

Notes

HUD Consolidated Plan Advisory Board

May 11, 2023

3:00 PM – 4:00 PM

by virtual Teams Meeting

Board members:

Virtual: Bill Colvin (Bennington County Regional Commission), Ari Kisler (OEO/DPT Children), Megan Roush (VHFA), Sarah Phillips (OEO), Rachel Batterson (VT Legal Aid), Sandrine Kibuey (Director housing advocacy, CVOEO), Ron Rupp (VHCB), Joanne Troiano (VT Association of Public Housing Directors), Adam Grinold (Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation), Mary Ann Goulet (Town Manager, West Rutland), Martin Hahn (VT Coalition to End Homelessness)

DHCD Staff: Arthur Hamlin (Housing Program Coordinator), Nathan Cleveland (VCDP), Maxwell Krieger (DHCD General Counsel)

1) Introductions

Arthur opened the meeting at 3:05 p.m. Arthur previously sent the written comments to the Advisory board and explained the purpose of the meeting was to review these comments and allow the Advisory Board to provide feedback to Program Staff and to review proposed changes by each funding program.

CDBG proposes to increase Access Modification Grants (AM) up to \$600,000 for CDBG, increase total Scattered Site (SS) homeowner rehab RLF set-aside from 25% to 35%. HUD also has Recovery Housing Program (RHP) through a separate action plan, potential for up to \$500,000 to support RHP projects with regular CDBG funding.

2) Advisory Board input

Rachel expressed concern with how this action plan update coincides with the next 5-year period that begins in 2025. Arthur – this is the third year of the current 5-year plan. A new statewide housing needs assessment will be started in the next year. An analysis of impediments to fair housing is also in the works for next year pending guidance from HUD. Rachel mentioned concerns with the scope of the changes being proposed as part of the action plan update. Specifically, if the farmworker needs can be added now.

Martin asked where we are in the process with public comments?

Arthur – the plan is due to HUD May 17, 2023; the 30-day written comment period ended May 3, 2023.

Martin; CDBG priorities; where are they found in the plan? Arthur – easier to find details in the 5-year plan. Question on the goal for CDBG for housing units to serve homelessness. Arthur explained how that is broken out as part of the total housing units that are identified as a goal.

Rachel: how would increasing priority for assisting farmworker housing impact the amount of funds to be spent on other priorities. [Applications are competitive, farm worker housing is not a higher priority than other housing projects.]

Adam Grinold; Sarah Phillips; increasing the allocation % for community projects and decreasing % for economic development projects. Adam spoke in favor of not reducing the allocation for economic development. Arthur – VCDP decided not to change this action plan. Sarah; questioned increasing CDBG targets for AM and HOC's.

Arthur explained those were staff suggestions.

Arthur explained the comments received and that they were comments in support of existing priorities, importance of Farm worker housing and the Scattered Site program. Max Krieger: draft response is these are allowed uses of funding and no proposed changes but to continue to fund as an allowed activity. Arthur clarified one change is the increase the set aside from 25-35% for CDBG funding to SS program.

Sarah expressed concerns and commented that taking additional funding to target the HOC's takes away from the ability to fund housing those that are homeless. Nathan mentioned CDBG requires housing for homeless that is temporary to be classified as transitional housing which is a public facility and falls under community programs not housing. Martin suggested that the additional 10% increase in CDBG allocation to SS be competitively awarded. Bill Colvin asked if there is data to share about demand for the funding. Nathan - data can be provided. Megan Roush – likes the idea of a competitive award. It would be helpful to provide data from CDBG. Can the HUD reported data be provided? Rachel expressed concern that the one-year action plan should not have lots of changes as not many people may have been allowed to comment. Other needs related to supporting affordability to maintain housing (mortgage assistance was noted), and that she was in support of making additional 10% competitive. Nathan mentioned that financial counseling is another activity funded at the regional HOC's.

Arthur will seek DHCD guidance with the comments from the Advisory board. The plan must be submitted to HUD next Wednesday; DHCD will get feedback to the Advisory Board ASAP.

The meeting was adjourned at 4 p.m.

3) Schedule

Feb. 10, 2023: Advisory Board and Public Hearing
Mar. 14, 2023: Finish Draft Action Plan
Mar. 17, 2023: Legal Notice; publish Draft Plan for Comment
April 3, 2023: Second Public Hearing and Advisory Board meeting
May 3, 2023: End of 30-day Comment Period
May 11, 2023: Advisory Board review of comments and feedback to program Staff
May 17, 2023: Submit Action Plan to HUD
July 1, 2023: Program Year Start

Meeting adjourned at 2:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Nathan Cleveland, VCDP

DRAFT