

To the Mayor and Members of the City Council**March 7, 2023**

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**SUBJECT: PREPARATION OF 2023-2027 CONSOLIDATED PLAN FOR SUBMISSION TO U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT**

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires the City of Fort Worth, as a participant in certain HUD entitlement programs, to prepare and submit a five-year Consolidated Plan (ConPlan) outlining strategies and objectives to meet the goals of those programs. The ConPlan pertains to four HUD programs -- Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME), Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), and Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) – under which the City receives a total of approximately \$13.5 million annually. This Informal Report explains the process by which the City intends to prepare the 2023-2027 ConPlan for submission to HUD by August 15, 2023.

The ConPlan process seeks to assess affordable housing and community development needs and market conditions, and thereby to make data-driven, place-based investment decisions. The consolidated planning process serves as the framework for a community-wide dialogue to identify priorities that align and focus funding from the HUD formula block grant programs. The ConPlan is carried out through Annual Action Plans, which provide a summary of the actions, activities, and specific federal and non-federal resources that will be used each year to address priority needs identified by the ConPlan. The proposed goal for the ConPlan is consistent with HUD regulation Section 24 CFR Parts 91 and 570: *to provide programs which will develop the City into a viable urban community by providing decent housing and a suitable living environment, and by expanding economic opportunities primarily for low-income and moderate-income persons.* The ConPlan will cover five HUD program years, extending from October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2028. The plan will address three broad goals (a) to create and maintain decent housing and provide opportunities for all income levels to benefit from this housing, (b) to provide a suitable living environment for citizens of Fort Worth in CDBG-eligible areas, and (c) to expand economic opportunities for all citizens of Fort Worth.

The Neighborhood Services Department through a competitive process has hired J-QUAD Planning Group, LLC, as a consultant for the ConPlan process. This firm, led by President/CEO James Gilleylen, will be responsible for conducting a variety of public engagement sessions, meeting with City Council members, advisory boards, City departments, neighborhood associations, industry leaders, and other Fort Worth residents to assess needs and recommend priorities and goals. J-QUAD will use information from these sessions to prepare the ConPlan, the Annual Action Plan, and an Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing.

Public meetings will be held in each Council district with guidance from pertinent Council members in April and May. Meeting dates and locations will be determined based on further discussions with Council members. A draft 2023-2027 ConPlan will be available for HUD's required 30-day public comment period beginning June 15, 2023. On August 8, 2023, a public hearing will be held, 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