



City of Appleton COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM



Citizen Participation Plan Amended 3/20/2013, 10/7/2015, 10/14/2020

I. PURPOSE

As a requirement of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, the City of Appleton has developed and adopted this Citizen Participation Plan (CPP) relating to the CDBG Program in compliance with section 104(a)(3) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 and Title 24 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Subtitle A, Part 91. It will be revised periodically as required to fulfill related Federal, State, and/or local funding requirements. The CPP provides for and encourages citizen participation in the development of any Consolidated Plan, any substantial amendment to the Consolidated Plan and the annual performance report.

II. PUBLIC HEARINGS/COMMENT PERIOD

Two public hearings will be held each year to provide opportunities for public participation at different stages of the CDBG program year. The hearings will be held in conjunction with regular meetings of the Community and Economic Development Committee (CEDC). Specifically, these hearings include:

(1) The *Community Development Needs Hearing* corresponds with the CDBG subrecipient application timeframe. Citizens are asked to identify housing and community development needs.

(2) The *Consolidated Annual Performance & Evaluation Report (CAPER) Hearing* corresponds with the publication of the CDBG CAPER draft, which summarizes the activities undertaken during the previous program year. Citizens are asked to view the CAPER draft on the City of Appleton CDBG web page or view a paper copy at City Hall in the Community and Economic Development Department (100 N. Appleton Street) before providing comments at this hearing.

A 15-day minimum public comment period will be held to receive comments on the CAPER draft before it is submitted to HUD. All comments or views of citizens received in writing or at public hearings shall be considered in the preparation of the CAPER. A summary of these comments or views shall be attached to the CAPER for submittal to HUD.

Per direction from HUD, provided to CDBG grant recipients on March 16, 2020, during their "National Briefing on Community Development Block Grant Support for Infectious Disease Response" – the City of Appleton will consider undertaking "virtual" public hearings (alone, or in concert with an in-person hearing) allowing questions in real time, with answers coming directly from the elected representatives to all "attendees" during times of emergencies, such as the coronavirus or COVID-19 pandemic. The City of Appleton will select a virtual hearing method or platform that will provide for accessibility for persons with disabilities and LEP to participate. The City of Appleton will document these efforts and provide descriptions to HUD in the subject documents. The Citizen Participation Plan was amended to include these new outreach procedures, recommended by HUD.

III. CONSOLIDATED PLAN PUBLIC HEARING/COMMENT PERIOD

Citizens are encouraged to participate in both a formal public hearing before the CEDC and 30 day public comment period that occur as part of the development, and before the adoption, of each five year consolidated plan for CDBG funding, in addition to other opportunities for public participation related to identifying long-term housing and community development-related strategies. Information made available will include the amount of assistance the City expects to receive, the range of activities that may be undertaken and the estimated amount that will benefit persons of low- and moderate-income. The five year consolidated plan draft will be available for review on the City of Appleton CDBG web page and at City Hall in the Community and Economic Development Department (100 N. Appleton Street). A summary describing the contents and purpose of the consolidated plan along with a list of where the consolidated plan draft may be viewed will be published to allow for reasonable opportunity to examine the contents of the proposed plan. All comments or views of citizens received in writing or at public hearings shall be considered in the preparation of the final consolidated plan. A summary of these comments or views, and a summary of any comments or views not accepted and the reasons therefor, shall be attached to the final consolidated plan.



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IV. SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENTS

A public comment period will be held when substantial amendments to the five year consolidated plan, Citizen Participation Plan or changes in use or distribution of CDBG funds are proposed/requested. Substantial amendments may include those involving:

- (1). plans to utilize funds for a priority need or goal not specified in the current consolidated plan
- (2). plans to change the use of a subrecipient’s allocation greater than 20 percent to include activities and/or projects that are not included in the subrecipient’s current agreement; i.e. change in eligible activity, purpose, scope, location or beneficiary
- (3). plans to change the method of distribution of funds to subrecipients

