

To the Mayor and Members of the City Council

August 1, 2023

Page 1 of 4



SUBJECT: 2023-2027 CONSOLIDATED PLAN, INCLUDING 2023-2024 ACTION PLAN, FOR USE OF FEDERAL HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GRANT FUNDS

The purpose of this Informal Report (IR) is to inform the City Council about the 2023-2027 Consolidated Plan (ConPlan), including the 2023-2024 Action Plan, to be submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) on August 15, 2023. To receive HUD entitlement funds for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME), Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), and Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) programs, the City must submit a Consolidated Plan to identify strategies and objectives that will meet the goals of the HUD program. The ConPlan will cover five HUD program years: 2023-2024, 2024-2025, 2025-2026, 2026-2027, and 2027-2028 (October 1, 2023 – September 30, 2028).

The ConPlan sets forth three objectives:

- Create and maintain decent housing and provide opportunities for all income levels to benefit from this housing
- Provide a suitable living environment for citizens of Fort Worth in CDBG-eligible areas
- Expand economic opportunities for all citizens of Fort Worth

The Neighborhood Services Department (NSD), in consultation with J-Quad Planning Group, held public meetings in each City Council district to assess and determine priorities and goals recommended by residents for the use of grant funds. In addition, input was received from community stakeholders, advisory boards, City departments, neighborhood associations, and industry leaders. J-Quad has developed the ConPlan and the annual Action Plan, and it has conducted an Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing (AI) in alignment with the requirements of the ConPlan submission.

Based on the input and comments received, the following nine (9) priorities and goals are recommended for the use of grant funds during the ConPlan period.

Priority Need	Goal
Promote Affordable Housing for Renters and Owners	Increase neighborhood stability through homeownership assistance, Fair Housing efforts, and supportive services for renters and owners
Housing Preservation and Rehabilitation	Preserve and expand the supply of quality affordable housing throughout the City
Neighborhood Improvement and Revitalization	Enhance neighborhood development and revitalization throughout the City
Economic Empowerment and Financial Resilience	Support programs and services providing employment training and career readiness programs that promote self-sufficiency and household stability
Children and Youth Services	Support programs and services to prepare children and youth for success through educational, mentoring, training and related programs
Aging In Place	Support programs and services for older adults to access resources needed to age in their homes, while maintaining both their independence and quality of life

To the Mayor and Members of the City Council

August 1, 2023

Page 2 of 4



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Accessibility Improvements	Improve accessibility in public facilities and housing, including architectural barrier removal
Homelessness Prevention and Special Needs Support	Provide housing and support services for persons experiencing and at-risk of experiencing homelessness; support efforts to achieve permanent housing
Healthy Living and Wellness	Support programs and services to improve the mental and physical health of low- to moderate income Fort Worth families

The total amount of grant funding to be received for the first year of the ConPlan, 2023-2024 program year, is \$13,552,621.00. This includes \$7,044,785.00 in CDBG funds, \$3,321,119.00 in HOME funds, \$610,543.00 in ESG funds, and \$2,576,174.00 in HOPWA funds. An estimated \$50,000.00 each in new program income from the CDBG and HOME programs is also budgeted within this Action Plan. The purpose of these funds is to benefit low- and moderate-income persons in Fort Worth. ESG grant funds are specifically dedicated to services for persons experiencing homelessness. HOPWA grant funds are administered on behalf of persons with HIV/AIDS throughout Tarrant, Johnson, Parker, and Wise counties.

The Community Development Council works with staff to develop the annual budget for the Action Plan and has recommended the following allocations as summarized on the tables below.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT

Agency, Program or Activity	Amount
CDBG Public Services Agencies/Programs	
Housing Channel - Housing Counseling & Education	\$111,000.00
Guardianship Services – Money Smart+	\$100,000.00
Meals on Wheels – Nutrition Program	\$75,000.00
Cancer Care Services – Cancer Care Services	\$50,000.00
The Women’s Center of Tarrant County – Employment Solutions	\$75,000.00
Easter Seals North Texas, Inc. – Employment Services	\$60,000.00
The Ladder Alliance – Tarrant County Workforce Development	\$80,000.00
NPower Inc. – Tech Fundamentals Workforce Training Program	\$25,000.00
Girls Incorporated of Tarrant County - Girls Inc.	\$100,000.00
Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Tarrant County – Youth Development at Eastside Branch	\$70,000.00
Camp Fire First Texas – Teens In Action	\$50,000.00
United Community Centers – Holistic Educational Literacy Program	\$125,000.00
AB Christian Learning Center – Out of School Time Program	\$78,218.00
Maroon 9 Community Enrichment Organization – Maroon 9 Teen Enrichment Program	\$25,000.00
Junior Achievement of the Chisholm Trail, Inc. – City of Fort Worth Cradle to Career Initiative	\$25,000.00
CDBG Public Services Subtotal	\$1,049,218.00

