

HUD Consolidated Plan Advisory Board
February 14, 2022
1:30 PM

Participants / Introductions:

Jo Ann Troiano, Nathan Cleveland, Eric Schmidt, Megan Roush, Josh Hanford, Ann Kroll, Ron Rupp, Nate Lantieri, Debbie Ingram, Mary Ann Goulette, Bob Flint, Sarah Phillips, Cindy Reid, Kathleen Berk, Rachel Batterson, Martin Hahn, Sandrine Kibuey, Angus Chaney, Sarah Truckle, Ari Kisler, Arthur Hamlin.

Advisory Board Overview:

Arthur Hamlin reviewed the purpose and role of the Consolidated Plan Advisory Board and introduced Martin Hahn, Executive Director of the Vermont Coalition to End Homelessness, and Sarah Truckle, Director of Program and Strategic Operations for AHS, who have joined the Board.

Plan Overview and Review Goals

Arthur provided an overview of the Consolidated Plan and reviewed the four main priorities and goals of the Plan which are affordable housing, job creation and retention, reducing homelessness, and creating strong communities through Public Facility and Service projects, and Planning Grants, and noted that this year's Annual Action Plan update is the third year of the 5-year Plan.

Rachel Batterson asked if HUD comments about whether the State met our goals, and if we could take another look at the goals in light of the amount of funding coming to Vermont, in particular around farm worker housing. Ann Kroll answered that if CDBG misses or exceeds the goal we have to explain that. Sarah Phillips said they never give feedback on ESG.

Program Updates

Ann Kroll said the VCDP is looking at a workflow review and is considering changes including having a letter of intent, which they used to have, as well as a numerical scoring system for applications, and revising the board schedule.

Ron Rupp said the VHCB is expecting to receive approximately \$3 million for HOME and the HTF again this year for rental housing and are not proposing any changes. The HTF has a 30 year affordability requirement for extremely-low income renters. VHCB is also receiving \$9.5 million in HOME-ARPA funding which is not part of the Consolidated Plan. They hope to have applications available this spring and are looking at a May board meeting.

Sarah Phillips said OEO receives about \$700,000 of ESG funding which is small part of their \$12 million HOP program. ESG is used mainly for shelters and HMIS. HOP updates include updating the Emergency

Shelter Standards and also looking at integrating the Rapid Resolution Housing Initiative counseling program into HOP. Larger outreach will be conducted as part of the Consolidated Plan process.

Advisory Board Input

Josh Hanford said he agreed with Rachel's comments earlier about looking at the goals in light of the amount of other funding coming to the state.

Cindy Reid agreed with the comment about farm worker housing and would encourage listing as many things as we can if there's no downside to adding new goals.

Rachel Batterson would like to see a goal around racial justice and equity included in the Strong Communities goal to address NIMBY, zoning issues etc. Josh agreed that fits into Strong Communities and we should think about how to include it, maybe under planning grants.

Josh added that we need to reach more people than just the usual organizations to make sure disadvantaged communities etc. are aware of the funds. We could do a brief survey of about five questions and use social media more. Megan Roush suggested using Front Porch Forum. Rachel wondered if five questions are enough.

Sandrine Kibuey added that we could do better outreach and engagement to reach people of more diverse backgrounds and not wait for them to come to us.

Sarah Truckle said they have done a lot of engagement and translation related to COVID over the last two years and would be happy to connect with Arthur.

Nate Lantieri said matching a short survey with a small incentive can increase participation.

Legal Aid uses a fast inexpensive translation service they can provide information about. HUD also has a toolkit online.

Schedule

March 18, 2022:	Finish Draft Action Plan
March 24, 2022:	Legal Notice and Publish Draft for Comment
April 8, 2022:	Second Public Hearing and Advisory Board meeting
May 8, 2022:	End of 30-day Comment Period
May 17, 2022:	Submit Action Plan to HUD
July 1, 2022:	Program Year Start

Meeting adjourned at 2:45 PM