes the use of these funds in government buildings, but only for the removal of architectural barriers that restrict the mobility and accessibility of elderly or disabled persons to access services. The Housing and

Community Development Division plans to utilize \$350,000 in residual CDBG funds for the removal of architectural barriers and installation of an elevator at their facility located at 525 E. South Street in Orlando. The facility houses the Section 8 Program on the first and second floors, as well as three administration offices and two conference rooms where public and advisory board meetings are held.

HOMELESSNESS

The Five Year Goal to address homelessness in the Consolidated Plan is to “Utilize a comprehensive strategy to eliminate and prevent homelessness.”

Objective 3.1: Support activities to eliminate homelessness, particularly among literally homeless, families with children and veterans

Activities for Objective 3.1 in the 2016-2017 One-Year Action Plan

- 1. Support for Operations and Essential Services of Homeless Facilities** – Orange County will provide \$294,749 or 60% of the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) allocation, to maintain operations and services at existing homeless shelter facilities. This funding will be distributed among four agencies: Coalition for the Homeless (\$125,000); Covenant House (\$60,000); Harbor House (\$60,749); and Family Promise (\$49,000). The purpose of the funding is to provide safe and decent temporary shelter and essential services to approximately 1,300 homeless individuals annually. Shelter operation costs include, but are not limited to, utilities, maintenance, insurance and supplies. Essential services include, but are not limited to, case management, child care, education services, employment assistance, life skills training, transportation, and substance abuse treatment as they relate to locating and maintaining more permanent housing.

Objective 3.2: Expand activities that lead to permanent housing and stabilization of homeless households

Activities for Objective 3.2 in the 2016-2017 One-Year Action Plan

- 1. Rapid Re-housing** – This objective will allow Orange County to fund rapid re-housing activities under the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG). Funding for rapid re-housing will help individuals currently experiencing homelessness and help them achieve housing stability. Rapid re-housing services include, but are not limited to, financial assistance, including moving related costs and utility assistance, housing search and placement, and housing stability case management. Households may also receive up to 12 months of rental assistance for fair market rental housing. A total of \$180,000 in ESG funding will be designated to Heart of Florida United Way to fund their rapid re-housing program. Additionally, local INVEST funds in the amount of \$1.5M will be used to assist homeless families with rapid re-housing.

- 2. Tenant Based Rental Assistance for Homeless** – The HOME Tenant Based Rental Assistance program (TBRA) will target homeless households over the next five years in need of rental assistance. Of the \$1,100,000 designated annually for TBRA, approximately 10% or \$110,000 will be used to stabilize homeless households in rental housing.

Objective 3.3: Collaborate with the Continuum of Care (CoC) and other stakeholders to effectively share data and resources to improve delivery of homeless services

Activities for Objective 3.2 in the 2016-2017 One-Year Action Plan

- 1. Consultation with the CoC** – Orange County is a member of the Continuum of Care (CoC) system, and it regularly participates in committees and monthly meetings. The County's Housing and Community Development Division maintains ongoing communication and consultation with the CoC staff on the issues related to ESG, the homeless management information system, training and related matters. The County solicits CoC input when selecting activities to be funded with ESG funds.
- 2. Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)** – Data collection by way of the HMIS is an important HUD requirement for service providers in the COC receiving federal funding to serve the homeless population. It is a coordinated data collection approach that facilitates the gathering of client data and enables agencies and grantees to measure their performance individually and as a coordinated system. Funding in the amount of \$15,000 for this activity will allow the Homeless Services Network (HSN) to administer the data system, assist with technical training, and support Orange County with reporting requirements for homeless activities.
- 3. Coordinated Entry System** – A coordinated entry system is a centralized or coordinated process designed to enable CoC members/service providers to more efficiently manage program member intake assessment and the provision of referrals for assistance to homeless persons. This system utilizes a shared data base and programmatic performance standards. The CoC provides training to homeless service providers and other member agencies committed to speeding and improving the delivery of service to homeless persons. In line with HUD's requirements, Orange County supports the CoC in this effort and requires participation in this system by the agencies to which it provides federal funding for homeless assistance. This system is expected to significantly improve the rapid re-housing of families in need of this assistance.

Objective 3.4: Support activities that focus on preventing households from becoming homeless

Activities for Objective 3.4 in the 2016-2017 Action Plan

No homeless prevention activities are planned for FY 2016-2017 under the ESG Program as the County focuses on the implementation of the Housing First (rapid re-housing) model. This activity may be implemented in future Action Plans.

Other Activities

Planning and Program Administration

Planning and Program Administration activities help support and facilitate local community planning activities for the purpose of administering federal programs and complying with program guidelines. Local planning and administration activities are allowable expenditures under the CDBG, HOME, and ESG programs.

