# **Urban County Policy Board**

**April 14, 2025** 

- Please announce your name when speaking
- Chat function is for technical assistance only
- Call-in users can unmute using \*6

Clark County Urban County Intergovernmental Agreement Members:

















# April 14, 2025, Meeting Agenda

- (info) I. Introductions
- (action) II. Approval of March 10, 2025, minutes
- (info) III. Draft Consolidated Plan Review
- (info) IV. Homeless Housing Local Plan Update
- (info) V. Public Comment During Meetings Discussion
- (info) VI. Program Updates
- (info) VII. Other



# Item II. February 10 Meeting Minutes (action)

#### URBAN COUNTY POLICY BOARD ATTENDANCE

Clark County

City of Battle Ground

City of Camas

City of La Center

City of Ridgefield

City of Washougal

City of Woodland

Town of Yacolt

#### **GUESTS**

Michelle Schuster and DeAnn Cordes- Clark County; Chuck Green- City of Ridgefield; Melanie Faure and Felipe Gamboa- Upwards: Nicole Davis Leon- Hispanic Metropolitan Chamber: Samantha Whitley-City of Vancouver; Thalia McDaid-O'Neill- Share; Janice Phelan- Unaffiliated

Councilor Glen Yung

Mayor Troy McCoy

Jim Hodges

loe Walsh

Absent

Tracy Coleman

Mayor Matt Cole

Councilor Marina Viray

Michael Torres, Rebecca Royce

#### Introductions

#### Approval of February 10, 2025, meeting minutes

The minutes were approved following a motion made by Mayor McCoy and seconded by Mayor

#### October-December 2024 Quarterly Report Review

Staff provided an overview of the 2024 4th quarter report.

Public Infrastructure and Neighborhood Improvements

- · Three infrastructure projects beginning the environmental assessment phase.
- Washougal Hamlik Park is on schedule to be completed by Spring.

#### Asset and Economic Development

- The Hispanic Metropolitan Chamber (HMC) and Greater Vancouver Chamber (GVC) business assistance programs spent their allotted 2023 funds, with HMC meeting its proposed outcome of 50 businesses served, and GVC serving 58 of the 100 businesses proposed in their application.
- HMC, GVC, and Fourth Plain Forward are all spending 2024 funds as of January 2025.
- Proud Ground is not on schedule with their 2022 allocation, but are making progress with the closing of the fourth and final sale at the end of March.
- Staff are working with Evergreen Habitat for Humanity to finalize their contract for 2024
- . Homeowner rehabilitation program served 6 households of the 10 proposed

#### Affordable Housing and Homelessness

- Second Step Housing has been stalled due to lack of State funding.
- VHA Weaver Creek's environmental assessment is underway.
- All TBRA programs on schedule excluding YWCA, as this was a new program and experienced delays at initial startup. All programs will be spending 2024 funds by April

The board inquired how funds for HOME construction projects are handled if funding is not acquired in a timely manner. Staff clarified that all HOME projects have a minimum of 18 months to secure funding, and while extensions can be granted, projects can and have lost funding due to this issue. HOME funds are often the first source of funding for agencies to secure, and used to show local commitment to projects as agencies apply for other funding, HOME funded projects have 2 years to secure all funding and 5 years from initial award to project completion.

#### Approval of UCPB Application and Funding Guidelines Update

Staff proposed a change to current contingency fund guidelines that aims to assist with the county's timeliness issues. A contingency project from each of the three funding categories would be chosen based on the highest ranked UCPB applications that did not receive funding. These projects will receive funding if one of the applications awarded funding rescinds its application or is deemed ineligible to move forward. The deadline for contingency projects to receive funds would be September 30th of the funding year, after which funds will roll into the next RFA allocation.

The policy update to the UCPB Application and Funding Guidelines was approved as presented following a motion made by Mayor Cole and seconded by Tracy Coleman.

