

Urban County Policy Board Meeting Minutes

Recording at: <https://clark.wa.gov/community-services/urban-county-policy-board>

April 14, 2025

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

Councilor Glen Yung
Councilor Victoria Ferrer
Jim Hodges
Tracy Coleman
Mayor Matt Cole
Joe Walsh
Absent
Absent

GUESTS

Chuck Green (City of Ridgefield); Elizabeth McNannay (Resource Consultants); Janice Phelan (Unknown); Tasha Slater (City of Vancouver)

STAFF

Michael Torres, Rebecca Royce, Nooreen Ebrahim

I. Introductions

II. Approval of March 10, 2025, meeting minutes

The minutes were approved following a motion made by Mayor Cole and seconded by Tracy Coleman.

III. Draft Consolidated Plan Review

Presented by Elizabeth McNannay from Resource Consultants

An overview of CDBG and HOME funding guidelines was presented, including the Board's current goals for how funds are allocated. The Consolidated Plan process how its goals are prioritized was described. Feedback collected through the Consolidated Plan survey was highlighted, with residents seeing the need to invest in affordable housing, accessible healthcare, and affordable childcare. Areas in which stakeholders believe Clark County excel are food access, staff partnership, and access to resources and programs.

The Board discussed next steps for the plan to be adopted and what execution of plan goals will look like moving forward. Staff will prepare a discussion for the next request for application process.

IV. Homeless Housing Local Plan Update

The 5-year Housing Plan that applies to state and local funding designated for homeless activities brought before the county and the state is currently under development. A timeline of the process and plan requirements were outlined, with the plan to be finalized in September 2025.

V. Public Comment During Meetings Discussion

Currently, the Board listens to public comments related to agenda items at the end of meetings. At the March meeting it was recommended to discuss moving public comments before action items on the agenda.

The Board agreed that listening to public comments prior to action items on the agenda would be beneficial. Additionally, the Board would like to begin listening to comments relevant to the Urban

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County Policy Board's scope of work regardless of whether it pertains to that meeting's agenda. Staff will implement this change for future agendas.

VI. Program Updates

A full year continuing resolution for federal funding was passed on March 14th. All entitlement agencies should be made aware of their awards by May 15th. Currently, the county is expected to receive the same level of funding as 2024.

VII. Other

- Request for information from Chairman Mike Flood and Ranking Member Emanuel Cleaver
Chairman Flood and Ranking Member Cleaver have sent out a request for information on how to improve the CDBG and HOME programs. Staff will be sending a letter suggesting an increase to public service cap, removal of HOME fund restrictions that create barriers for agencies, removal of Build America, Buy America due to lack of administrative guidance for implementation, and exemption of neighborhood improvements elevating to an environmental assessment level review.

The Board and staff discussed income verification requirements for TBRA programs. Clarification was provided on the definition of homelessness and how being in a setting like jail affects one's homeless status. The Board would like to discuss making TBRA eligibility requirements stricter to ensure that those with lower incomes have access to the program.

- National Community Development Week April 21-25
Clark County will be partnering with the City of Vancouver to meet with staff from Senator's Murray and Cantwell's office along with staff for Rep. Marie Gluesenkamp-Perez's team. Staff will share social media posts throughout the week as well.
- Public Comment
None presented.
- Good of the Order
Clark County Council is discussing options for a county owned building that was purchased with CDBG funds. Staff have verified with HUD headquarters that the building can be sold under market value to SeaMar with a minimum of a five-year restricted use covenant ensuring services for CDBG eligible activities continue to be provided. Another option is to sell the building at market value with all funds coming back to the CDBG program.
- Next meeting: June 9, 2025

Meeting adjourned