

PUBLIC NOTICE

OF A PUBLIC HEARING TO BE HELD BY THE SPARTANBURG CITY COUNCIL TO
OBTAIN CITIZEN OPINIONS ON THE CONSOLIDATED SUBMISSION FOR COMMUNITY
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

The Spartanburg City Council is interested in hearing your opinions on the City's needs regarding low to moderate income housing and community development and how its 2014-2015 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) funds should be spent. For the fiscal year beginning on July 1, 2014, it is estimated that the City of Spartanburg will receive \$620,490 in CDBG funds and \$141,193 in HOME funds, the exact amount has not been determined at this time.

Before the City of Spartanburg can submit its Five Year Consolidated Plan and its Annual Action Plan, which includes the application for the CDBG and HOME programs, the City of Spartanburg must provide an opportunity for local residents to comment on low and moderate income housing and community development needs, and the development of proposed activities and projects for the CDBG and HOME programs. The suggestions will be received by City Council at one public hearing to be held in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 145 West Broad Street, Spartanburg, South Carolina, at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, March, 17, 2014.

Under the CDBG program (which is funded by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development), local communities may carry out a wide range of activities and programs to meet local needs; however, HUD does require that CDBG activities meet certain guidelines. One of three national goals must be met: helping low or moderate-income people; helping to remove or renovate buildings in run-down areas (slum or blight); or meeting an urgent need (such as an emergency response to a natural disaster). Other, more specific, examples of eligible activities are listed below:

1. **HOUSING ACTIVITIES:** This may include repair of run-down single family and/or multi-family houses with loans or grants, repair of apartments and special housing activities, construction of new housing – single family and/or multi-family for home ownership and rental opportunities, down payment assistance, mortgage subsidies, and weatherization and energy efficiency programs.
2. **PUBLIC WORKS ACTIVITIES:** This may include street and sidewalk and other infrastructure improvements, installation of water and sewer lines, construction or repair of senior centers, half-way houses, shelters, neighborhood/community centers, improving parks and playground and projects that preserve historical areas.
3. **PUBLIC SERVICE:** This may include additional police patrols in high crime areas, early childhood education and/or day-care facilities, services for youth, elderly, women and the handicapped, and other social service activities such as crisis centers, training programs, financial management/literacy training and education, credit counseling, first time home buyer classes, and many other social service programs. Only 15% of the available CDBG funds may be allocated to public service by federal statute.
4. **ACQUISITION/RELOCATION/CLEARANCE ACTIVITIES:** This may include the buying of property that is in run-down or dilapidated condition, demolition of run-down property and/or land banking of such properties.
5. **ADMINISTRATION/PLANNING ACTIVITIES:** This includes providing dollars to hire people to plan CDBG activities, manage the programs after they are selected and report to HUD on what has

been accomplished. In addition, monies may be spent to prepare plans for downtown areas and neighborhood areas.

6. **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES:** This includes providing loans, grant and/or technical assistance to assist non –profit and for –profit businesses focused on supporting community economic development; including acquiring, constructing, reconstructing, rehabilitating structures and other real property; supporting microenterprise development, small business technical assistance, job training and commercial rehabilitation.

Under the HOME program (which is also funded by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development), a participating jurisdiction may use HOME funds to develop and support affordable rental housing and homeownership affordability, which can be either permanent or transitional housing, and includes permanent housing for disabled homeless persons, and single-room occupancy housing under certain guidelines set by HUD. Beyond this, HOME activities must be from one of the following general activity areas:

1. **HOUSING PROJECT(S) COSTS:** This includes actual cost of new construction, rehabilitation costs (including meeting applicable rehabilitation standards; making essential improvement, including energy-related repairs to allow for access by handicapped persons; and to provide for the abatement of lead-based paint hazards; and to repair or replace major housing systems in danger of failing) through loans or grants. In order to provide for new construction or rehabilitation, costs may include demolition of existing structures and project site improvements, which can include sewer and water lines.
2. **ADMINISTRATION/PLANNING ACTIVITIES:** This includes providing dollars to hire people to plan HOME activities, manage the programs after they are selected and to report to HUD on what has been accomplished. A jurisdiction may expend approximately 20% of its grant on administrative and planning activities.
3. **COMMUNITY HOUSING DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS:** This includes the operating expenses for the community housing development organizations (CHDOs) who are acting as a sub-recipient or contractor under the HOME program. Up to 5% of a participating jurisdiction's fiscal year HOME allocation may be used for the operating expenses of a CHDO and 15% for project must be used.
4. **TENANT-BASED RENTAL ASSISTANCE:** This includes loans or grants to very low income families for security deposits, for the tenant-based rental assistance, and for the program operation, which can be provided by the participating jurisdiction or by the PHA.

Under both the CDBG and Home programs, the City of Spartanburg has to submit an annual performance report to HUD reporting on the programs performance and accomplishments during the previous fiscal year. The most recent year; FY12-13 is available for review in the City's Neighborhood Services Division and also available on the City's website at www.cityofspartanburg.org. The completed performance report for the 2013-14 fiscal year will be available for public review around September 15, 2014, in the Neighborhood Services Division which is now located at 201 Caulder Ave., Suite 220 Spartanburg, SC during the normal business hours of 8:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M., from Monday through Friday, and on the City's website at www.cityofspartanburg.org

If you, your neighborhood, or local groups have suggestions on local needs that fall within these general areas, the City of Spartanburg invites you to come to the hearing and let City Council know about your ideas. If you

need more information about the Annual Action Plan, CDBG, and/or HOME, please come by the Neighborhood Services Division at 201 Caulder Ave. Suite 220, weekdays, between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M., and for additional information please visit our website at www.cityofspartanburg.org.

If any non-English speaking persons or persons with mobility, visual or hearing impairments wish to attend the public meetings and have special needs, or who have any questions, please notify the City of Spartanburg Neighborhood Services Department at 864.596.2907 in advance so that appropriate accommodations may be made.

Any person may also provide comments and feedback about community needs by completing an online survey at the following link: www.cityofspartanburg.org/community-services/neighborhood-services. Persons may also provide written comments that are delivered to Neighborhood Services office listed above. You may also email your comments at wcorrothers@cityofspartanburg.org

Neighborhood Services Division
City of Spartanburg, South Carolina

LEGAL AD---- Please publish in the Spartanburg Herald-Journal on -----

Cathy Brown
Neighborhood Services
Post Office Box 1749
Spartanburg, S.C. 29304-1749