

Executive Summary

2015-2019 Consolidated Plan

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

1. Introduction

The Five-Year Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan meet the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requirements for consolidating the application for several grant programs into one submission. The programs include: Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnership (HOME), Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA), and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG). Pinellas County does not receive Housing Opportunities for People with HIV/AIDS (HOPWA) funds directly. These funds are set aside through the City of Tampa's allocation for Pasco, Hernando, Hillsborough, and Pinellas Counties.

The Consolidated Plan brings together the planning, application, reporting, and citizen participation components of each of the grant programs. The coordination of these processes is accomplished through a consortium of local jurisdictions referred to as the Pinellas County Consortium. The Community Development and Planning Division of the Pinellas County Planning Department is the lead agency in development, coordination, submission, and implementation of Pinellas County's 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan.

This Five-Year Consolidated Plan, which begins on October 1, 2015 and ends September 30, 2020, identifies goals, strategies and objectives for addressing priority housing, homeless, special population and community development needs. The Annual Action Plan, submitted each of the five years of the Consolidated Plan, identifies specific projects and activities to be undertaken each year to address the needs identified in the Consolidated Plan. The Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners is the entity responsible for approving the application of grant funds for various activities identified in the Consolidated and Annual Action Plans.

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

Section SP-25 of the Consolidated Plan provides an overview of the priority needs identified for the County. Section SP-45 provides an overview of the broad goals identified to address the established priority needs. The following is a summary of the goals to be undertaken:

- Preserve existing and/or produce new affordable housing for low- to moderate-income owner and renter households, including special needs populations.
- Support improvements of public facilities serving low- and moderate-income persons, including the homeless and special needs populations.
- Support operations of programs serving low- and moderate-income persons, including the homeless and special needs populations.
- Support the elimination and/or prevention of slum and blight.

- Improve Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy and Local Target Areas to create suitable living environments.
- Planning and administration of housing and community development activities.

The County plans to address all of the identified needs. However, with limited and reducing funding, it is possible that some of the goals identified in the Plan may not be met. However, the County is including them in the Consolidated Plan because they are identified community needs. Additionally, including them will allow the County to provide a Certification of Consistency with the Plan in support of applications for funding from other programs.

Allocation priorities for CDBG and ESG funds are based upon a competitive application process, whereby organizations such as County departments and non-profit agencies have the opportunity to submit proposals to fund projects that meet the goals and objectives of the HUD approved Consolidated Plan.

Objectives reflect the statutory goals of providing decent housing, creating a suitable living environment, and expanding economic opportunity; outcomes refer to the benefits to the public/program participants that were served by the program; the outcome statement connects each outcome to an overarching objective to produce a statement that can be used by HUD to develop narratives which will document results of program activities on a national level. The link between objectives, outcomes, and outcome statements is as follows:

Availability/Accessibility – applies to activities that make services, infrastructure, public services, public facilities, housing, or shelter available or accessible to low- and moderate- income people, including persons with disabilities.

Affordability – applies to activities that provide affordability in a variety of ways to low- and moderate-income people.

Sustainability – applies to activities that are aimed at improving communities or neighborhoods, helping to make them livable or viable by providing benefit to persons of low- and moderate-income or by removing or eliminating slums or blighted areas, through multiple activities or services that sustain communities or neighborhoods.

	Outcome 1:	Outcome 2:	Outcome 3:
	Availability/Accessibility	Affordability	Sustainability
Objective 1: Sustainable Living Environment	(SL-1) Availability/accessibility for the purpose of creating suitable living environments.	(SL-2) Affordability for the purpose of creating suitable living environments.	(SL-3) Sustainability for the purpose of creating suitable living environments.
Objective 2: Decent Housing	(DH-1) Availability/accessibility for the purpose of providing decent housing.	(DH-2) Affordability for the purpose of providing decent housing.	(DH-3) Sustainability for the purpose of providing decent housing.
Objective 3: Economic Opportunity	(EO-1) Availability/accessibility for the purpose of creating economic opportunities.	(EO-2) Affordability for the purpose of creating economic opportunities.	(EO-3) Sustainability for the purpose of creating economic opportunities.

Table 1 - Outcome/Objectives

3. Evaluation of past performance

The County was successful in meeting many of the objectives identified in the 2010-14 Consolidated Plan. Projects selected for funding provided for a balance addressing priority needs. CDBG, HOME, and ESG projects addressed the overall goal of developing viable communities by providing decent housing and expanding economic opportunities for low- and moderate-income persons. Program accomplishments include:

Need: Affordable Housing	
Goal	Accomplishment
75 housing units	140 units of mixed-income rental housing produced
50 housing units	147 units of mixed-income rental housing preserved
50 housing units	171 units of existing owner housing preserved
50 housing units	31 units of owner housing produced
100 households	166 households received down payment assistance
1,500 households	7,936 households received housing counseling/homeownership training
150 individuals/households	396 individuals/households received rental assistance

Although the County was successful meeting many of the identified housing goals, the County did experience a reduction in eligible applicants for homeowner preservation, production and homeownership programs due to the previous downturn in the economy.

