



CITY OF COLUMBIA



2015-2019

Community Development Block Grant &  
HOME Investment Partnerships Program

**CONSOLIDATED PLAN**

## Acknowledgements

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### Consolidated Plan Staff Technical Team

**City of Columbia, Community Development**

Leigh Britt, Neighborhood Services Manager  
Bill Cantin, Neighborhood Comm. Coordinator  
Randy Cole, Housing Programs Supervisor  
Eric Hempel, Housing Specialist  
Kathy Sides, Administrative Support Assistant  
Tim Teddy, Dir. Community Development  
Tyler Avis, GIS Technician

**City of Columbia, Public Works**

Scott Bitterman, Engineering Manager

**City of Columbia, Legal Department**

Adam Kruse, City Counselor

**City of Columbia, Parks and Recreation**

Anthony Lowery, Senior Planner

**City of Columbia, Public Health & Human Services**

Steve Hollis, Human Services Manager

**City of Columbia, GIS**

Matt Gerike, City-wide Geospatial Services Manager

**Regional Economic Development, Inc. REDI**

Mike Brooks, Dir. Economic Development  
Bernie Andrews, Assistant Director

**Columbia Housing Authority**

Phil Steinhaus, CEO

### Community Development Commission

Lynnanne Baumgardner  
Terence Crouch  
Pamela Forbes  
Michael Fletcher  
Maurice Harris

Jefferey Radmer  
Mitchell Ritter  
James Schepers  
O.U. Ukoha

### University of Missouri Extension

Johanna Reed-Adams  
Larry Dickerson

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## **Executive Summary**

### **ES-05 Executive Summary - 24 CFR 91.200(c), 91.220(b)**

#### **1. Introduction**

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) defines the City of Columbia as an entitlement community due to its population and demographics. As an entitlement community, the City of Columbia receives an annual allocation of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME program funding. The City of Columbia is required to submit a five-year Consolidated Plan identifying community needs and funding priorities, in order to receive annual funding. The City of Columbia also values the importance of strategic planning when implementing the use of public funds. This consolidated plan is for program years 2015-2019 and will become effective on January 1, 2015. CDBG and HOME funding allocations have been trending downwards and that trend is expected to continue. This plan takes into account the increasing importance of identifying and prioritizing the most critical needs to be addressed with CDBG and HOME funds.

#### **2. Summary of the objectives and outcomes identified in the Plan Needs Assessment Overview**

The City of Columbia undertook a significant public input and planning process during the year leading up to the submission of the plan. Public input was obtained through community focus groups, citizen surveys and public hearings. The objectives and outcomes identified in the plan are a direct result of priority needs identified by the public. Citizens were asked to identify priority needs in five categories including economic development, affordable housing, fair housing, neighborhood needs and community facilities.

All objectives and outcomes identified in the plan will meet a national objective identified by HUD through providing decent affordable housing, creating suitable living environments and improving economic opportunity. The previous consolidated plan stated 43 objectives or goals. This plan reduces the number of goals to 13 and includes 16 production goals (deliverables) to ensure the most critical needs or highest priority needs are being addressed. The City of Columbia identified the following 13 larger goals or objectives by funding category:

#### **2015-2019 Consolidated Plan Goals**

##### Economic Development

1. Increase employment among low to moderate income youth.
2. Increase employment opportunities through microloan assistance.

### Affordable Housing

1. Preserve existing housing through code enforcement, rehabilitation, and repairs.
2. Increase homeownership opportunities.
3. Incorporate universal design and energy efficiency in affordable housing projects.
4. Expand the number of quality affordable housing units.

### Neighborhood Needs

1. Increase neighborhood connectivity to amenities and sidewalk accessibility.
2. Increase the number of bus shelters within the CDBG eligible area.
3. Increase neighborhood safety by removing dilapidated structures in the NRT area.

### Fair Housing

1. Increase fair housing rights knowledge among low to moderate income households.
2. Increase fair housing compliance knowledge among housing professionals.
3. Assist low to moderate income households with fair housing complaints or questions.

### Community Facilities

1. Provide funding to renovate, acquire, or expand facilities serving youth, providing mental health services, providing services to ex-offenders, or providing services to the homeless.

The following table displays priority needs, goals, and production goals (deliverable) by category. Each production goal was associated an estimated cost to ensure that goals are realistic and achievable. City of Columbia priority need, goals, strategies and production goal by funding category are as seen on the following table.

