

## **Executive Summary**

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

#### **1. Introduction**

The city of Boise (City) is submitting its 2016-2020 Five-Year Consolidated Plan (Plan). The Plan has been prepared according to HUD requirements. The Plan will govern the City's investment of federal funds for persons experiencing homelessness, housing, and non-housing community development activities for the next five-year period. This plan will be updated annually through preparation of the Annual Action Plan.

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

High priority needs identified in the City's Plan include both housing and non-housing community development activities. Populations to serve with activities include those experiencing homelessness, those earning less than 80% of area median income and special needs. In order to determine priority needs, the City has developed, managed, and integrated a comprehensive citizen participation process. This process solicited community input for the purpose of examining and obtaining local data on the scope of those needs. The Housing Needs Analysis (2015) provided data and recommendations for community actions to address affordable housing needs. These findings have been assimilated into both the Needs Analysis and Market Assessment sections of the Plan.

#### **3. Evaluation of past performance**

Over the past five-years, the City has collaborated and partnered with local agencies to provide programs that directly support those who are less than 80% of area median income. Each year, the City and its partners have surpassed the beneficiaries served by Public Services. This has demonstrated the high need for vital direct services that agencies provide. The climate for building new affordable rental housing was difficult as the nation recovered from the housing crisis. As the previous five-year plan comes to a close, it is a time of new collaboration to address the lack of supply for affordable rental housing. An additional outcome of the housing crisis was the lack of equity in owner-occupied housing units. This led to a reduction of home improvement loans originated. Low interest rates have resulted in the borrowers not utilizing the City's downpayment assistance loan program. However, market studies show that with increasing sales on single family housing units, those who earn less than 80% of area median income will find it difficult to purchase in Boise. Thus, being flexible and exploring different downpayment programs will be a high need. A final success over the last five years is a City initiative that strategically aligns resources for improving neighborhood livability. The first neighborhood, has afforded the City to invest in "area benefit" activities.

#### **4. Summary of citizen participation process and consultation process**

Citizen and stakeholder participation is a critical process in the development of the Plan and are a priority for the City. The City's Housing and Community Development (HCD) Division engaged in meaningful public participation during the planning process. This included broad consultation with public and private agencies that provide programs, outreach, or services to those that are under 80% of less of area median income. Some of these public and private agencies represented: affordable/subsidized housing providers; homelessness prevention and intervention efforts; and health and public/human services.

Input from a broad range of citizens and advocacy groups were collected during the development of the Plan. The public was encouraged to participate through multiple modes, including a community questionnaire (hard copy and electronic), public hearings (2), public meetings (2), and receipt of written comments regarding the Plan. This process concluded with the final public hearing for Mayor and City Council to adopt the plan. HCD used: legal notices, website updates, email outreach, the Boise City/Ada County Continuum of Care, CDBG Public Service subrecipients, and other communication methods. These varied and wide-reaching methods provided notification of public opportunities to participate in the development process. Input from citizens was used to determine the priority needs and five-year goals to meet these needs.

#### **5. Summary of public comments**

The City received many public comments about the Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan, at public meetings and through written submissions either before or during the public comment period. A summary of comments, whether the comment was accepted or rejected, and why a comment was rejected is included as an attachment to this plan.

Most comments were related to the new IDIS Consolidated Plan format/layout and frustration in reading through the documents. A few constituents requested a longer public review period than HUD requires or re-written and re-formatted documents.

The Homeless Coalition and members of this coalition provided oral and written comments expressing frustration that funding was going to serve populations other than homeless persons. The group was active in public meetings when gathering input for the Five-Year Plan. Their comments were used along with other data to create the final Five-Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan. While members felt that the two plans were inconsistent; the Annual Action Plan is a one-year plan for expenditures and is based on current capacity, project pipeline, and needs. Annual Action Plan projects were chosen that meet Priority Needs identified in the Five-Consolidated Plan.

Comments were also received about responses to specific IDIS template questions. These comments are

included in the Appendix. The City considered these comments and additional suggested edits or narrative changes as a final Five-Consolidated Plan was completed.

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

The Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan must follow the HUD document format. Each draft document followed the required format. Draft documents also included additional information, data, and analysis beyond the minimum requirements from HUD. Requests to re-format the document were not accepted on the basis that HUD requires grantees to follow the IDIS format when writing the Five-Year Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan. Requests to extend the public comment period or to re-write the document and re-post a new draft document were also not accepted for this reason. This would ensure that final documents are submitted to HUD in a timely fashion. Citizens were provided adequate time (43 days) to submit written comments that were considered when producing the final Five-Year Consolidated Plan.

The Homeless Coalition and members of the Coalition requested that HUD funds be targeted to homeless assistance. The request to only fund homeless assistance is not accepted. The City must use HUD funding to provide housing and services to a variety of populations. Housing and services selected address priority needs identified in the Five-Year Consolidated Plan. The City has set Goals that address homelessness, including:

- Address Needs of Chronically Homeless Households
- Supportive Services and Outreach

These goals are meant to meet the following Priority Needs:

- Address Needs of Chronically Homeless Households
- Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-housing

Additionally, the city of Boise (City) is the supportive agency for the Boise City/Ada County Continuum of Care (CoC) that receives McKinney-Vento funds that are focused on homelessness. This plan complements and aligns priorities with CoC strategies.

A comment was made that consultations did not include key informants who could speak to the needs of homeless persons. Key Informant Interviews were conducted with many agencies and service providers, including providers who work with homeless individuals and households, therefore this comment is not accepted.

Comments were made that public meetings held to gather input on needs did not allow for true input. At public meetings, data and survey results were presented in a consistent manner that allowed public input. Other input from these meetings, public hearings and written comments were considered when creating draft Five-Year Consolidated and Annual Action Plans; and the final Five-Year Consolidated and Annual Action Plans. Therefore, this comment is not accepted.

A comment was submitted that because the City hired consultants who facilitated public sessions, the plan was not developed by local people. This comment is not accepted. The plan has been developed by the City with assistance from a contractor and considering input, data and insights from a wide range of local organizations and individuals.

## **7. Summary**

The Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan were created using many sources of data, extensive interviews with key informants and many means of public participation.