A 30 day public comment period, unless otherwise specified under the pertinent Federal regulation or applicable waivers to prevent the spread of infectious disease and mitigate economic impacts caused by infectious disease, will be provided before any substantial amendment to the Consolidated Plan, Citizen Participation Plan or change in use or distribution of CDBG funds is approved by CEDC and Council or implemented. Notice of the public comment period will be published in the local newspaper (the *Appleton Post Crescent*), on the City of Appleton CDBG web page and posted in a public area at City Hall two weeks prior to the start of the comment period. All comments or views of citizens received in writing shall be considered in the preparation of the substantial amendments to the Consolidated Plan, Citizen Participation Plan or change in use or distribution of CDBG funds. A summary of these comments or views, and a summary of any comments or views not accepted and the reasons therefor, shall be attached to the substantial amendment to the Consolidated Plan, Citizen Participation Plan or change in use or distribution of CDBG funds.

V. PUBLICIZING OPPORTUNITIES FOR CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Notices announcing public hearings and comment periods are published both on the City of Appleton CDBG web page and in the local newspaper (the *Appleton Post Crescent*), and are posted in a public area in City Hall approximately two weeks in advance of the hearing or start of the comment period. Meeting schedules are printed and posted in a public area at City Hall weekly.

VI. ACCESSIBILITY

All Appleton residents, especially persons of low- and moderate-income, residents of low- and moderate-income neighborhoods, persons with disabilities, persons with limited English-speaking ability and persons of racial minority, are encouraged to contribute input regarding CDBG-funded activities. No person shall be excluded from participation in the City of Appleton CDBG programs on the grounds of race, color, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, religious creed or disability. To encourage equal access in participation for persons with disabilities, all CDBG-related hearings and meetings are held at accessible sites. Furthermore, materials will be provided in accessible formats – including translation into other languages if necessary – at City Hall in the Community and Economic Development Department and on the City of Appleton CDBG web page. A translator may be requested if a significant number of non-English speaking residents are expected to participate. In addition, if a citizen is unable to attend a public hearing due to scheduling conflicts, the citizen will be asked to provide a written comment that will then be shared with the CEDC and Common Council. The adopted Consolidated Plan, Citizen Participation Plan, substantial amendments and final approved CAPER, will be available on the City of Appleton CDBG web page at all times and the public will have access to a printed copy at City Hall in the Community and Economic Development Department. Reasonable and timely access to information and records relating to the consolidated plan and use of assistance under the CDBG Program during the preceding five years will be provided to citizens, public agencies and other interested parties.

VII. OBJECTIONS TO CDBG DOCUMENTS

Citizens may provide critical input regarding the City of Appleton’s CAPER, five-year Consolidated Plan, proposed substantial amendments at any time. Critical input must include identification of unmet requirements and relevant supporting data and will be considered on the following grounds:

- (1) Stated needs and objectives are inconsistent with available and reliable data
- (2) Stated projects are inappropriate for meeting needs and approved objectives



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- (3) Consolidated plan elements do not comply with federal regulations for the CDBG Program

This critical input must be submitted in written form to: CDBG Program, C/O Community and Economic Development Department, 100 N. Appleton Street, Appleton, WI 54911. Upon receipt, the Community and Economic Development Department will present the letter stating critical input to the CEDC and the Common Council. All said written forms of critical input shall receive a written response within 15 days after the Common Council meeting at which the matter was considered.

VIII. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Where appropriate, City staff shall provide technical assistance to organizations that serve low- and moderate-income persons in developing their CDBG subrecipient applications. Furthermore, all citizens and/or local agency representatives are encouraged to contact City CDBG staff with questions about both program guidelines and general community development needs in the City of Appleton.

IX. ANTI-DISPLACEMENT

Due to the potential liability for long-term assistance and burdens placed on affected tenants, the City of Appleton will generally avoid funding CDBG projects that involve permanent residential or business displacement. In cases where displacement is absolutely necessary, relocation benefits will be paid in accord with the Uniform Relocation Act, other applicable federal regulations, and Chapter 32 of the Wisconsin State Statutes.