

Executive Summary

ES-05 Executive Summary - 91.200(c), 91.220(b)

1. Introduction

The Consolidated Plan is a requirement of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) that large cities and all states must prepare in order to receive Federal monetary assistance from HUD Programs. The Plan is a comprehensive strategy developed by the community addressing the affordable housing and community development needs present within the community. Program goals are established by law and include:

- Provision of decent, affordable housing
- Achieving a suitable living environment
- Expanding economic opportunity

The Consolidated Plan will be used to implement the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and the HOME Investment Partnership (HOME). HOME funds are used in a variety of ways to stimulate the creation of affordable housing. CDBG funds may be used for a broad array of projects and activities, including:

- Housing
- Community Facilities
- Public (Works) Facilities
- Public Services
- Economic Development

All eligible projects and activities funded under CDBG and HOME must either:

- Principally benefit low and moderate income persons and families, or
- Prevent or eliminate slums and blighting influences, or
- Address urgent needs (such as disaster recovery)

At least 70% of CDBG funds must be used to benefit low and moderate income households, while all HOME funds must be used to provide housing for low and moderate income households. This benefit can be direct (as in a low-interest loan to rehabilitate an owner-occupied home, or a person participating in a job training/placement program) or it may be indirect (such as a community facility that serves a low and moderate income neighborhood. For the Longview-Kelso Consortium, the eligible census tracts include Census Tracts 1.00, 2.00, 3.00, 5.02, 6.01, 10.00, 11.00 and 12.00. All HOME funds must benefit low and moderate income households. An outline of benefit requirements is provided below.

Benefit Category	CDBG	HOME
Low/Moderate Income Households	70% (Minimum)	100% (Minimum)
Area Benefit	Low/Mod Census Tracts or Area Income Survey	
Direct Benefit	Recipient Income Eligibility Screening	

Prevent/Eliminate	30% (Maximum)	(Not Applicable)
	Areas to be designated by Council, per RCW	
Urgent Need	0 % (No Requirement)	(Not Applicable)

Table 1 - FUNDING BENEFIT REQUIREMENTS

The City of Longview 2014-2018 Consolidated Housing and Community Development Plan is designed to strategically implement federal programs which fund housing, community and economic development projects within the city. The action plan is for the first year of a five-year 2014-2018 Consolidated Plan currently being developed which proposes strategies and activities to address identified community needs. The annual action plan will describe housing, community and economic objectives and activities to be funded by the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnership (HOME) programs for the next program year.

The overall goals of the housing, community and economic development programs covered by the Consolidated Plan are:

1. **Retain and expand safe and affordable housing resources for extremely low, very low, and low-to-moderate income households.**
2. **Promote economic prosperity so that low and moderate income persons have expanded opportunities to improve their standard of living and quality of life.**
3. **Promote healthy, balanced neighborhoods through the provision of community facilities, infrastructure, public safety, affordable housing, recreational opportunities, and appropriate public services.**

Elements of the Consolidated Plan

HUD requires a Consolidated Plan to contain the following elements:

A. Housing & Homeless Needs Assessment

An assessment of the community's housing needs projected for the five-year period. The housing needs assessment will focus on affordable housing needs, public housing needs, homeless needs, lead-based paint concerns, fair housing concerns, identification of barriers to affordable housing, and community and economic development needs.

B. Housing Market Analysis

Description of the significant characteristics of the local housing market, including supply, demand and condition and cost of housing, as well as the housing stock available to serve persons with disabilities and HIV/AIDS, and their families. Areas demonstrating concentrations of racial/ethnic minorities and/or low-income families are identified.

C. Five-Year Strategic Plan

Identifies priorities for meeting housing, community and economic development needs and identifies obstacles to meeting underserved needs. The Strategic Plan outlines anticipated activities and accomplishments over a specified timeline that will accomplish the strategy, including affordable housing, homelessness, other special needs and barriers to affordable housing. Non-housing needs, priorities, and activities that will assist in meeting the overall objectives are identified.

D. Annual Action Plan

A one-year list of activities the community will undertake to address priority needs and local objectives with anticipated program income and funds received during the next program year under the HOME, CDBG, and other HUD programs for meeting housing and community development objectives.

2. Summary of the objectives and outcomes identified in the Plan

The focus of the 2014-2018 Consolidated Plan has changed from previous Consolidated Plans in several key ways:

- Targeted neighborhoods have been identified for Longview and Kelso; activities are not generally intended to apply citywide
- A focus on homeowner housing quality is the focus in Kelso
- A focus on the quality of the housing stock and rental affordability are the primary focal points in Longview
- Community Development priorities in Longview focus on streetscape improvements, including street lighting and sidewalks.

3. Evaluation of past performance

Past performance over the 2009-2014 Consolidated Plan shows a focus on expanding homeownership opportunities, provision of rental assistance to special populations, and recreational improvements to the Highlands neighborhood. For details, please refer to the City of Longview CAPER report for the progress made on the 2009-2014.

4. Summary of citizen participation process and consultation process

Agency/Community Meetings

To obtain input from the general public and from representatives of local housing, institutional, and community and economic development organizations, the City convened three focus groups and three community meetings to gather input on needs, priorities and activities to assist in meeting identified needs. Longview and Kelso City Councils each held workshops to establish general directions for the Plan. Public hearings were held before Longview and Kelso city councils to gather input on community development and housing needs. Four public hearings were held to gather input on 2014 project proposals. The recommendations from these various meetings have been incorporated into the final plan and were used in developing the Strategic Plan.

Public Hearings

HUD encourages communities to provide its citizens with ample opportunities to engage in the preparation of the Consolidated Plan and in the oversight of plan implementation. Three focus group sessions were held with community agencies and interested private entities to gather ideas on housing,

homeless and anti-poverty strategies. Two public hearings were held to gather input on community development and housing needs relevant to the Strategic Plan and the Annual Action Plan. A detailed schedule of all citizen input opportunities is outlined in the Citizen Participation Plan.

5. Summary of public comments

The three community meetings held in throughout January and February 2014 provided an opportunity for neighborhood associations and residents to provide input into the plan. In general, comments were focused on the aging community with specific references to aging in place, maintenance and improvement of housing conditions, weatherization and multi-generational housing. Other comments addressed homeless services and providing services that will connect the homeless populations with housing, employment, training, and other critical services. Comments also expressed a need for improving opportunities for home ownership and rental programs including renter responsibility training.

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

All comments provided at the community meetings were included into the plan based on their categorical concern.

7. Summary