

## Your Voice: 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan



### **What is the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan?**

Every five years, the city of Opelika partners with the community to develop a strategic Consolidated Plan.

The plan defines strategies to address housing, community development needs, and current market conditions in order for the city of Opelika to make informed decisions on allocating HUD Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding.

This plan outlines how the city will invest over \$1,250,000 in federal CDBG funds to strengthen our community and enhance neighborhoods!

### **What are Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds?**

The Community Development Block Grant program is a flexible program that provides communities with resources to address a wide range of unique community development needs. Beginning in 1974, the CDBG program is one of the longest continuously run programs at HUD. The CDBG program provides annual grants on a formula basis to 1209 general units of local government and States.

[CDBG Entitlement Program](#) provides annual grants on a formula basis to entitled cities and counties to develop viable urban communities by providing decent housing and a suitable living environment, and by expanding economic opportunities, principally for low- and moderate-income persons. The city of Opelika has been an entitlement city since 2000.

### [About the Program](#)

The CDBG program works to ensure decent affordable housing, to provide services to the most vulnerable in our communities, and to create jobs through the expansion and retention of businesses. CDBG is an important tool for helping local governments tackle serious challenges facing their communities. The CDBG program has made a difference in the lives of millions of people and their communities across the Nation.

The annual CDBG appropriation is allocated between States and local jurisdictions called "non-entitlement" and "entitlement" communities respectively. Entitlement communities are comprised of central cities of Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs); metropolitan cities with populations of at least 50,000; and qualified urban counties with a population of 200,000 or more (excluding the populations of entitlement cities). States distribute CDBG funds to non-entitlement localities not qualified as entitlement communities.

HUD determines the amount of each grant by using a formula comprised of several measures of community need, including the extent of poverty, population, housing overcrowding, age of housing, and population growth lag in relationship to other metropolitan areas.

### Citizen Participation

A grantee must develop and follow a detailed plan that provides for and encourages citizen participation. This integral process emphasizes participation by persons of low or moderate income, particularly residents of predominantly low- and moderate-income neighborhoods, slum or blighted areas, and areas in which the grantee proposes to use CDBG funds. The plan must provide citizens with the following: reasonable and timely access to local meetings; an opportunity to review proposed activities and program performance; provide for timely written answers to written complaints and grievances; and identify how the needs of non-English speaking residents will be met in the case of public hearings where a significant number of non-English speaking residents can be reasonably expected to participate.

### Eligible Activities

Over a 1, 2, or 3-year period, as selected by the grantee, not less than 70 percent of CDBG funds must be used for activities that benefit low- and moderate-income persons. In addition, each activity must meet one of the following national objectives for the program: benefit low- and moderate-income persons, prevention or elimination of slums or blight, or address community development needs having a particular urgency because existing conditions pose a serious and immediate threat to the health or welfare of the community for which other funding is not available.

### How can you help?

The ***Your City, Your Voice*** campaign focuses on getting our residents and stakeholders to complete the survey ( go to [www.surveymonkey.com/r/Opelika\\_YOURCITY-YOURVOICE2020](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Opelika_YOURCITY-YOURVOICE2020) ) or attend a community engagement session to provide input to help the City define housing and community needs for the next five years.

Community engagement is critical to the Consolidated Plan process, as it allows residents and partners to play a meaningful role in establishing priorities and creating effective solutions to pressing needs in their communities. We will continue to keep our residents and stakeholders updated on the development of the Consolidated Plan.

# What's Next?

## **March/April**

Activate Survey Monkey for participation

## **April/May**

Public Hearings and Subcommittee Presentations

## **June**

Draft Consolidated Plan posted for public comment

## **July**

City Council presentation and request for approval of Plan

## **August**

2020-24 Consolidated Plan due to HUD

***\*All dates subject to change***