Need: Homeless	
Goal	Accomplishment
5 facilities	1 homeless facility received operation funding
10 facilities	4 emergency/transitional housing facilities improved/produced
10 facilities	3 homeless facilities received operation funding

Several homeless goals identified above were met and additional goals were not funded as a result of regulatory changes that replaced the Emergency Shelter Grant with the Emergency Solutions Grant. The focus of ESG funding changed from addressing emergency/transitional shelter needs to assisting people to quickly regain stability in permanent housing after experiencing a housing crisis and/or homelessness. Activities creating new emergency shelters and additional beds were unfunded due to homeless service providers being unable to fund ongoing operations as a result of reduced charitable contributions due to the economic recession.

Need: Special Needs	
Goals	Accomplishment
2 facilities	1 special needs facility expanded/produced
2 facilities	9 special needs facilities improved
150 households	86 elderly households received services ensuring continued independent living
30 housing units	75 units of supportive housing preserved/produced

Need: Community Development	
Goal	Accomplishment
10 facilities	10 public facilities received operation funding
5 activities/10 housing units	8 streetscape activities/2 units demolished to remove slum/blight
6 facilities	20 public facilities received improved/produced
10 campaigns	3 neighborhood cleanup/beautification campaigns
10,000 people	23,650 people benefitted from physical neighborhood improvements

Over the four year period, a few projects identified for funding were cancelled including Demolition and Clearance (no applications received), Lealman Land Acquisition for Stormwater Drainage (unable to successfully acquire all necessary properties), Housing Preservation and Homeownership Opportunities (activities funded using State funds).

HUD's review of performance for the Plan, consistently found that the Consortium substantially carried out the CDBG, HOME and ESG Programs as described in the Pinellas County Consortium's Consolidated and Action Plan submissions. The Consortium successfully leveraged funds with various other resources to meet the needs identified. Past program performance helped the County choose new goals and objectives for the upcoming Plan. Public facility/infrastructure improvements, public services, and housing activities have historically been successful and will continue to be funded.

4. Summary of citizen participation process and consultation process

Pinellas County's Citizen Participation Plan incorporates the goals, policies and implementation strategies that the County will undertake to encourage and ensure adequate citizen participation in the development of the Consolidated Plan, the Annual Action Plans, any substantial Plan amendments and required performance reports.

The Pinellas County Citizen Participation Plan (CPP) requires that public meetings be held to obtain citizen comments, that a public period of not less than 30 days is allowed for citizen comment, and that timely responses to citizen inquiries is provided. No less than 30 days prior to the adoption of a Consolidated/Action Plan, information will be made available to citizens, public agencies, and other interested parties. This information must include the amount of expected assistance to be received, the range of activities that may be undertaken, the proposed benefit to extremely low- and low-income persons, and plan to minimize the displacement of persons and provide assistance to any persons displaced. The Citizen Participation Plan provides a means of involving the citizens of Pinellas County in an advisory capacity in all phases of HUD programs.

The current CPP was approved by the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners on July 26, 2005. Pinellas County's Planning Department is responsible for the preparation and implementation of the Consortium's Consolidated Strategic Plan and specific goals identified in the Annual Action Plan. The Plan was developed in consultation with a wide range of public and private entities, including governmental and non-profit organizations that are knowledgeable regarding the needs of the low- and moderate-income residents of the Consortium and the County as a whole.

This process included holding public hearings early in the planning process to identify and prioritize the needs of Pinellas County over the next five years. Pinellas County conducted a public hearing on January 29, 2015, to solicit input on the priorities and needs of Pinellas County to include in the Annual Action Plan. The public hearing also served as an opportunity for the County to provide an overview of existing programs and to summarize the County's accomplishments in meeting identified goals over the past year.

5. Summary of public comments

On January 29, 2015, the County held a public meeting to report on the past performance of Community Development programs and to seek input on the future focus priority needs over the next year. Comments received during the public meeting are attached.

The draft Consolidated and Annual Action Plans were made available for viewing and public comment on April 3, 2015 and ended May 2, 2015. The notice of availability for viewing was advertised in the Tampa Bay Times on April 3, 2014 and in The Weekly Challenger. Additionally, the notice was published on the Pinellas County Community Development and Planning Division website, released as a County press release, ran on the electronic bulletin board on the County's local government television station and distributed to the City of Largo's Community Development Department.

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

No comments were received that were not accepted.

7. Summary

Over the course of the five years covered by the Consolidated Plan, Pinellas County will hold public meetings annually. The meetings will be held to obtain public input on changing needs and to receive comment on the activities selected each year to address the needs and meet the identified goals and objectives.