

AGENDA



Thursday, June 18, 2009

Public Hearings and Possible Actions
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION

Item No. 81

Subject: Conduct a public hearing to receive citizen comment on: 1) Draft five-year Consolidated Plan for Fiscal Years October 1, 2009 – September 30, 2014, as required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; 2) the Draft Annual Fiscal Year 2009-10 Action Plan, as required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; and 3) the Community Development 2009-10 Program, as required by the Texas Local Government Code Chapter 373.

Fiscal Note: There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.

For More Information: Margaret R. Shaw, Director, Neighborhood Housing and Community Development Office, 974-3184.

This is the second of two public hearings before the Austin City Council required for the adoption of the City's five-year Consolidated Plan for fiscal years 2009-2014 and the Action Plan for Fiscal Year 2009-10. This action is required by the locally developed, HUD mandated City's Citizen Participation Plan, which sets forth City policies and procedures for public participation in the Consolidated Plan, and by Chapter 373 of the Texas Local Government Code. Additional opportunities for citizens' comments include a public hearing before the Community Development Commission on June 29, 2009 and a 30-day written comment period from June 12, 2009 to July 13, 2009. The draft plan is available at 10 select neighborhood centers and libraries for review as well.

FISCAL YEAR 2009-10 ACTION PLAN

The annual Action Plan outlines activities and programs that fund program priorities identified in the five-year Consolidated Plan. In Fiscal Year 2009-10 the City of Austin will receive approximately \$13 million through four U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) programs: Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME), Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG), and Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA). In order to receive these grants from HUD, the City must submit an Action Plan that describes community needs, resources, priorities, and proposed activities with regard to housing, community development, economic development and public services. The Fiscal Year 2009-2014 Consolidated Plan and the Fiscal Year 2009-10 Action Plan must be submitted to HUD on or before August 15, 2009.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC INPUT

A critical aspect of the Consolidated Plan is a needs assessment that helps determine program priorities for the next five years. The City of Austin Neighborhood Housing and Community Development (NHCD) department conducted a "needs assessment" from January 1, 2009 to March 13, 2009, to determine the housing and community development priorities that are included in the five-year Consolidated Plan. The needs assessment steps included the following:

-Five Public Hearings:

- o One with the Austin City Council.
- o Two with the Community Development Commission (CDC).
- o One with the Community Action Network.
- o One with the HIV/AIDS Planning Council.

- Housing Market Study – An evaluation of the existing and future housing needs in Austin.
- Community Survey – A survey to gather public feedback about priorities for funding.
- Impediments to Fair Housing report – An analysis of impediments to fair housing in Austin.
- Consultations with social services, non-profit corporations, for-profit corporations, and government entities regarding public housing needs and planned programs and activities.

Outreach for the needs assessment included:

- Public notices in three local papers, including one in Spanish. Public notices were placed in El Mundo, the Austin Chronicle, and the Villager.
- E-mail notifications from January 1, 2009 to March 13, 2009 were distributed to over 2,500 individuals including partnering organizations, neighborhood associations, non-profit community partners, and others regarding opportunities to comment and participate.
- Flyers regarding participation opportunities were distributed to local community centers, churches, and businesses.

Participation in the needs assessment included:

- Over 250 individuals participated in the public hearings and consultations with citizens and organizations including the Ending Community Homelessness Organization, HOPWA providers, Child Care providers, the Mayor's Mental Health Task Force Monitoring Committee, the Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities and the Austin Area Human Services Association.
- 370 people completed a survey available on the City of Austin website, at City of Austin libraries, and local community centers.