



Executive Summary

ES-05 Executive Summary - 24 CFR 91.200(c), 91.220(b)

1. Introduction

This document contains the Consolidated Plan for the City of Aurora, covering the five-year period of January 1, 2020 – December 31, 2024. The Consolidated Plan is an analysis of data and market conditions as well as an overview of existing policies and funding delivery to assist states and local jurisdictions to regularly assess the greatest housing and community development needs. The process involves thorough data analysis followed by citizen and stakeholder participation to provide input, to review, and to comment on the data and projected uses of the federal funding received. It also allows Aurora to make affordable housing and economic development decisions.

In addition to the Plan, the City is required to complete two reports on an annual basis. The first report is the Annual Action Plan, which specifies project and program information about how the funds are intended to be used to meet the priority needs identified in the Consolidated Plan. At the end of the City's year, the City is required to submit its second report, the Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) which details how the City spent its federal funds and whether or not the City met the goals set forth in the Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan during that year.

2. Summary of the objectives and outcomes identified in the Plan Needs Assessment Overview

Based on data from quantitative and qualitative analysis, the City has identified the following five priority needs: 1) Affordable Housing; 2) Homelessness Prevention; 3) Neighborhood Revitalization that incorporates community improvements, infrastructure, economic development in addition to affordable

housing Investments that Affirmatively Further Fair Housing Choice; 4) Capacity Building, and 5) Sustainability.

The City of Aurora is required to use HUD's Performance Outcome Measurement System which enables HUD to collect and aggregate standardized performance data on entitlement funded activities from all grantees nationwide. This information is presented to Congress on the effectiveness of formula entitlement programs in meeting HUD's strategic objectives. Aurora is required by federal law to use housing and community development grant funds primarily to benefit low and moderate-income persons in accordance with the following HUD objectives:

- Provide decent housing: Activities focus on housing programs where the purpose of the activity meets individual, family, or community needs and not programs where housing is an element of a larger community revitalization effort;
- Establish and maintain a suitable living environment: Activities designed to benefit families, individuals, and communities by addressing their living environment; and
- Create Economic Opportunities: Activities related to economic development, commercial revitalization, or job creation.

These objectives are combined with three performance outcome categories:

- Accessibility/Availability: Activities that make services, infrastructure, public services, public facilities, housing, shelter availability and accessibility to low and moderate-income people, including persons with disabilities.
- Affordability: Activities that provide affordability in a variety of ways in the lives of low and moderate-income people. It can include the creation or maintenance of affordable housing for both rental and homeownership and investment in infrastructure.
- Sustainability: Projects where the activity is aimed at improving communities or neighborhoods, increasing their livability by providing benefit to persons of low and moderate-income through multiple activities or services that sustain communities or neighborhoods.

Goals

1. Expand the Affordable Housing Stock (Affordability for the purpose of providing decent housing).
2. Strengthen Homeownership among Low- and Moderate-Income Households (Affordability for the purpose of providing decent housing).
3. Ensure the Housing Stock is Safe, Healthy, and Accessible for all residents (Accessibility for the purpose of creating a suitable living environment).
4. Public Service Assistance Including the Prevention and Reduction of Homelessness (Accessibility for the purpose of providing a suitable living environment).
5. Foster Small and Local Business Development (Sustainability for the purpose of creating economic activity).

6. Address Blighted Property Issues (Sustainability for the purpose of creating a suitable living environment).
7. Enhance and Improve Access to the Number of Community Amenities in Low- and Moderate-Income Communities (Accessibility for the purpose of creating a suitable living environment).
8. Promote Energy-Efficiency and Sustainable Investment in Low- and Moderate-Income Communities (Sustainability for the purpose of providing decent affordable housing).

3. Evaluation of past performance

Over the next 5 years, the Community Development Division (CDD) hopes to improve on a variety of issues to increase efficiency and utilize federal funds in an efficient and timely matter. The CDD would like to increase the pipeline of projects to spend funds in a timely fashion. The goal is to have several shovel-ready projects, should additional funds be received or become available. This will reduce the City's CDBG timeliness ratio and prevent the loss of HOME funding due to inactivity.

The City would also like to increase the number of agencies and city departments that have the capacity to apply for and receive CDBG and HOME funds. There are numerous non-profit agencies that qualify based on their services and clientele, but need to increase their reporting and recordkeeping practices and learn about the additional requirements of federal funding.

Lastly, the City would like to explore partnering with non-profit agencies to create a tenant based rental assistance program (TBRA) to increase affordable housing options throughout the City. The program could partner with agencies to also create job opportunities with the goal of clients becoming self-sufficient in under 2 years after housing has been provided.

The City will also continue to review its community development trends and needs on an ongoing basis and make amendments to the Plan as required over the next 5 years.

4. Summary of citizen participation process and consultation process

The City of Aurora conducted a thorough, multi-layered public engagement and consultation process that included the following:

- A review of 8 existing City of Aurora/Regional plans or reports;
- Consultation with nearly 40 stakeholders and interested residents at 6 different focus groups; stakeholders included representatives from service providers, affordable housing developers, and the business community;
- Public meetings, including a public hearing, an open forum, and administered an online survey, available in both English and Spanish;
- A joint focus group with the City and the Kane County Continuum of Care to discuss ways in which to address homelessness in the Consolidated Plan; and
- Interviews and/or consultation with 8 different government agencies, including the Aurora Housing Authority.

A more detailed Summary of the Citizen Participation and Consultation Process is located in sections PR-10 Consultation and PR-15 Citizen Participation.

5. Summary of public comments

The wide range of perspectives in the public participation process pointed to the need for flexibility of the use of funds to address Aurora's affordable housing gap, de-concentrate poverty, and provide neighborhood-based amenities in underserved communities. A more detailed summary of public comments is provided in the Citizen Participation Outreach Table in PR-15 – Citizen Participation.

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

All comments received were incorporated into the plan.

7. Summary

This document serves as the application to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the following federal resources:

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program is Aurora's most flexible funding resource and can be used for housing and non-housing activities, including those that revitalize neighborhoods, promote economic development, improve community facilities/infrastructure, and provide public services, all of which must benefit the City's low and moderate income residents. The CDD anticipates receiving approximately \$1.5 million each year.

The HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) program supports building, acquiring, and/or rehabilitating affordable housing for rent, homeownership, or provides direct rental assistance to low-income residents. CDD anticipates receiving approximately \$688,000 each year.

The Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) program provides permanent supportive housing assistance for residents who are experiencing a housing crisis and/or homelessness. Similar to CDBG and HOME, the City's ESG funding receipt is based upon a HUD specific formula together with the City's ability to meet HUD's minimum funding threshold eligibility requirements. Aside from 2018, the City has not received ESG funds. However, in anticipation of the upcoming 2020 Census together with other unanticipated data changes, the City is also including ESG in this Plan. Due to its ESG funding history, the City is unable to forecast specific allocations for the next five years. Should the City receive funding, however, the City will amend its Plan accordingly.

The City anticipates level funding throughout implementation of the Plan. The total funding anticipated over the next 5 years is approximately \$11.1 million, though this number may change pending annual appropriations and program income (i.e. repayment of loans).

Listed below is the funding the City anticipates receiving from HUD for each of the entitlement programs in Program Years 2020-2024.

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Total
CDBG	\$1,550,613	\$1,550,613	\$1,550,613	\$1,550,613	\$1,550,613	\$7,753,065

HOME	\$688,020	\$688,020	\$688,020	\$688,020	\$688,020	\$3,440,100
ESG	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$2,238,633	\$2,238,633	\$2,238,633	\$2,238,633	\$2,238,633	\$11,193,165