#### **HUD Funding Update**

Estimates for 2025 funds were presented. Staff used 2024 allocations for the entitlement funding amount as the best guess. Exact funding will not be available until a full year continuing resolution, or a budget is passed by Congress, Staff proposed action that will be taken if funding is significantly different than presented. The board agreed on having an emergency meeting in this scenario, and if a quorum cannot be made, staff will propose reallocation of funds based on the score of the application.

After deductions, HOME funding is anticipated to be \$1,090,124, and CDBG funding is estimated at \$1,008,818. Staff recommends the board allocate 60% of HOME funds to construction projects and 40% to tenant-based rental assistance based on board trends in previous years and the need for construction and rehabilitation projects. For CDBG funds, staff recommended the board allocate 60% of funds to Public Facility and Neighborhood Improvement projects and 40% to Asset and Economic Development programs

#### 2025 CDBG and HOME Funding Recommendations

Applicant	Project	Total Score	Total Request	CDBG Award	HOME Award
Affordable Housing and Homelessness - Construction Projects					
Vancouver Housing Authority	Weaver Creek Commons	85.57	\$400,000		\$400,000
Columbia Non-Profit Housing	River and Main	81.29	\$300,000		\$254,074
			\$700,000		\$654,074

Applicant	Project	Total Score	Total Request	CDBG Award	HOME Award
Affordable Housing and Homelessness - Tenant-Based Rental Assistance					\$436,050
Janus Youth Programs	The Nest TBRA	86.71	\$214,350	\$45,000	\$169,350
Share	Affordable Housing & Stability Program TBRA	80.43	\$362,500	\$69,574	\$266,700
YWCA Clark County	Domestic Violence Survivors TBRA	78.86	\$348,000		Contingency
			\$924,850	\$114,574	\$436,050

For the Affordable Housing and Homelessness category, staff reminded the board that CDBG funds will be allocated according to the TBRA programs that are funded. The CDBG award for Share's TBRA program is slightly reduced from the amount presented to the board to adjust for the reduction in HOME rent assistance funding.

Applicant	Project	Total Score	CDBG Request	CDBG Award	HOME Award
Public Facilities and Neighborhood Improvements				\$600,000	
Vancouver Housing Authority	Bertha's Place Shelter Remodel	84.14	\$400,000	\$400,000	
Clark County	701 E Main Street Building Improvements	74.67	\$400,000	\$200,000	
Battle Ground, City of	Remy Park Improvements	73.67	\$400,000	Contingency	
Washougal, City of	Sidewalk & Stormwater Improvements Phase I	73.17	\$400,000		
Ridgefield, City of	Maple Street Improvements	72.00	\$400,000		
Battle Ground, City of	NE Grace Avenue Pathway	68.17	\$150,000		
			\$2,150,000	\$600,000	\$0

Staff discussed the highest scoring applications for Public Facility and Neighborhood Infrastructure projects and recommended that \$5,000 be moved to Asset and Economic Development to avoid triggering section 3 for the 701 E Main Street project. The above table reflects this adjustment.

Applicant	Project	Total Score	CDBG Request	CDBG Award	HOME Award
Asset and Economic Development \$414,244					
Fourth Plain Forward	Microenterprise Services	87.00	\$285,016	\$285,016	
Evergreen Habitat for Humanity	Land Acquisition	83.71	\$300,000	\$129,228	
Hispanic Metropolitan Chamber	Billingua l Technical Assistance	76.29	\$134,700	Contingency	
Micro Enterprise Services of Oregon	TA to LMI Microenterprise Businesses	68.43	\$118,000		
Upwards	TA to LMI Microenterprise Businesses	67.57	\$240,000		
			\$1.077.716	\$414.244	\$n

The Asset and Economic Development applications were discussed, with \$5,000 to be allocated from 701 E Main Street Improvements in Public Facility and Neighborhood Infrastructure to Evergreen Habitat for Humanity with a board vote in favor. The Evergreen Habitat application also received \$5426 from the adjustment to the Share TBRA CDBG award, bringing the total to

A motion to approve funding as staff had proposed, including reallocation of \$5,000 from Public Facility and Neighborhood Improvements to Asset and Economic Development, which will be distributed to Evergreen Habitat for Humanity, was made by Mayor McCoy and seconded by Mayor Cole. Motion passed unanimously.

