



Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) 2014-2018 Consolidated Plan

What is the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)?

Enacted into law in 1974, the **federally**-funded Community Development Block Grant provides grants to address a wide range of unique community development needs. It is administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and locally by the City of Hot Springs Planning & Development Department.



What is a Consolidated Plan?

The Consolidated Plan identifies the City’s housing, community development, and economic development short- and long-term needs, goals, priorities, and objectives. Developed with citizens, agencies, organizations and community groups, the Consolidated Plan:

1. Is the City’s application for housing and community development funds through HUD,
2. Defines local housing and community development needs and priorities, and
3. Is the strategy that the City will follow each fiscal year for 5 years to implement HUD programs locally. An Annual Action Plan details each year’s projects and expectations.

How did the City of Hot Springs create the 2014-2018 Consolidated Plan?

Hot Springs Planning & Development Department encouraged community-wide involvement to develop the Consolidated Plan within HUD’s requirements in order to *do the most good with the limited funds available*.

Residents

- 6 Neighborhood Associations
- 10 community comment sessions
- 4 public meetings to review and respond to the Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan
- Comments by phone, email & mail
- Citizen Needs & Priorities Survey
 - 43 HUD eligible activities ranked
 - 23 collection sites, door-to-door by neighborhood associations & online
 - 256 responses
 - 44% low- to moderate-income (\$0 - \$34,999 *total household income*)
 - Representative of all ages & districts

Agencies & Organizations

- City Directors
- City Departments & City Manager
- Garland County Department of Health
- Chamber of Commerce & Business Owners
- Housing Authority of Hot Springs
- Low income housing tax credit apartments
- Schools, faith-based & other non-profits
- Service Providers:
 - Homeless and at-risk men, women and children, families, victims of violence, unaccompanied youth, pregnant women, the elderly, and veterans
 - Physically & developmentally disabled
 - Health & Mental Health
 - Substance Abuse Treatment

2010 Census data and other statistics analyzed



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How can grant funds be spent?

HUD funds can only be spent on specific improvements. 3 objectives must be followed:

1. Provide decent, affordable housing.
2. Reduce or eliminate blight, and create suitable living conditions.
3. Expand economic development opportunities.

At least 70% must directly benefit low- to moderate-income individuals/families.

Many more rules apply, including the types of projects that can be funded.

<p>8 of the top 10 priorities are related to suitable living environments & neighborhood infrastructure.</p> <p>Residents ranked housing rehabilitation and public facilities as low priorities.</p>	<p>Top 10 Citizen Survey Priorities (out of 43 eligible HUD activities):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Unsightly Property / Trash / Debris Removal 2. Street Paving 3. Infrastructure Improvements to Encourage Business / Job Growth 4. Green Spaces, Community Gardens, Trees 5. Sidewalks 6. Neglected / Abused Children Services 7. Abandoned Lot Clean-Up and Development 8. Historic Preservation 9. Code Enforcement Activities 10. Parks Improvements
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How does the City propose to use HUD CDBG funding over the next 5 years?

Funding is estimated at \$258,000 in 2014, and is likely to be reduced in future plan years.

Create suitable living environments in low- to moderate-income neighborhoods by improving infrastructure, reducing blight, and encouraging home-ownership and private investments while respecting unique and historic neighborhood characteristics. Where possible, federal CDBG funds will be used alongside other City or State funded projects to maximize the impact and neighborhood benefit from both investments.

Promote business/job growth with infrastructure improvements, like water and sewer, which result in no less than 1 full-time long-term job per \$10,000. For example, City water or sewer improvements that enable a new business to open and hire in low- to moderate-income neighborhoods providing goods/services and jobs for those residents.

Planning, Administration & Federal Compliance. City staff will provide assistance, support and resources to manage and monitor the plan, expand neighborhood revitalization and business/job growth efforts, and strengthen Continuum of Care services that support housing, homelessness, at risk and other special needs populations. In addition, HUD requires a new Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing be conducted and any identified barriers must be addressed by the City.