



CITY OF

NEWPORT BEACH

City Council Staff Report

March 24, 2020
Agenda Item No. 17

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Seimone Jurjis, Community Development Director - 949-644-3232,
sjurjis@newportbeachca.gov

PREPARED BY: Lauren Wooding Whitlinger, Real Property Administrator,
lwooding@newportbeachca.gov
James Campbell, Deputy Community Development Director,
jcampbell@newportbeachca.gov

PHONE: 949-644-3236

TITLE: Community Development Block Grant Program – Public Hearing for
Preparation of 2020-24 Consolidated Plan

ABSTRACT:

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (“HUD”) requires the City of Newport Beach (“City”) to prepare and submit a Consolidated Plan to receive funds under the Community Development Block Grant (“CDBG”) Program. The Consolidated Plan is prepared every five years and assesses the housing and community development needs of the community, and describes the City plan to address those needs over the subsequent five years. The item is placed on the City Council’s agenda as a public hearing and is required to gain community input on preparing the Consolidated Plan to ensure it meets the needs of residents, organizations, businesses and other local stakeholders.

RECOMMENDATION:

- a) Hold a public hearing to receive comments on the Program Years 2020-24 Consolidated Plan; and
- b) Find this activity exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Sections 15060(c)(2) (the activity will not result in a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment) and 15060(c)(3) (the activity is not a project as defined in Section 15378) of the CEQA Guidelines, California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3, because it has no potential for resulting in physical change to the environment, directly or indirectly.

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS:

There is no fiscal impact related to this item at this time. The amount of federal funds allocated to the City has averaged approximately \$350,000 per year.

DISCUSSION:

The City's 2020-24 Consolidated Plan is a broad outline of the strategic vision for housing and community development in the City. The five-year plan outlines the City's top priorities and goals for using the annual CDBG grant funds to meet HUD's national objectives which include: (1) benefit to low- and moderate-income persons, (2) aid in the prevention or elimination of slums or blight, and (3) meet a need having a particular urgency (alleviate emergency conditions - disaster recovery).

The Consolidated Plan is the long-range planning document that guides the City's annual Action Plan. Each year the Action Plan outlines how the particular years' grant funding will be allocated by the City to meet the City's annual goals and objectives, and what specific projects are proposed to carry out those goals and objectives. The Action Plan is submitted in advance of the next program year, which operates on a fiscal year of July 1 through June 30. The 2020-21 Action Plan will be incorporated into the Consolidated Plan and presented to City Council at a public hearing in the coming months.

Community Participation

An important component of preparation of the Consolidated Plan is soliciting feedback from residents and stakeholders in the local community, to understand how CDBG funds can best be used to meet the community's needs. Staff held a community forum on February 18, 2020, at 6:30 p.m. at Marina Park Community Center to seek public input on the specific needs of Newport Beach. Eight residents attended the community forum and provided feedback to staff, which will be incorporated into the Consolidated Plan, along with any additional comments received at this hearing. Attendees expressed the need for transportation services, senior facilities, meals on wheels programs, parking facilities, and affordable rental housing. Using CDBG funds for code enforcement activities was also discussed but is limited to areas that meet certain environmental and low-income criteria, which are not found in Newport Beach. Additionally, it was suggested the funds be used to address the needs of the City's homeless population, especially for mental and behavioral health services.

Other examples of community needs where the CDBG funds could be directed might be youth centers, health care services or facilities, infrastructure improvements, homeless shelters or services, commercial façade improvements, and affordable housing services or facilities.

This public hearing is another opportunity for the public to provide oral and/or written comments on what should be addressed in the Consolidated Plan. Additionally, HUD and the City's CDBG Citizen Participation Plan requires that a public hearing be held to receive comments from interested parties regarding the Consolidated Plan. This public hearing addresses the CDBG citizen participation requirement.

A resident survey has also been created as an additional method to obtain feedback on the needs of the community. Paper copies of the survey were made available at the community forum in February, and are available at City Hall through Friday, March 27, 2020. Surveys can also be completed and submitted electronically through Friday, March 27, 2020, at <http://bit.ly/NewportBeachResident>. With the recent State and County guidance and City implementation of social distancing measures in response to the COVID-19 virus, staff is emphasizing the electronic submittal of the survey.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW:

Staff recommends the City Council find approval of the Agreement is not subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”) pursuant to Sections 15060(c)(2) (the activity will not result in a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment) and 15060(c)(3) (the activity is not a project as defined in Section 15378) of the CEQA Guidelines, California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3, because it has no potential for resulting in physical change to the environment, directly or indirectly.

NOTICING:

Notice of this public hearing was published in the *Daily Pilot* on March 14, 2020. Further, the agenda item has been noticed according to the Brown Act (72 hours in advance of the meeting at which the City Council considers the item).