



COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Cathy Wolfe  
District One  
Sandra Romero  
District Two  
Karen Valenzuela  
District Three

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

April 9, 2013

Mr. Steve Hall, City Manager  
City of Olympia  
601 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue East  
Olympia, WA 98507

Dear Steve:

I regret that County staff is unable to attend the Olympia City Council's regular meeting of Tuesday, April 9, 2013 to participate in the discussion regarding the 2013 – 2017 CDBG Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan. However, I am able to follow up with answers to questions you forwarded my way a week ago. I hope that the following responses (in italics) are helpful.

**1. What does the County plan to do about the 15% social service allotment for County CDBG?**

*Following the direction of the South County Mayors group, competitive applications will be accepted for Social Services through the CDBG RFP process. No set-aside allocation has been made for any specific agency or program.*

**2. What is the timing of the Draft Consolidated Plan - is it 3 years or 5 years?**

*It is written as a 5-year plan covering the period 2013-2017.*

**3. Is the County interested in moving to calendar year for CDBG in the future?**

*The impact of the move to a calendar year would have one major benefit in that we would receive two years of funding within a short period of time. This would, in addition, have a significant impact administratively on the staff, reporting requirements, and most significantly on the agencies who have been awarded funds.*

*HUD mandates that all jurisdictions' expenditures of federal funds be measured every year in May. Failure to expend funding can result in sanctions or other administrative penalties imposed on the jurisdiction. According to HUD, the majority of jurisdictions who are changing their program year are changing it to a July through June period in order to allow more time to complete projects. The county has no plans to move to a calendar year for CDBG and HOME funding at this time.*

**4. What are the County's strategy areas as outlined in the draft Plan?**

*There are 5 Areas as follows:*

- *Affordable Housing*
- *Public Services*
- *Public Facilities and Infrastructure*

- *Economic Development*
- *Homeless Housing and Services*

*Note Regarding Homeless Housing and Services:*

*The County and City Staff have developed a draft Homeless Systems Plan as requested by the Board of County Commissioners, Olympia City Council, and the HOME Consortium. This draft has identified all of the key areas that have been identified in the Homeless Coordinator's annual report. A draft for review and discussion is attached.*

**5. Has the County had discussions about what priorities it might set for the first year action plan?**

*The County has opened the application process for CDBG eligible activities to all in the County (outside of Olympia) with an emphasis (or first priority) on activities in the four smaller cities and unincorporated county. As such there is no "priority" for the use of CDBG in terms of specific types of projects.*

**6. Provide an update on the status of the County CDBG RFP process.**

*The CDBG-RFP is out and available to the community. Two community workshops have been held in Yelm and Olympia, respectively. The applications are due on April 19<sup>th</sup> unless the date is extended. Three South County Cities have potential projects.*

**7. What is the plan for the future governance model for HOME? Role of the HOME Board?**

*Given changes to what was HSRC (now HHSC), the County's recent status as an "Urban County" pursuant to HUD's CDBG program, and ongoing work regarding the development of homeless services system delivery plan, there is cause for discussion about the appropriate governance model and the role of the HOME Consortium.*

**8. Has the current HOME agreement expired and what is the process for renewal?**

*A new Interlocal for the HOME program needs to be approved between the City of Olympia and Thurston County as the "Urban County." Thurston County, per the new CDBG agreement, now represents all jurisdictions except the City of Olympia thus, only one Interlocal is required. A draft of that agreement has been prepared by Mark Freedman.*

The Thurston County Board of County Commissioners have suggested convening a joint meeting with the Olympia City Council to follow up on our cooperative efforts to address homelessness and affordable housing needs in Olympia and Thurston County. We look forward to a future discussion on these important issues within our community. Please feel free to give me a call if you have any questions (360) 754-2960.

Sincerely,



Donald D. Krupp  
County Manager

cc: Thurston County Board of County Commissioners  
Don Sloma, Director of Public Health and Social Services