Priority Need	Goal	Strategy	Deliverable
<b>Economic Development</b>			
<b>Vocational training targeting youth</b>	Increase employment among low to moderate income populations, particularly youth.	Vocational Training	Provide vocational training to <u>70 participants</u> , particularly low-income youth.
<b>Microloans</b>	Increase employment opportunities through microloan assistance.	Micro-lending	Provide microloans to <u>15 small businesses</u> (5 FTE or less) with at least 51% low to moderate income employees.
Priority Need	Goal	Strategy	Deliverable
<b>Affordable Housing</b>			
<b>Preservation of existing housing.</b>	Preserve existing housing through code enforcement, rehabilitation, and repairs.	Comprehensive rehabilitation of existing housing	Provide comprehensive rehabilitation to <u>55 owner-occupied housing units</u> consisting of lead remediation, energy efficiency, structural repairs, roof, accessibility modifications and system upgrades.
		Repair of existing housing	Provide minor home repairs to <u>200 owner-occupied housing units</u> consisting of lead hazard remediation, energy efficiency, weatherization, structural repairs, accessibility modifications and system repairs.
		Code Enforcement	Fund ½ FTE of a position to conduct code enforcement in the NRT area addressing at least <u>375 properties</u> .
<b>Increased homeownership</b>	Increase homeownership opportunities.	Homebuyer assistance.	Provide homebuyer assistance in the form of down payment and closing cost assistance to <u>65 eligible households</u> .
		Homebuyer education	Provide homebuyer education to <u>450 new homebuyers</u> on the real estate transactions, financing, household budgeting, and homeownership.
<b>Affordable housing with energy efficient and universal design.</b>	Incorporate universal design and energy efficiency in affordable housing projects.	Incorporate energy efficient and UD in the development of new housing.	Construct <u>15 new affordable, energy efficient owner-occupied housing units</u> with universal design features.
<b>Quality affordable housing units.</b>	Expand the number of quality affordable housing units.	New housing construction	
		Rental Production	Provide development financing for <u>2 affordable housing developments</u> funded through the Missouri Housing Development Commission (MHDC).

Priority Need	Goal	Strategy	Deliverable
<b>Neighborhood Needs</b>			
<b>Streetscaping.</b>	Increase neighborhood connectivity to amenities and improve sidewalk accessibility. Increase streetscaping on CDBG infrastructure projects, as feasible.	Sidewalk projects	Complete <u>5 infrastructure projects</u> to increase neighborhood connectivity to amenities and services. Provide streetscaping on CDBG sidewalk projects when not cost prohibitive.
<b>Sidewalks, crosswalks, and trails with connectivity to transportation.</b>			
<b>Bus shelters.</b>	Increase the number of bus shelters within the CDBG eligible area	Bus shelter construction	Construct <u>5 new bus shelters</u> in the CDBG eligible area.
<b>Removal of dilapidated houses.</b>	Increase neighborhood safety by removing dilapidated structures.	Removal of dilapidated structures	Remove <u>15 dilapidated structures</u> within the city limits.
Priority Need	Goal	Strategy	Deliverable
<b>Fair Housing</b>			
<b>Outreach and education to low-income households regarding rights.</b>	Increase fair housing rights knowledge among low to moderate income households.	Outreach and education to low-income households	Provide outreach and education to <u>150 low-income households</u> regarding fair housing rights.
<b>Outreach and education to housing professionals.</b>	Increase fair housing compliance knowledge among fair housing professionals.	Outreach and education to housing professionals	Provide fair housing education to <u>75 housing professionals</u> (property managers, realtors, lenders).
<b>Fair housing counseling</b>	Assist low to moderate income households with fair housing complaints or questions.	Fair housing counseling	Provide fair housing counseling to <u>50 low to moderate income renters</u> .
Priority Need	Goal	Strategy	Deliverable
<b>Community Facilities</b>			
<b>Mental health facilities, training centers for youth, facilities for ex-offenders, facilities for homeless/near homeless</b>	Provide funding to facilities serving youth, mental health, ex-offenders, and homeless.	Community facility renovation, expansion, and acquisition.	Acquire, renovate, or expand <u>5 community facilities</u> providing to services to youth, homelessness, ex-offenders, and mental health.



### **3. Evaluation of past performance**

The City's past programs focused on similar projects and funding categories. The City is maintaining many of these programs and is also adjusting its funding priorities to match new priority needs identified by the public. Estimated costs are also associated with each production goal to ensure that goals are realistic and achievable. The City had several unmet goals in its last Consolidated Plan cycle due to decreasing funding and competing priorities. This plan focuses on the most critical community needs identified by the public.

