



**Item:** CDBG & HOME Grant/Consolidated Plan Community Needs Public Hearing

**From:** Planning and Community Development Department

**Initiated By:** Jolene Wetterau, CDBG/HOME Administrator, Planning & Community Development

**Presented By:** Craig Raymond, Director, Planning & Community Development

**Action Requested:** Set Needs Public Hearing for December 15, 2015

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**Suggested Motion:**

1. Commissioner moves:

“I move that the City Commission (set/not set) a public hearing for December 15, 2015 to receive public comment on the needs within the community related to use of CDBG and HOME funds”

2. Mayor requests a second to the motion, Commission discussion, public comment, and calls for the vote.

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**Staff Recommendation:** Staff recommends the City Commission set December 15, 2015, as the public hearing date for citizen comments regarding needs of the community that may be addressed with Community Development Block Grant and HOME grant funds.

**Summary:** Setting the date for the annual Needs Public Hearing held to receive public comment is required per the City’s Citizen Participation Plan submitted with the City’s Five Year Consolidated Plan to HUD.

**Background:** CDBG and HOME programs are federal programs administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to help fund local community development programs including affordable housing, public service, economic development and public infrastructure projects. The primary goal of these programs is to assist low and moderate income (LMI) persons in their respective communities. State and local governments receive funding from HUD based on a formula derived from population and housing statistics.

Citizen Participation

The Citizen Participation Plan, which is required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, dictates that the City hold a public hearing to receive citizen input regarding the issues and needs of the community.

Purpose

Public input helps identify Federal and State HUD grant funding opportunities in the community.

Evaluation and Selection Process

The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development requires public input, especially input from lower income citizens and the agencies representing them, on issues and needs of the community. The Commission will be asked to give consideration to citizen comments received during this public hearing when determining funding priorities for the Community Development Block Grant Program and the HOME Grant Program.

Conclusion

The public hearing provides citizens an important opportunity to identify before the City Commission housing and community development needs, particularly those impacting low to moderate income households in Great Falls.

**Fiscal Impact:** Conducting the public hearing is a pre-condition for the City to receive its annual allocation of HUD CDBG and HOME grant funds.

**Alternatives:** The City Commission could elect to not hold a public hearing and thereby decide to not accept CDBG and HOME funding for FY 2016-2017.

**Attachments/Exhibits:** CDBG HOME Funding Schedule 2016-2017

<b>2016 – 2017 CDBG/HOME Allocation and Annual Action Plan Schedule</b>	
City Commission appoints Community Development Council (CDC) members	N/A
Application available on City web site	Tuesday December 1, 2015
CDBG/HOME Application Workshop	Tuesday December 8, 2015
City Commission conducts “Needs” Public Hearing	Tuesday December 15, 2015
Pre-deadline review of applications	Friday December 31, 2015
Commission Work Session to set CDBG funding Priorities & Policy	Tuesday January 5, 2016
Funding application deadline (Please note it is a 5 pm deadline)	Wednesday January 13, 2016
City Commission sets CDBG funding priorities	Tuesday January 19, 2016
Community Development Council (CDC) Orientation Meeting	Wednesday January 27, 2016
CDC reviews applications and develops funding recommendations for CDBG projects.	Monday February 1, 2016 to Friday February 26, 2016
CDC presents funding recommendations for CDBG applications to the City Commission	Tuesday March 15, 2016
Staff presents funding recommendations for CDBG applications to the City Commission	Tuesday March 15, 2016
City Commission accepts project application funding recommendations for inclusion in 2016/2017 Annual Action Plan, sets the public hearing date.	Tuesday March 15, 2016
Proposed 2016/2017 Annual Action Plan completed and available for review.	Wednesday March 23, 2016
30 day comment period for proposed 2016/2017 Annual Action Plan	Wednesday March 23, 2016 to Friday April 22, 2016
Public Hearing on Proposed Annual Action Plan	Tuesday April 19, 2016
Commission approves Annual Action Plan	Tuesday May 2, 2016
ConPlan/Annual Action Plan submitted to HUD	Monday May 9, 2016

NOTE: Schedule is tentative depending on Commission meeting dates and actual meeting dates.