

EUGENE CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY



Eugene-Springfield 2020 Consolidated Plan

Meeting Date: November 13, 2019
Department: Planning and Development
www.eugene-or.gov

Agenda Item Number: 1
Staff Contact: Stephanie Jennings
Contact Telephone Number: 541-682-5529

ISSUE STATEMENT

The Eugene-Springfield Consolidated Plan provides an assessment of local housing, homelessness, and community development needs and establishes a five-year strategic plan for use of federal funds received from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Completion and adoption of the Consolidated Plan is necessary in order to receive Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME), and other HUD funds. At this work session, staff will provide an overview of the HOME and CDBG programs, review progress achieved under the 2015 Consolidated Plan, and discuss the process for development of the 2020 Consolidated Plan.

BACKGROUND

The Eugene-Springfield 2020 Consolidated Plan will present an assessment of local housing, homelessness, and community development needs and establish goals and priorities for use of HUD funds to address those needs. Eugene and Springfield must complete, adopt, and submit a new five-year Consolidated Plan to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) by May 15, 2020. The period covered by the next Consolidated Plan will commence on July 1, 2020 and end on June 30, 2025. Completion of the Consolidated Plan is a prerequisite for receiving CDBG, HOME, and other HUD grants. CDBG and HOME must be used to advance the following statutory objectives principally for low-income and moderate-income residents:

- Provide decent, safe, and affordable housing (CDBG and HOME)
- Create suitable living environments (CDBG)
- Expand economic opportunities (CDBG)

The Cities of Eugene and Springfield are both designated as entitlement jurisdictions within the CDBG program. This means each jurisdiction meets the minimum population threshold to receive direct annual allocation of CDBG funds from HUD. The minimum population threshold is higher for the HOME program so only Eugene is eligible to receive a direct allocation of HOME funds from HUD. In 1992, Eugene and Springfield formed a HOME Consortium to provide local access to HOME funds for housing activities in Springfield. Eugene is the lead entity in the HOME Consortium and is responsible for the oversight and administration of HOME funds in the entire Consortium area.

Since the formation of the HOME Consortium in 1992, Eugene and Springfield have jointly developed the Eugene-Springfield Consolidated Plan every five years. This collaboration has allowed for consideration of needs for the metropolitan area as a whole, development of a shared goals and

strategies, and more efficient use of limited resources for plan development and reporting. In addition, the Cities of Eugene and Springfield must complete and submit a One Year Action Plan (Action Plan) for each fiscal year within the five-year period. The Action Plan describes the Cities' annual allocation process and uses of HOME and CDBG funds allocated by Congress during a specific fiscal year. The next Action Plan will be completed and submitted to HUD along with the new Consolidated Plan. Lastly, the jurisdictions also jointly develop a Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER) to report on outcomes and progress achieved for each year. Attachment A provides a visual diagram of the required planning and reporting components.

Overview of the 2015 Consolidated Plan

The Eugene-Springfield 2015 Consolidated Plan provides a foundation for development of the next Plan. Goals and strategies are organized into an Affordable Housing Strategic Plan and a Community Development Strategic Plan in accordance with HUD requirements. Selected goals must address identified community needs but also must be feasible to implement within the complex regulatory requirements of the HOME and CDBG programs. As a part of this work session, staff will review progress to date under the current Affordable Housing and Community Development Strategic Plans as well as related trends and issues. A summary of the goals, objectives and strategies are provided below. The 2015 Consolidated Plan is available at www.eugene-or.gov/hudconplan. Annual Action Plan and Performance Reports are also available at the provided link.

Affordable Housing Strategic Plan - Affordable housing goals, objectives, strategies, and outcomes are intended to address HUD program objectives to provide decent, safe, and affordable housing. Both HOME and CDBG funds may be used to support affordable housing goals. Four affordable housing goals were included in the 2015 Consolidated Plan:

- Increase the supply of affordable housing
- Rehabilitate existing housing affordable to low-income persons
- Provide down payment assistance for homeownership
- Remove barriers to affordable and supportive housing

Community Development Strategic Plan - Community development goals, objectives, strategies, and outcomes are intended to address multiple statutory objectives by providing human services; promoting economic opportunities; and improving low-income neighborhoods. Only CDBG funds may be used to support community development goals. Three community development goals were included in the 2015 Consolidated Plan:

- Support a human services delivery system to address the needs of homeless persons and special needs populations
- Promote economic development and employment opportunities through the creation of jobs and business development
- Make strategic investments to improve low-income neighborhoods and other areas of slums and blight

Developing the Next Consolidated Plan

HUD has provided extensive guidance on the required elements of the Consolidated Plan as well as the process for developing the Plan. Required elements of the next Consolidated Plan must include:

- Evaluation of outcomes and results achieved under the previous Consolidated Plan
- Assessment of Needs, Housing Market, and Community Conditions
- Development and Prioritization of Goals, Objectives, and Strategies
- Establishment of an Annual Allocation Process and Performance Metrics

The process for developing the Consolidated Plan requires consultation with a wide range of stakeholders as well outreach to targeted populations. Engagement is strongly encouraged at both the needs assessment stage and also at the strategy development and prioritization stage. Staff is currently developing a consultation and public participation strategy for the Consolidated Plan. Eugene has retained the services of The Cloudburst Group, which is a consulting firm with expertise in the development of local affordable housing and community development strategies through Consolidated Plan processes. A diagram of the Consolidated Plan development process is provided in Attachment B.

Development and adoption of a new Fair Housing Plan is a required component of the Consolidated Plan. Eugene and Springfield will separately conduct an “analysis of impediments” to fair housing choice and develop strategies to address identified impediments in the respective jurisdictions. Impediments to fair housing choice are defined as any actions, omissions, or decisions taken because of race, color, religion, sex, disability, familial status, or national origin that have an effect of restricting housing choice or the availability of housing choice. The analysis must also include a review of the entitlement community’s laws, regulations, administrative procedures and practices. It assesses how laws affect the location, availability and accessibility of housing while considering conditions, both public and private, affecting fair housing choice for all protected classes within the jurisdiction.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTIONS

[April 15, 2015 City Council Meeting, 2015 Eugene-Springfield Consolidated Plan Adopted](#)

COUNCIL OPTIONS

Information only.

CITY MANAGER’S RECOMMENDATION

No recommendation provided at this time.

SUGGESTED MOTION

No motion required at this time.

ATTACHMENTS

- A. HUD Required Plans and Reports Diagram
- B. Consolidated Plan Development Process Diagram

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Staff Contact: Stephanie Jennings, Grants Manager
Telephone: (541)682-5529
Staff E-Mail: sjennings@eugene-or.gov