

**CITY COUNCIL  
COMMUNICATION:**

**ITEM \_\_\_\_\_**

**OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER  
CITY OF DES MOINES, IOWA**

**99-450**

**SYNOPSIS -**

**AGENDA:**

OCTOBER 4, 1999

**SUBJECT:**

SETTING DATE OF  
PUBLIC HEARING-  
2000 HUD  
CONSOLIDATED  
PLAN

On the October 4, 1999 agenda is a roll call setting the date of public hearing to provide an opportunity for citizens to comment on community development and housing needs in Des Moines and the City's proposed 2000 Consolidated Plan. The Neighborhood Revitalization Board (NRB) under separate roll call is submitting their recommendations for Program Year (PY) 2000 Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Consolidated Plan funding allocations. The proposed Consolidated Plan will be available to the public for 30 days. The City Manager's comments and recommendations and any comments from the public will be made at the November 15, 1999 public hearing before the Plan is finalized.

**TYPE:**

**FISCAL IMPACT -**

**RESOLUTION  
ORDINANCE  
RECEIVE/FILE**

The PY 2000 HUD block grant entitlement funds available in the three programs included in the Consolidated Plan are currently estimated to be: Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) - \$5,000,000; Home Investments Partnerships (HOME) Program - \$1,200,000; and the Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) - \$179,000. Funding levels are contingent on final Congressional and Executive action.

**SUBMITTED BY:**

JAMES GRANT  
COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT  
DIRECTOR

**RECOMMENDATION -**

**Approval.**

**BACKGROUND -**

The NRB has submitted their recommended funding allocations for projects to receive PY 2000 CDBG, HOME, and ESG funding. The next step in the process is to refer these recommendations to both the public and the City Manager for

review and comment.

The proposed Consolidated Plan will be available to the public for 30 days, and a hearing will be held on November 15, 1999, to receive the City Manager's comments and recommendations and any comments from the public before finalizing the Plan.

Also at the meeting on November 15, the Council will receive the Environmental Review and approve the Request for Release of Funds so that the program can be implemented on January 1, 2000.

HUD requires a 45-day review period before implementation of the program. This means the plan will have to be finalized and approved at the November 15, 1999 City Council meeting.

The City Council should be aware that significant changes in requesting proposals were implemented this year. In the past, the City has been criticized by HUD for not concentrating the federal funds on high priority needs and demonstrating progress toward meeting those needs. This year, proposals were submitted in response to specific Request for Proposals (RFP) addressing the priority goals for the five-year Strategy and one-year Action Plan. The new RFP process has resulted in a reduction of the number of proposals from 97 in 1998 to 51 this year.

Briefly, the five-year Strategy is to address critical housing needs and especially the need for affordable rental housing for families at or below 50 percent of median household income. The Needs Assessment conducted earlier this year shows there currently is a need for 3,400 additional affordable rental units in Des Moines. While there is also a need for affordable owner-occupied housing, there are resources in the community in addition to the CDBG, HOME, and ESG funds to address this need (i.e., Iowa Finance Authority; Neighborhood Finance Corporation; Neighborhood Housing Services; HOME, Inc.; and others). These additional resources are not available for rental housing and it is necessary to allocate a large proportion of the federal funds for this purpose.

Other categories of projects, including economic development, infrastructure, and public services, are intended to support the housing effort by helping households work or train for work, obtain transportation and child care, and revitalize

neighborhoods.

The 2000-2004 HUD Consolidated Plan is a significant step forward in meeting the needs of low- and moderate-income Des Moines households.

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