Council Meeting Date: November 10, 2020

Subject: Authorization to submit the 5 Year Consolidated Plan for Fiscal Years 20/21 through 24/25 to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Staff Resource(s): Sam Powers, Community and Economic Development Director
Paul D'Angelo, Community Development Program Director

Action Requested: Authorization for the City Manager to submit the 5 Year Consolidated Plan for Fiscal Years 20/21 - 24/25, which includes the 20-21 Annual Action Plan for Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) and the HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) programs, to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and to sign all documents necessary to implement the plan.

Background:

- The Consolidated Plan (Con Plan) is designed to help states and local jurisdictions to assess their affordable housing and community development needs and market conditions, and to make data-driven, place-based investment decisions.
- The consolidated planning process serves as the framework for a community-wide dialogue to identify housing and community development priorities that align and focus funding from the CPD formula block grant programs:
    - Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program
    - HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) Program
- Every five years, the Community Development Division must prepare and submit to HUD a Consolidated Plan that details our priorities, strategies and performance targets for the region, including Buncombe, Henderson, Transylvania & Madison Counties.
- The Consolidated Plan is carried out through Annual Action Plans, which provide a concise summary of the actions, activities, and the specific federal and non-federal resources that will be used each year to address the priority needs and specific goals identified by the Consolidated Plan.
- Grantees report on accomplishments and progress toward Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan goals in the Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER).
- For the market conditions and Housing Needs Assessment (HNA), the City of Asheville partnered with Bowen National Research to produce the Asheville, North Carolina Region Housing Needs Assessment.
- For the 5 Year Consolidated Plan, the City of Asheville partnered with the Land of Sky Regional Council of Governments (LOSRC).
- The City of Asheville is the Entitlement Community for the CDBG Funding and the Participating Jurisdiction for the HOME Funding.

Outreach:

- Staff conducted outreach at 9 community events and meetings and held 7 focus group meetings bringing together housing advocates, developers and administrators from the public, private and non-profit sectors in each of the four Consortium counties.
- In addition, two evening public meetings were held at the Stephens Lee Community Center, and the Housing Needs Assessment was presented in a public meeting.
- In total, 258 people participated in the focus groups and public meetings.
- Additional public input was solicited through an online survey.
- The survey was available on the City of Asheville's Open City Hall platform, which automatically translates the survey into over 100 languages.

- A participation link was emailed to focus group invitees, past grant recipients, community stakeholders, and local governments and area agencies were asked to distribute the link to their contacts.
- A link to the survey was also published in the News section on the City of Asheville's website, and on the Community & Economic Development webpage.
- Availability of the survey was also publicized through the regional newspaper and through social media.
- Paper copies of the survey, in English and in Spanish, were available at each public meeting, and were distributed to under-represented community organizations.
- Over 300 responses were received and tabulated.
- The Draft Con Plan was widely distributed in October and November of 2020.
- It was posted on the City and LOSRC's website, and its availability was noticed through email to all who attended the focus group and public forum events, those who were invited but could not attend, and to the general public through newspaper and social media notices.
- The major objective of the citizen participation process has been to ensure that the diverse needs of the region have been heard, and that the broadest range of strategic responses to those needs have been explored.

Housing & Community Development Priorities from Community & Stakeholder Outreach

1. New Rental for Households at or below 60% Area Median Income (AMI)
2. Special Needs Housing
3. Promote Homeownership for Low-Income Households
4. Target Low-Wealth Neighborhoods for Improvement
5. Preserve Existing Housing
6. Coordinate Housing Development with Transportation
7. Create Sustainable Jobs for Low-Income Persons
8. Job Training & Placement
9. Start-up and Growth of Small and Micro-Businesses
10. Support Services necessary for Employment
11. Improve Food Security, Healthy Food Availability
12. Develop Multi-Modal Transportation
13. Develop and Improve Community Centers
14. Services that Support Affordable Housing & Jobs
15. End Homelessness
16. Housing Services for Persons with Special Needs
17. Youth Services

Council Goal(s):
- A Diverse Community
- Quality Affordable Housing
- Thriving Local Economy

Committee(s):
- Asheville Regional Housing Consortium Board - November 2, 2020 - Approval

Pro(s):
- Approval of the 5 Year Consolidated Plan paves the way for HUD funding to be utilized by partners in the City of Asheville and the region, with funds to be used to create affordable housing, jobs and impact in our moderate and lower income communities.

Con(s):
- None

Fiscal Impact:

- The 5 Year Consolidated Plan includes the 20/21 Annual Action Plan which is fully funded from federal CDBG & HOME entitlement grants, unused funds from previously completed projects, and estimated program income.
- Staff costs to administer the program are also fully paid from federal sources.
- 1The funded programs will provide new construction and other economic activity in the City and the region, creating and sustaining employment and impacting moderate and low income communities.

Suggested Motion:

- Move to adopt the resolution authorizing submission of the City's 5 Year Consolidated Plan, which includes the Annual Action Plan for CDBG and the HOME programs, to HUD and to sign all documents necessary to implement the plan.

Attachment(s)

- Draft 5 Year Consolidated Plan
- Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. 20-____

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF THE CITY'S 5 YEAR CONSOLIDATED PLAN FOR FISCAL YEARS 2020-2021 THROUGH 2024/2025 TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO SIGN ALL DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THE CONSOLIDATED PLAN

WHEREAS, the City of Asheville is an Entitlement City for the federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program and is the Lead Entity on behalf of the Asheville Regional Housing Consortium (ARHC) for the federal Home Investment Partnerships Program (HOME); and

WHEREAS, the City has prepared a Consolidated Strategic Housing and Community Development Plan to provide a five-year framework of priorities and targets for the CDBG and HOME programs for 2020-2025; and

WHEREAS, every five years the City must submit to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) a Consolidated Strategic Housing and Community Development Plan detailing its proposed use of CDBG and HOME funds; and

WHEREAS, each year, the City must submit to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) an Annual Action Plan detailing its proposed use of CDBG and HOME funds for the upcoming fiscal year and this year, the Annual Action Plan is a part of the 5 Year Consolidated Plan; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing has been held on November 10, 2020, to obtain citizen input and comments on the draft plan, and the draft plan has been made available to the public;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE THAT:

1. City Council approves the submission to HUD of the 5 Year Consolidated Plan, which also includes the Annual Action Plan for 2020-21.
2. City Council authorizes the City Manager to sign all contracts and grant and loan agreements, after approval by the City attorney, with HUD and other designated agencies for the implementation of the 5 Year Consolidated Plan.

Read, approved and adopted this 8th day of December, 2020.

_____ _____

City Clerk Mayor

Approved as to form:

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City Attorney