

Agenda Report

September 27, 2021

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Housing Department

SUBJECT: PUBLIC HEARING: DRAFT CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL PERFORMANCE AND EVALUATION REPORT (2020-2021 PROGRAM YEAR) FOR PROJECTS FUNDED FROM COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT, EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT, AND HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP ACT

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that upon close of the public hearing the City Council:

- 1) Find that the recommended action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines per Section 15061(b)(3), the "common sense" provision that CEQA only applies to projects that may have a significant effect on the environment; and
- 2) Approve the submission to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, of the Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report for the 2020-2021 Program Year for projects funded under the Community Development Block Grant, Emergency Solutions Grant, and the HOME Investment Partnership Act programs.

BACKGROUND:

The City of Pasadena receives Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnership Act (HOME) and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) entitlement funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development ("HUD") on an annual basis. As a recipient of these funds the City is required to prepare and submit to HUD a Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report ("CAPER") detailing the City's accomplishments toward achieving the Five-Year Consolidated Plan goals. The CAPER for the 2020-2021 Program Year (the first program year of the 2020-2024 Five-Year Consolidated Plan) contains performance assessments for 17 projects and programs supported with CDBG, ESG and HOME funds. Project and program goals

and accomplishments are summarized in Attachment A, and the draft 2021-2022 CAPER is included in Attachment B.

The public hearing notice for the subject action and the draft 2020-2021 CAPER were posted to the Housing Department website on September 13, 2021 commencing the public review/comment period. The notice was also published in the Pasadena Journal on September 16, 2021. Staff will report on any comments received at the time of the Public Hearing.

The Housing Department performs the oversight and program administration for the funding received under the CDBG, ESG and HOME programs. An annual monitoring assessment (fiscal and programmatic) is conducted on each CDBG funded project. The monitoring review is performed in accordance with the provisions set forth in the Code of Federal Regulations which require the City, as a grantee, to make annual determinations that all sub-recipients are in compliance with the federal statutes and have the continuing capacity to administer and/or implement the project for which federal assistance has been provided. As part of the ongoing program administration, each sub-recipient is also required to provide quarterly performance reports. The results of these performance assessments are contained in the CAPER.

SUMMARY OF PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN YEAR 1:

During the 2020-2021 Program Year, 11 service projects were funded using CDBG, CDBG-CV, ESG and ESG-CV funds, serving 2,515 unduplicated persons. These projects provided programming that addresses education, homelessness, and emergency rental assistance. Through CDBG non-public service funds, three (3) projects were completed including public facility & infrastructure improvements (ADA pedestrian signal upgrades, sidewalks), single-family rehabilitation, and emergency business grants. Under the HOME program during Program Year 2020-2021, one (1) homeowner rehabilitation project was completed and another is currently in progress, to be completed in Program Year 2020-2021. ESG and ESG-CV funds were utilized to provide non-congregate shelter services at motels and street outreach services to households experiencing homelessness, as well as homelessness prevention financial assistance for households at imminent risk of homelessness.

PROGRESS TOWARDS 5-YEAR GOALS:

The CAPER includes goal accomplishments for projects that have been completed during the first-year reporting period of July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021. As shown in Attachment A, the City is tracking well in most categories. Progress in some activities have exceeded their respective five-year goals due to an influx of emergency funding to address impacts from the coronavirus pandemic. Other goals have been delayed due to the pandemic. As the economy recovers from COVID, goal accomplishments are expected to increase in all categories over the coming years.

Regarding CDBG, great progress was made towards public services and micro-enterprise assistance to address the impacts of COVID-19. Emergency rental assistance and business grant programs were also implemented to address urgent community needs. Annual accomplishment goals for housing rehabilitation and public facility improvements were impacted by the health pandemic but have since picked up in the current program year.

ESG goals are based on services provided to individuals and families experiencing or at risk of homelessness. While Homeless Rapid Rehousing had only served one participant in the 2020-2021 program year, this was expected as the program launched just before the end of the program year. At the close of the first quarter of the current 2021-2022 program year, 75% of the five-year goal has been met. Progress toward the Homeless Overnight Shelter goal is tracking low due to the temporary suspension of the congregate Bad Weather Shelter (BWS) program. In the late fall of 2020, City staff and the shelter's program operator jointly decided to suspend the program in light of a winter surge of COVID-19 cases. Congregate night-by-night shelters like BWS are not considered a best practice during the current public health emergency. Funding was shifted to non-congregate shelter (motel vouchers), which ultimately served fewer people but for longer stays than BWS would have. Progress toward the Homelessness Prevention five-year goal is tracking low due to local, state, and federal eviction moratoria which have largely protected renters from evictions proceedings.

The HOME-funded tenant-based rental assistance program launch has been delayed to assess the impact of the state's rental assistance program and the City's eviction moratorium once it is removed. With respect to the Consolidated Plan's rental rehabilitation goal of eight (8) housing units, COVID-related delays were encountered by owners of two affordable rental projects in Pasadena that expressed interest in HOME funding from the City. The owners are working with staff to submit their funding proposals in FY 2022.

COUNCIL POLICY CONSIDERATION:

This proposed action supports the City Council Strategic Planning Three-Year Goals in the areas of improving, maintaining, and enhancing public facilities and infrastructure; improving mobility and accessibility throughout the City of Pasadena; and supporting and promoting the quality of life and the local economy.

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

The proposed action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15061 (b)(3), the "common sense" provision of CEQA which applies to projects which may have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. Where it can be seen with certainty that there is

no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to CEQA. The proposed activity, City approval and submission of the 2020-2021 CAPER to HUD, will not have a significant impact on the environment and, therefore, is not subject to CEQA.

FISCAL IMPACT:

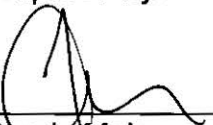
There is no fiscal impact as a result of this action and the action will not have any indirect or direct support cost requirements. Compliance with the federal requirement that the CAPER be submitted is necessary in order for the City to continue receiving annual CDBG, CDBG-CV, ESG, ESG-CV and HOME federal entitlement funds, which totaled approximately \$2.9 million in the 2020-21 program year.

Respectfully submitted,



for William K. Huang
Housing Director

Prepared by:



for Randy Mabson
Program Coordinator

Approved by:



STEVE MERMELL
City Manager

Attachments (2):

Attachment A – Five-Year (2020-2024) Consolidated Plan Goals
Attachment B – Draft PY20 Consolidated Annual Performance & Evaluation Report