



**Item:** 2016/2017 HUD Annual Action Plan Public Hearing

**From:** Craig Raymond, Director, Planning and Community Development

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

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

**Action Requested:** Conduct public hearing and schedule final action on the Annual Action Plan for May 3, 2016

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**Public Hearing:**

1. Mayor conducts public hearing, opens the floor for public comment.
2. Mayor closes public hearing and asks the will of the Commission.

**Suggested Motion:**

1. Commission moves:  
  
"I move to (Schedule/not schedule) final action on the 2016/2017 Annual Action Plan for May 3, 2016."
  2. Mayor requests a second to the motion, Commission discussion, and calls for vote.
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**Staff Recommendation:**

Staff recommends the City Commission conduct the public hearing to receive citizen input regarding the proposed 2016/2017 HUD Annual Action Plan required by U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD), including the proposed use of 2016/2017 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnership (HOME) program funds and take comments heard under consideration. The City Commission will take final action during the May 3, 2016, regular meeting.

**Summary:** The City Commission is required to conduct a public hearing seeking input regarding the proposed use of funding for the 2016/2017 annual award of Community Development Block Grant funds. The public hearing allows citizens within Great Falls an opportunity to inform the Commission and to provide input to the allocation process conducted by the City.

**Background:**

CDBG and HOME programs are federal programs administered by the US 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.

In order to receive HUD funding, a jurisdiction must submit a five year Consolidated Plan that is updated annually with an Action Plan containing the proposed use of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Program (HOME) funds. On June 2, 2015, the City Commission approved the 2015-2019 HUD Consolidated Plan. The Annual Action Plan is developed taking into consideration community needs and funding priority percentages as set by the City Commission. Information regarding community needs is garnered from a HUD required annual Community Needs Hearing which was most recently held by the Commission on December 15, 2015.

**Citizen Participation:**

The proposed Annual Action Plan is being made available to the citizens of Great Falls for review and comment for a 30-day period from March 23, 2016 through April 22, 2016. The public is also encouraged to comment on the City's overall CDBG & HOME program performance and policies. A copy of the proposed Annual Action Plan is available for review in the Planning and Community Development Office, the Great Falls Public Library, the City Clerk's office and on the web at <http://www.greatfallsmt.net/planning/consolidated-plan-annual-action-plan>.

**Purpose:**

HUD requires that a public hearing be held regarding the proposed use of CDBG and HOME funds presented in the 2016/2017 Annual Action Plan for the upcoming funding year.

**Evaluation and Selection Process:**

The City Commission will be asked to give consideration to citizen comments received during this public hearing in taking final action on the Annual Action Plan. At the end of the 30-day comment period, the City Commission can accept or deny the proposed Annual Action Plan but must authorize submittal of the Annual Action Plan which HUD requires to be submitted by May 15, 2016.

**Conclusion:**

The public hearing provides citizens an important opportunity for input regarding the proposed Annual Action Plan and funding for 2016/2017 CDBG and HOME projects.

**Concurrences:**

The Community Development Council (CDC) reviewed the applications and made funding recommendations included in the proposed Annual Action Plan to the City Commission at the March 1, 2016 work session.

**Fiscal Impact:**

Conducting the Annual Action Plan public hearing is a pre-condition for the City receiving its annual allocation of HUD CDBG and HOME grant funds.

**Alternatives:**

The public hearing is required for the City to be awarded 2016/2017 CDBG and HOME funding, and for the Annual Action Plan to be accepted by HUD.

**Attachments/Exhibits:**

DRAFT - 2016/2017 Annual Action Plan – Hardcopies are available to the public at the Planning & Community Development office, the Public Library, the City Clerk's office, and online at <http://www.greatfallsmt.net/planning/consolidated-plan-annual-action-plan>.