



HHSC Memorandum

Neighborhood Resources - Memo No. NR23-006

Date: April 12, 2023

To: Housing and Human Services Commission

Thru: Leah Powell, Neighborhood Resources Director
Riann Balch, Community Resources Senior Manager

From: Karin Bishop, Community Development Senior Program Manager

Subject: Public Hearing on Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Annual Action Plan Including Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funding Recommendations

Background: Each year, the City of Chandler receives federal CDBG funding, administered by HUD, to develop viable urban communities by providing decent housing and a suitable living environment, and by expanding economic opportunities, principally for persons with low- and moderate-income. Funds support a wide range of community development activities directed toward revitalizing neighborhoods, economic development, and providing improved community facilities and services.

As a prerequisite for receiving CDBG funding, the City of Chandler is required to prepare and submit an Annual Action Plan that serves as the formal application for the use of entitlement funds that are received by the City of Chandler. The Annual Action Plan defines the one-year activities in relationship to the five-year goals and objectives of the 2020-2025 Consolidated Plan approved by City Council on June 25, 2020.

In February 2023, the City conducted a public survey to identify community development priorities in Chandler. The survey, which was available in English and Spanish, was distributed widely through mechanisms including the City's website and social media, public facilities such as libraries and recreation centers, through City newsletters and advisory boards, as well as through community partners including the Chandler Unified School District, For Our City Chandler and non-profit organizations. Responses were received from 488 individuals. Seventy-one percent of respondents were Chandler homeowners, 24 percent were Chandler renters. Creating and preserving housing for all incomes was identified as the top priority followed closely by maintaining owner-occupied housing.

In compliance with HUD regulations and the Citizen Participation Plan, the City is holding a 30-day public comment period regarding the draft FY 2023-2024 Annual Action Plan, which includes CDBG funding recommendations based on anticipated formula funding for FY2023-2024. The public comment period began Friday, March 17, 2023, and ends on Monday, April 17, 2023. In addition, a public hearing was held on February 8, 2023, during the development of the FY 2023-2024 Annual Action Plan, and a second public is scheduled for April 12, 2023, to ensure multiple opportunities for input from the community regarding the draft FY 2023-2024 Annual Action Plan. The draft FY 2023-2024 Annual Action Plan is available for review on the City's website at: <https://www.chandleraz.gov/residents/neighborhood-resources/community-development/plans-and-reports>. Hardcopies of the annual action plan are also available upon request. Public comments received during the public comment period will be included in the finalized report submitted to HUD.

Discussion: HUD released the FY 2023-2024 annual allocation on February 27, 2023. Chandler's CDBG annual allocation for FY 2023-2024 is \$1,343,477, a decrease of \$59,214 from the prior fiscal year. The City has an additional \$156,826 in CDBG funds available for reallocation. A total of \$1,500,303 in CDBG funding recommendations are included in the FY 2023-2024 Annual Action Plan. The City will utilize \$268,695 for program administration, \$186,521 for Public Services, and \$1,045,087 for Capital Projects, Housing, and Neighborhood Revitalization. The City's FY 2023-2024 CDBG Program Descriptions and Funding Recommendations are attached.

CITY OF CHANDLER
FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG)
PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS AND FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS

CDBG Public Services and Fair Housing:

COC Community Development and Resources – Client Services

Recommendation: \$126,521

Funding to provide community navigation and client services to individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness in Chandler. This funding supports .5 FTE Community Resources Representative and 1 FTE Community Navigator who will identify and establish relationships; coordinate care and communications with appropriate service providers; facilitate access to housing; and provide support and advocacy necessary to maintain housing.

COC Housing and Redevelopment – Public Housing Youth Program

Recommendation: \$60,000

Funding to provide after school and intersession programming to youth, ages 6-18, who reside in Chandler's four Public Housing family sites. Activities include academic support; mentoring; youth development; arts; books and reading services; and sports and recreation. Programming is offered Monday through Friday on regular school days at each public housing site. During intersession, youth from all four sites come together to participate in regular programming and special events. In the summer months, activities are offered in the morning for younger children, in the afternoon for all ages, and in the evening for teens.

CDBG Capital Projects, Housing, and Neighborhood Revitalization:

COC Neighborhood Preservation - Code Enforcement in Low-Mod Neighborhoods

Recommendation: \$140,000

Funding to continue the systematic, proactive inspection program in CDBG eligible areas, with an emphasis on north Chandler. The program supports 1.5 full-time Code Inspectors specifically assigned to initiate code enforcement inspections and take necessary enforcement actions to remediate neighborhood degradation. Residents receive an advisory notice providing information about common code violations for self-evaluation and correction prior to inspection.

COC Community Development and Resources – Homeowner Rehabilitation Operations

Recommendation: \$250,000

Funding to identify, assess, and prepare single-family Chandler homeowners with low- and moderate-income that have significant housing rehabilitation needs to receive assistance. The

City will process client applications to determine eligibility for program assistance. The Homeowner Rehabilitation program works in tandem with a third-party contractor which provides emergency repairs, minor repairs, ADA modifications and exterior improvements.

Homeowner Rehabilitation Program Activities (Contracted Services)

Recommendation: \$655,087

Funding for emergency repairs, minor repairs, ADA modifications and exterior improvements for eligible Chandler residents with low- and moderate-income who own and occupy a single-family home. The Exterior Improvement Loan Program (EILP) offers up to \$20,000 for exterior improvements to address blighted conditions and revitalize the property and surrounding neighborhood in the form of zero percent interest loans, which are forgivable over five years. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) program offers up to \$10,000 for persons with disabilities to modify their homes so they can continue to live safely and comfortably. Funds will support a project manager who will conduct home inspections, scope of work creation, contractor procurement, construction oversight, and billing/reporting.