To the Mayor and Members of the City Council

August 1, 2023

Page 3 of 4



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CDBG Housing Programs/Projects	
REACH/Project Ramp	\$165,000.00
Trinity Habitat for Humanity, Cowtown Brush-up Paint Program	\$455,000.00
Neighborhood Services Department, Priority Repair Program*	\$2,550,000.00
Rental Rehabilitation (Multifamily, TBD)	\$636,610.00
CDBG Housing Programs/Projects Subtotal	\$3,806,610.00
Grant Administration and Program Delivery	
Neighborhood Services Department, CDBG General Administration	\$1,398,957.00
Neighborhood Services Department, Rehabilitation/Construction Program Delivery	\$610,000.00
Neighborhood Services Department, Homebuyer Assistance Program Delivery	\$180,000.00
CDBG Administration and Program Delivery Subtotal	\$2,188,957.00
<i>*Includes \$50,000 in anticipated new CDBG Program Income.</i>	

HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM

Agency, Program, or Activity	Amount
Fort Worth Housing Solutions – Babers Manor	\$1,000,000.00
Columbia at Renaissance Square Phase III, New Construction of Affordable Housing	\$1,000,000.00
Housing Channel, CHDO Project – Renaissance Heights Townhomes	\$490,667.85
CHDO Operating Costs – Housing Channel	\$45,000.00
Neighborhood Services Department, Homebuyer Assistance Program*	\$458,339.25
Neighborhood Services Department, HOME Grant Administration	\$ 327,111.90
Total, HOME Investment Partnerships Program	\$2,971,282
<i>*Includes \$50,000 in anticipated new HOME Program Income.</i>	

EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT

Agency, Program, or Activity	Amount
Presbyterian Night Shelter, Emergency Shelter Operations	\$116,635.00
Lighthouse for the Homeless, True Worth Place Day Shelter Operations	\$158,400.00
SafeHaven of Tarrant County, SafeSolutions Program	\$63,816.00
Center for Transforming Lives, Rapid Re-Housing	\$75,901.00
The Salvation Army, Homelessness Prevention Program	\$150,000.00
Neighborhood Services Department, ESG Grant Administration	\$45,791.00
Total, Emergency Solutions Grant	\$610,543.00

To the Mayor and Members of the City Council

August 1, 2023

Page 4 of 4



SUBJECT: 2023-2027 CONSOLIDATED PLAN, INCLUDING 2023-2024 ACTION PLAN, FOR USE OF FEDERAL HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GRANT FUNDS

HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PERSONS WITH AIDS

Agency, Program, or Activity	Amount
Tarrant County Samaritan Housing, Inc	
Supportive Services	\$708,200.00
Facility-Based Operations	\$251,032.00
Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (TBRA)	\$293,909.00
Grant Administration	\$46,859.00
Subtotal, Tarrant County Samaritan Housing	\$1,300,000.00
AIDS Outreach Center	
Supportive Services	\$75,346.00
Short-Term Rent, Mortgagee, and Utility Assistance (STRMU)	\$127,031.00
Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (TBRA)	\$198,200.00
Grant Administration	\$29,273.00
Subtotal, AIDS Outreach Center	\$429,850.00
Neighborhood Services Department – HOPWA	
Tenant Based Rental Assistance Program (TBRA)	\$624,400.00
Supportive Services	\$119,639.00
Permanent Housing Placement	\$25,000.00
Subtotal, Neighborhood Services Department Community Action Partners	\$769,039.00
Neighborhood Services Department, HOPWA Grant Administration	\$77,285.00
Total, HOPWA Program	\$2,576,174.00

For the Public Service Agencies (PSA) Request for Proposals (RFP) applications, 30 applications were submitted (CDBG-22; ESG-5; HOPWA-3). Applications were submitted in the following areas: Aging In Place (2), Architectural Barrier Removal (1), Children/Youth Services (9), Employment Services (7), Homeless Services (8), Housing Counseling Services (1), Special Needs – Health & Wellness (2). Funding was allocated to 22 applicants in the following program areas: Aging In Place (2), Architectural Barrier Removal (1), Children/Youth Services (7), Employment Services (3), Homeless Services (7), Housing Counseling Services (1), Special Needs – Health & Wellness (1). Future applications will propose a per priority goal maximum funding limit to encourage applicants in multiple program areas.

The draft Consolidated Plan was available for HUD’s required 30-day public comment period beginning June 30, 2023. On August 8, a public hearing will be held regarding the plan along with Council consideration and approval to submit the document to HUD by the August 15 deadline.

For additional information about this topic, please contact Victor Turner, Director of the Neighborhood Services Department, at 817-392-8187.

David Cooke
City Manager