#### Program Updates

Consolidated Plan

A survey is available until May 10th to gather information for the Consolidated Plan, all Clark County residents are encouraged to participate. Drop-in meetings will be at the Vancouver and Battle Ground libraries, a virtual meeting will be held on Zoom, and staff will be presenting with the Resource Consultants team at city and county council meetings.

National Community Development Week April 21-25

Staff will look into opportunities for the cities to engage and keep the board informed.

 Public Comment None presented.

Good of the Order

Mayor McCoy noted that it may be beneficial for public comments to be heard prior to discussion of action items. Staff will add this to next month's agenda.

Next meeting: April 14, 2025

Meeting adjourned



# Item III. Draft Consolidated Plan Review (info)







# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT & HOME PROGRAM

Urban County Policy Board April 14, 2025

#### **AGENDA**



Overview of Consolidated Plan



Overview of Consolidated Plan Needs/Goals/Projects



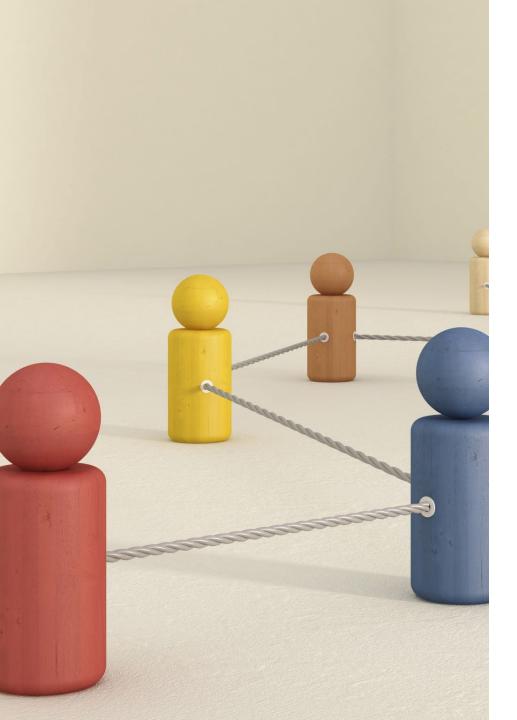
Next Steps



Feedback

DEVELOPING A
CONSOLIDATED &
ANNUAL
ACTION PLAN





#### CORE PRINCIPLES

- Benefit low- and moderate- income persons and communities
- Community Participation
- Leveraging and Partners
- Strategic and Targeted Investment

#### CDBG ELIGIBILITY

#### **Eligible** examples include, but are not limited to:

- Housing Rehabilitation
- Economic Development
- Public Service Activities:
  - Behavioral Health services
  - Childcare
  - DV services
  - Homeless services
- Public Facilities and Infrastructure
- Administration
- Must meet an eligible matrix code

#### **Ineligible** examples include, but are not limited to:

- Fundraising
- Expenses required to carry out the regular responsibilities of local government
- Income payments
- Buildings or portions thereof, used for general conduct of government
- Purchase of equipment, fixtures, motor vehicles, furnishings or other personal property
- Maintenance and repairs

- CDBG: 2024 Award \$1,567,719
  - Planning & Administration (20% cap)
  - Public Service (15% cap)

- HOME: 2024 Award \$527,824
  - Planning & Administration (10% cap)





# CONSOLIDATED PLAN COMPONENTS

- Executive summary, lead organization information, consultation process, public meetings and comments
- Housing and homeless needs assessment
- Housing market analysis
- Five-Year Strategic Plan
- One-year Action Plan



Goals

Projects

Activities

#### **NEEDS**

- Decent Housing
- Create a Suitable Living Environment
- Expand Opportunities

Primarily to benefit low-moderate income residents of Clark County

### **GOALS**

Housing

Support of Construction and Rehabilitation of Housing Units TBRA

Public Facilities and Neighborhood Improvements

Park, Sidewalk, Sewer/Wastewater Improvements Public Facility Renovation/Construction

