



City Council

Approval of Interlocal Agreement with State Department of Commerce to Produce the 5- year (2013 - 2017) Community Development Block Grant Consolidated Plan

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Agenda Item:

Approval of Interlocal Agreement with State Department of Commerce to Produce the 5-year (2013 - 2017) Community Development Block Grant Consolidated Plan

Issue:

Should the City execute an Interlocal Agreement with the Washington State Department of Commerce (Commerce) Research Services to produce the 5-year (2013-2017) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Consolidated Plan?

Committee Recommendation:

Not referred to a committee.

City Manager's Recommendation:

Move to approve and authorize the Mayor to sign an Interlocal Agreement with the State Department of Commerce to produce the 5-Year (2013-2017) CDBG Consolidated Plan.

Staff Contact:

M. Anna Schlecht, Housing Program Manager, 360.753.8183

Presenter(s):

Consent Calendar Item.

Background and Analysis:

Federal Housing and Urban Development (HUD) regulations require the City to develop and submit a Consolidated Plan to serve as the blueprint for how federal CDBG funds will be utilized locally. Consolidated Plans require a significant investment of time and other resources to collect and analyze data to produce a strategic plan that addresses the three statutory CDBG goals of providing:

1. Decent housing;
2. A suitable living environment; and,
3. Expanded economic opportunities for low- and moderate-income persons.

Federal regulations also encourage a collaborative community process that involves residents, program

participants, and other stakeholders to establish a unified vision for CDBG-funded activities. These regulations require a review and analysis of existing housing and economic conditions along with the community's need for social services. Together, these elements of documented needs and resources along with the community vision are combined to create the 5-year strategic plan for utilizing CDBG resources.

As directed by Council in 2010, the City adopted a 3-year Consolidated Plan to come into alignment with the County Consolidated Plan to produce a Joint Consolidated Plan with integrated strategies for federal funds. As directed by Council, City staff is working with Thurston County staff to develop a joint plan that incorporates the three federal HUD funded programs:

1. City of Olympia CDBG Program
2. Urban County CDBG Program (includes Bucoda, Lacey, Rainier, Tenino, Tumwater and Yelm and unincorporated Thurston County)
3. HOME Program (all eight Thurston County jurisdictions)

Most jurisdictions work with consultants to produce their Consolidated Plan. The City worked with Commerce staff on the last Consolidated Plan (2010 - 2012) that produced a data-rich, well-received Consolidated Plan with a highly accessible "Citizen's Summary". Continuing to build upon the success of the previous plan will allow the City to produce a well-documented Consolidated Plan that jointly presents both City and County strategies for using federal CDBG and HOME funds. Thurston County will also contract with Commerce. Joining forces: 1) creates savings in producing consistent, shared data; 2) potentially shared priorities; and, 3) streamlines public involvement and efficiency in funding projects, programs and services.

Neighborhood/Community Interests (if known):

Many neighborhoods and community members have a direct or indirect interest in how the City utilizes its Community Development Block Grant.

Options:

1. Approve and authorize the Mayor to sign an Interlocal Agreement with the Washington State Department of Commerce to produce the 5-year Community Development Block Grant Consolidated Plan.
2. Elect not to contract with the Washington State Department of Commerce. Research other services to produce the CDBG Consolidated Plan.

Financial Impact:

This Interlocal Agreement will cost \$25,000 in CDBG Funds from CDBG administration funds.