



## City of Austin

# Neighborhood Housing and Community Development (NHCD) FY 2012-13 Action Plan and Community Needs Assessment

## What is the Action Plan?

Every five years, the City of Austin's Neighborhood Housing and Community Development Office (NHCD) develops a 5-Year Consolidated Plan (Con Plan) outlining the City's plan to invest its resources to meet Austin's ongoing affordable housing, community development, economic development, and public services needs.

When developing the FY 2009-14 Consolidated Plan, the City's goal was to ensure a collaborative process by which the community, in partnership with the City, created a unified vision. With the feedback received, NHCD created the "Investment Plan", a new framework that highlights programs and services offered by the City and made possible through federal and local funding. The Investment Plan provides a snapshot of programs and services administered by both NHCD and the Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department and groups them in seven priority categories. Investment Plan priority categories: Homeless/Special Needs, Renter Assistance, Homebuyer Assistance, Homeowner Assistance, Housing Developer Assistance, Commercial Revitalization, and Small Business Assistance

NHCD's annual Action Plan is a strategic plan that outlines the community's needs, priorities, local and federal resources, and proposed activities for the upcoming year. The activities serve very-low, low- and moderate-income households. The annual Action Plan must show progress towards meeting the established goals in the 5-Year Consolidated Plan. In addition, NHCD submits a Consolidated Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) annually to HUD which provides an overall performance assessment based on the strategies identified in the annual Action Plan. The FY 2012-13 Action Plan serves as the City's application to HUD for entitlement grant funding: Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME), Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), and Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA).

## What is the Community Needs Assessment?

In order to receive the four entitlement grants, cities are required to develop a Citizen Participation Plan (CPP). The CPP describes efforts that will be undertaken to encourage citizens to participate in the development of its federal reports: 5-Year Con Plan, annual Action Plan, and the CAPER.

Austin's CPP requires that NHCD conduct at least two public hearings during the Action Plan's community needs assessment period. These public hearings provide an opportunity for the public to give input on community needs and priorities. Once a draft Action Plan is developed, the report is available to the public for a 30-day public comment period and during this time, two additional public hearings are held to receive input on the draft report.

In developing the City's Action Plan, community feedback has always been instrumental in setting priorities for the use of funds. As the state capital, Austin continues to grow at a rapid pace for several reasons, its thriving private sector, its high "quality of life", and its home as a thriving college is annually infused with students attending the University of Texas.

Since we've seen growth in population, we've also seen an increase in number of jobs; however, we have seen little growth in our region's wages. In addition, there is an increasing income and education gap which has created and influx of poverty in Austin.

In addition to holding public hearings, NHCD will host community discussions that will focus on key topics relating to the Investment Plan ranging from home repair/rehabilitation to maintain Austin's housing stock, to financial education & empowerment tools, to planning & developing affordable housing across Austin. For more information about these meetings and other fun ways to provide your feedback, visit [www.austintexas.gov/housing](http://www.austintexas.gov/housing).