Economic and Asset Development

Microenterprise Assistance

Public Services

**UCPB Set Priorities** 

Administration

### **Projects**

#### **Housing Goal**

- Preservation and Construction of Multi-Family and Single-Family Housing for LMI Clark County Residents
- Tenant Based Rental Assistance
- Direct Homebuyer Assistance

#### Neighborhood Improvements and Public Facilities Goal

- Neighborhood Improvements (Parks, Sidewalks, Water/Sewer...)
- Public Facility Improvements (Rehabilitation or Construction)

#### **Economic and Asset Development Goal**

Microenterprise Assistance

#### **Public Services Goal**

UCPB Set Priorities for Years 2-5, Examples-

- Homeless Services
- Domestic Violence Services
- Behavioral Health Services

#### **Administration Goal**

CDBG and HOME Program Administration

NEED

• Create a Suitable Living Environment

GOAL

 Public Facilities and Neighborhood Improvements

**PROJECT** 

 Neighborhood Improvements to Benefit LMI Clark County Residents

**ACTIVITY** 

 N Parkway Avenue Sidewalks in Battle Ground

# STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEW AND SURVEY RESULTS

#### HOUSING

- Affordable, safe
- Addresses a continuum: from shelter beds to permanent housing choices
- Services and shelter for those fleeing DV
- Winter Shelters often close April 1<sup>st</sup> leaving people without additional good options for temporary shelter

Affordable, Accessible Childcare is a significant challenge for many low-moderate income households.

Domestic Violence Services expansion could ensure more families in crisis receive the assistance they need

#### **HEALTHCARE**

- Timely access to medical and behavioral healthcare
- Low barrier access

"The unhoused needs are complex. There are a spectrum of housing programs that are serving people that struggle to meet the complex needs, such as medical and behavioral health needs, of the people entering programs."

For example, shelters are receiving people from hospitals with open wounds, catheters, medical interventions that they are not equipped to do.

Improved access to behavioral health services – expanded hours, transportation, steps to expedite access.

#### WHAT STAKEHOLDERS ARE SHARING

#### The Good

- Coordination between stakeholders, resources and programs is exceptional, though resources remain limited
- Food Access is often sited as a success in Clark County
- The Partnership with Clark County Staff is strong and supportive
- Targeted Programs have worked in Clark County

#### **NEXT STEPS**

Surveys
 Stakeholder Interviews
 Targeted Meetings

County Council Presentation and Adoption



#### **FEEDBACK**



#### THANK YOU

If you have comments or questions, please reach out.

Elizabeth McNannay

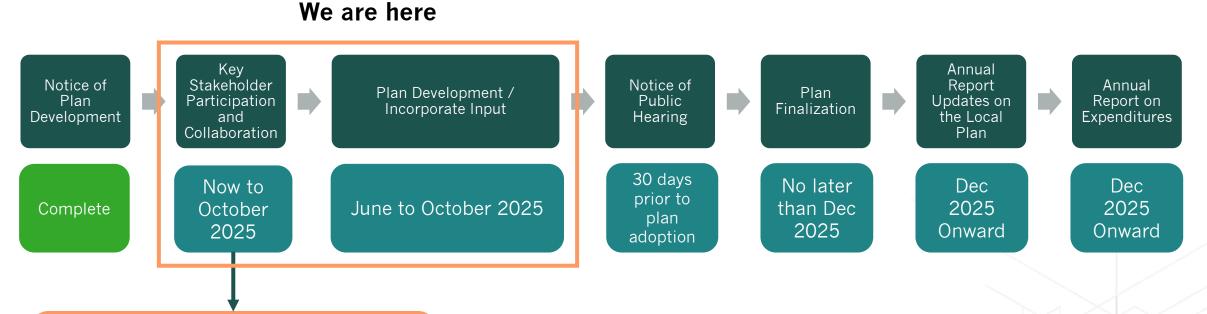
elizabeth@resourceconsultants.org

# Item IV. Homeless Housing Local Plan Update (info)



### State Requirements

#### **Process**



- 1. Steering Committee
- 2. Lived Experience Focus Groups
- 3. Service Provider Workshops