### **4. Summary of citizen participation process and consultation process**

The City of Columbia's citizen participation process and consultation process in drafting the plan included 8 community forums/focus groups, 5 public hearings and 5 citizen surveys. There will be 2 additional public hearings for receiving comments and approving the plan. A summary of each of the methods for receiving public input include the following:

1. **Community Forums/Focus Groups:** The City of Columbia held a Neighborhood Congress meeting to kick-off the public input process for formulation of the consolidated plan. The Neighborhood Congress provided data to the audience pertaining to eligible uses of CDBG and HOME funds, past uses of CDBG and HOME funds, American Community Survey data provided through the Econ Planning Suite, census data and an explanation of formulating the consolidated plan. Participants of the Neighborhood Congress were able to provide real time feedback identifying priority needs through the use of hand held devices. The event included approximately 100 participants. The City of Columbia held 7 additional individual focus groups on a variety of community development needs including fair housing, affordable housing, neighborhood needs (infrastructure), homelessness, CHDO funding, community facilities, and economic development. Each focus group followed the same format of beginning the meeting with facts and data, followed by a facilitated discussion to identify specific community needs related to the topic of discussion. Focus group meetings also included a prioritization of those needs by group participants. The Neighborhood Congress and each of the focus groups were facilitated by the University of Missouri-Extension.
2. **Public Hearings:** The City held 5 public hearings through the Community Development Commission to obtain further public input to inform the consolidated plan. The 5 public hearings summarized priority needs data obtained through the public forums/focus groups. Commissioners were provided time to ask clarifying questions, accept further public comment and approved the priority needs identified through the public forums/focus groups.
3. **Citizen surveys:** The City conducted one larger general survey to determine funding category priorities including, economic development, fair housing, affordable housing, neighborhood needs (infrastructure) and community facilities. The biggest change from years past included a need for greater emphasis on economic development. There were four additional surveys to

obtain more specific feedback on priorities within each funding category. The additional individual surveys were done in conjunction with the individual focus groups.

The City of Columbia conducted a significant level of marketing and community outreach to involve citizens in the process, including the following:

- 1,080 television ads
- 45 radio ads
- 7 press releases
- Outreach to 75 neighborhood associations
- 5 newspaper ads
- 2 radio show appearances
- Listserve notices to 207 organizations and individuals
- Mailing notices to 700 public housing residents
- Facebook ads read by 3,092 people
- Outreach to 9 central city churches

Outreach and marketing efforts resulted in 189 focus group attendees and 182 survey responses. All priority needs in the plan were identified and prioritized by the public involved in each of the processes. City staff developed goals to address each of the priority needs in the plan. The draft goals were also approved by the Community Development Commission through a public meeting. Additional public comments will be received leading up to Council approval of the plan.



## **5. Summary of public comments**

The City received an extensive amount of public comments through its public forums/focus groups. A summary of the comments received is included in the attached document. The City of Columbia's public input process identified the following priority needs to be addressed by CDBG and HOME funding:

### Economic Development

1. Vocational training targeting youth.
2. Micro lending.
3. Adult vocational training.

### Affordable Housing

1. Preservation of existing housing.
2. Increased homeownership.
3. Affordable housing with energy efficiency and universal design.
4. Quality affordable housing units.

### Neighborhood Needs

1. Streetscaping.
2. Sidewalks, crosswalks, and trails with connectivity to transportation.
3. Bus shelters.
4. Removal of dilapidated houses.

### Fair Housing

1. Outreach and education to low-income households regarding rights.
2. Outreach and education to housing professionals.
3. Fair housing counseling.

### Community Facilities

1. Mental health facilities.
2. Training centers for youth.
3. Facilities for ex-offenders.
4. Facilities for homeless or near homeless.

Additional public comments received during the 2 Council public hearings and 30 day comment period in September through October will be added to this section of the document before submission to HUD.

## **6. Summary of comments or views not accepted and the reasons for not accepting them**

None.

## **7. Summary**

Significant efforts were undertaken to obtain public input through public forums/focus groups, citizen surveys and public hearings. The City of Columbia utilized public input to identify priority needs to be addressed with CDBG and HOME funding. All objectives and goals within the plan address a specific priority need identified by the public. The City of Columbia will continue to obtain public input annually to ensure the plan is up to date and efforts address current community needs.