

Urban County Policy Board Meeting Minutes

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

September 8, 2025

URBAN COUNTY POLICY BOARD ATTENDANCE

Clark County	Absent
City of Battle Ground	Councilor Victoria Ferrer
City of Camas	Jim Hodges
City of La Center	Absent
City of Ridgefield	Mayor Matt Cole
City of Washougal	Joe Walsh
City of Woodland	Absent
Town of Yacolt	Absent

GUESTS

Mark Herceg (City of Battle Ground)

STAFF

Michael Torres, Rebecca Royce, Nooreen Ebrahim

I. Introductions

II. Public Comments

None presented.

III. Approval of June 9, 2025, meeting minutes

The minutes were approved following a motion made by Mayor Matt Cole and seconded by Jim Hodges. [This item will come back to the board for approval due to not having quorum.]

IV. Lifeline Connections Tenant Based Rental Assistance Additional Funds Request

Lifeline Connections has requested an increase of \$90,000 in HOME funds for their 2024 Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) contract. They have spent their current funding allocation due to transitioning several households from another source of funding that ended, resulting in serving more households than initially anticipated. Without these funds, households will be abruptly exited from the program with a high likelihood of returning to homelessness. This additional funding will provide time to work with the households on an exit plan through the end of 2025. Staff has verified the requested funding is available. Lifeline Connections has indicated that they can pay for any costs not covered by the additional funding.

A motion to approve the Lifeline Connections funding request of \$90,000 was made by Jim Hodges and seconded by Councilor Victoria Ferrer. Motion approved unanimously. [This item will come back to the board for approval due to not having quorum.]

V. Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER) Outcome Review

Staff have completed the draft CAPER, and it has been posted to the county's website for public comment. Comments will be accepted until September 22. The CAPER will be presented to County Council on September 23 and submitted to HUD by September 27.

In 2024, 2.4 million in federal funds were spent from HOME, HOME-ARP, CDBG, and CDBG-CV funding sources. The majority of funding (\$1.1 million) went towards Asset and Economic Development, which helps microenterprises, homebuyers, and homeowner rehabilitation.

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An overview of the 12 different agencies Clark County partnered with and the services they provided was given.

VI. April-June 2025 Quarterly Report Review

The second quarter reports for 2025 were presented to the board. Environmental Reviews are complete for Ridgefield Gee Creek, Battle Ground NE 1st Sidewalks, and Weaver Creek. The Environmental Review for Battle Ground NE Clark Avenue is currently underway. The next assessments will be Ridgefield Hall and Elm, Battle Ground N Parkway Avenue, and Ridgefield Sargent Street Improvements. Other notable items from this quarter include:

- Council for the Homeless finished reporting as of this quarter.
- Proud Ground has spent out their 2022 funding and is currently working on executing their 2023 contract.
- Evergreen Habitat for Humanity is currently behind schedule, but missing documents have been acquired and will be reviewed by staff this week.
- Affordable Housing and Homelessness programs are all on schedule.

VII. 2026 Request for Applications Overview

The 2026 applications and funding guides are almost complete and will be ready for release on October 1. Updates made this year include a new requirement to attend or view the recording of the Pre-Submittal Workshop which will be held on October 9 from 9-2 p.m. Changes to the right-of-way acquisition question in the application will be made as this has not been properly answered in the past. This change will assist with timeliness.

The new Public Services Application and Funding Guide reflects the priority service areas that were selected through the Consolidated Plan, Community Needs Assessment and areas highlighted by the UCPB.

Currently, the Clark County Housing Preservation Program has a \$250,000 budget, which includes funding for staff time and the cost of the rehab projects themselves. With rising construction costs, there is only funding to serve six clients per year, with a two-year waitlist to receive services. Increasing the budget for this program to \$400,000 would help to assist a greater number of households and decrease the length of time households are on the waitlist.

Staff clarified that the Housing Preservation Program is currently funded through CDBG, funding for which has stayed steady in the county for the past three years. The board acknowledged that this proposal would decrease the total CDBG available funding, but found this increase necessary.

A motion to approve an increase of the Housing Preservation Program budget from \$250,000 to \$400,000 was made by Councilor Victoria Ferrer and seconded by Jim Hodges. Motion approved unanimously. [This item will come back to the board for approval due to not having quorum.]

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VIII. Program Updates

- The 2025-2029 Consolidated Plan has been submitted and will be reviewed by HUD over a 45-day period. County staff will meet with their regional HUD representative to review the plan.
- The county's CDBG grant will be delayed due to untimeliness. Staff have submitted a response to HUD headquarters explaining the reasons for being untimely and is waiting for a response. Once more information is received, staff will keep the board informed.
- An update on late and very late projects was presented. Very late projects include five public improvement and infrastructure projects from program years 2022 and 2023, and Proud Ground's 2023 program which is on track to being caught up on spending. Two neighborhood infrastructure projects and two homeownership programs are late, all from program year 2024.
- Staff provided a brief update on federal funding for fiscal year 2026. The House of Representatives is proposing CDBG funding stay consistent with FY2025 and has removed HOME funding from their proposal. The Senate has proposed a slight decrease to CDBG funding but level funding for HOME. Currently staff is anticipating funding for both programs to be present in the budget.
- The board has been notified of a new bill, the ROAD to Housing Act, which has pros and cons. This bill would permanently authorize CDBG-DR and moves some environmental reviews to a lower-level review. It also ties CDBG allocation to housing production, penalizing jurisdictions that are allocating dollars away from housing production by rescinding CDBG funding. Staff are working with our national associations to provide a response to the Senate's Banking Committee regarding concerns of the bill.

IX. Other

- Next Meeting: Monday, October 13, 2025, 9:30 – 11:00 a.m.

Meeting adjourned at 10:29 A.M.