### State Requirements (cont'd)

# **Plan Requirements**



Fulfill the **5 key plan objectives** (to be discussed)



Provide **estimates of current service levels** (investments by project type and funding source)



Survey existing fund sources



Provide estimates of permanent and emergency housing needs



Provide prioritization criteria for homeless housing capital projects



Document public engagement and provide compensation



# Key Stakeholder Participation and Collaboration

Required Stakeholders to Engage	Steering Committee	Lived Experience Focus Groups	Service Provider Workshops	Presentation s
Two largest cities within the county				
People with lived experience of homelessness		Location TBD for in-person		
Representatives from a Behavioral Health Administrative			(Contacts to be established)	
Service Organization or a Managed Care organization			cstabilishedy	
Representative from a By and For organization within				
the local government's jurisdiction				
Emergency shelter operators				
Domestic violence/sexual assault shelter and housing				
providers				
Homeless outreach providers				
Rental subsidy administrators				
Permanent supportive housing providers and operators				
Coordinated entry staff				

Who would be good representatives?



### Required Plan Objectives

Strategies and actions will support the following objectives:

- 1. Promote an equitable, accountable and transparent homeless crisis response system
- 2. Strengthen the homeless service provider workforce
- 3. Prevent episodes of homelessness whenever possible
- 4. Prioritize assistance based on the greatest barriers to housing stability and the greatest risk of harm
- 5. Seek to house everyone in a stable setting that meets their needs



## Planned Steering Committee Meetings

#### When will we meet and what will we discuss in each project touchpoint?

**Kickoff:** Provide an overview of the project objectives, state requirements, schedule, and discuss community outreach and engagement approach.

**Today** 

Project Stage

**Kickoff** 

**Homelessness Support System Assessment Workshop:** Collect information related to existing conditions, gaps and barriers, and future needs.

Lived Experience Focus Group

April 22

Information Collection

**Homelessness Support System Assessment Findings:** Review existing conditions, gaps and barriers, and future needs findings.

**Late May** 

Draft Existing Conditions

**5-Year Plan Goals and Priorities Development Workshop:** Set 5-year goals and priorities for the Clark County Homelessness Support System.

Service Provider Workshop

**Late June** 

Draft and Prioritize Strategies and Actions

**Draft Strategies and Actions Prioritization:** Collect feedback on draft strategies and actions to achieve 5-year goals and identify implementation needs and priorities.

**Early August** 

**Draft Plan** 

**Draft Plan Listening Session:** Review draft plan and collect feedback.

Late Sept

Finalize Plan



# Item V. Public Comment During Meetings (info)

- Current practice is to allow 3 minutes for public comment at the end of the meeting
- Proposal to move public comment to beginning of meeting
- Public comment to be specific to agenda items



## Item VI. Program Updates (info)

- Full-year continuing resolution passed March 14
- CDBG and HOME programs expected to receive level funding from program year 2024
  - Does not mean Clark County will receive exact same amount
- HUD has indicated funding amounts will be released by May
   15
- County plans to submit Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan as soon as funding is received and any funding adjustments are made
  - Adjustments are expected to be minor



### Wrap Up

#### VII. Other

- Request for information from Chairman Mike Flood and Ranking Member Emanuel Cleaver about HOME and CDBG programs. Responses due 4/25
  - Increase public service cap
  - TBRA program improvements
  - Exempt neighborhood improvements from elevating to EA review
- National Community Development Week April 21-25
  - Combined meeting with Vancouver staff with Rep. Marie Gluesenkamp Perez
  - Social Media posts
- Public Comment (up to 3 minutes)
- Good of the Order



Save the Date - next UCPB meeting: June 9, 2025, 9:30 – 11:00am