

Notice of Public Hearing & Public Comment Period
Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) & HOME Programs
2020-2024 Consolidated Plan Including 2020 Action Plan & Budget

2020 – 2024 Consolidated Plan

The City of Fargo has available for public review and comment a draft Five Year Consolidated Plan for the use of U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funds for Program Years 2020–2024 (May 1, 2020 to April 30, 2025). The Consolidated Plan includes the Program Year 2020 budget and allocation (May 1, 2020 to April 30, 2021) and the Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice (AI). The exact amount of HUD funds each year is determined by Congress, but based on previous funding levels, the City estimates approximately \$4,257,993 in CDBG funds and \$3,225,575 in HOME funds over the course of the Five Year Consolidated Plan.

In developing the Consolidated Plan, the City of Fargo conducted outreach through surveys, community focus groups, and individual interviews. The following priority areas were identified through public participation: economic development, neighborhood revitalization, housing development, and public services for low-and moderate income households and the homeless populations. The Consolidated Plan addresses these needs in four goals: (1) affordable housing (2) ending and preventing homelessness (3) neighborhood improvements and initiatives (4) assistance for vulnerable populations.

Due to the impacts of COVID-19, HUD extended the submission deadline for the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan to August 16, 2021. The City took advantage of this extension to prioritize its administration of CDBG-CV (COVID-19) funding and other federal pandemic response funds. The first two years of funding in the Consolidated Plan prioritize activities that respond to, prepare for, and prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

2020 Action Plan & Budget Proposal

The City of Fargo has prepared a draft version of the 2020 Annual Action Plan for Housing and Community Development for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Programs. The priorities established within the draft plan result from community meetings and citizen participation in the development of the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan. The City's 5-Year priorities include affordable housing, activities to end homelessness, neighborhood revitalization, and poverty reduction.

Estimated Resources

During the 2020 program year, the City of Fargo estimates the following resources to be available:

CDBG:

- **\$789,067** – 2020 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) allocation from HUD
 - **\$141,818** – 2020 CDBG Program Income (actual to date)
 - **\$155,840** – Available for Reallocation at Prior Year-End
-
- \$1,086,725 – Total CDBG**

HOME:

- **\$495,115** – 2020 HOME PJ allocation from HUD
 - **\$0** – 2020 HOME PJ Program Income
 - **\$0** – Available for Reallocation at Prior Year-End
-
- \$495,115 – Total HOME**

TOTAL COMBINED = \$1,581,840

Activity & Budget Summary Chart

Project	Description	Budget
Planning, Administration, and Fair Housing	Staff support for planning, implementation, reporting, and monitoring of CDBG and HOME resources. <i>Eligibility & Regulation Citation: 21A General Program Administration, 24 CFR Part 570.206</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>High Plains Fair Housing Center</u>: Budget \$5,000. Part of requirement to affirmatively further fair housing under the Fair Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 3601-20). <i>Eligibility & Regulation Citation: 21D Fair Housing Activities (subject to 20% Admin. Cap), 24 CFR Part 570.206(c)</i> 	\$157,813 CDBG \$90,916 HOME (10% HOME cap waived as a result of COVID-19)
Homeless Engagement, Outreach, & Harm Reduction	Operational support for homeless engagement, outreach, and harm reduction services. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Gladys Ray Shelter</u>: Budget \$32,000 <i>National Objective, Eligibility, & Regulation Citation: Low-Mod Clientele Benefit, 03T Operating Costs of Homeless/Aids Patient Programs, 24 CFR Part 570.201(e)</i> 	\$32,000 CDBG
Emergency Subsistence Payments/Homeless Prevention & Diversion	Temporary emergency housing assistance including rent, mortgage, non-City-owned utilities, security deposits, and other homeless or eviction prevention-type assistance as approved by the City of Fargo. Providers listed below will make emergency assistance	\$880,000 CDBG

Efforts (COVID-19 Prevention, Preparation, & Response)	<p>payments directly to the payees (i.e., rental office, utility company, etc.) on behalf of an individual or household. Project partners and budgets are identified as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>SouthEastern North Dakota Community Action Agency (SENDCAA)</u>: Budget \$210,000 • <u>Presentation Partners in Housing</u>: Budget \$210,000 <p><i>Eligibility & Regulation Citation: 03T Operating Costs of Homeless/Aids Patient Programs, 24 CFR Part 570.201(e)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Direct Housing Assistance</u>: Budget \$460,000 <p><i>National Objective, Eligibility, & Regulation Citation: Low-Mod Clientele Benefit, 05Q Subsistence Payments, 24 CFR 570.207(b)(4)</i></p> <p>Several people have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly those who have low income. Many jobs were lost and in some cases, housing was lost. Keeping people housed, rapidly re-housing, or housing people who are currently homeless instantly provides a safe place for quarantine, isolation, and social distancing. Ultimately, this response reduces the spread of COVID-19 and keeps the community's hospitals from being inundated.</p>	
Affordable Single-Family Housing for Ownership	<p>Add four units of affordable single-family housing for ownership, to be occupied by low-to-moderate income households. Activities may include acquisition, rehabilitation, and/or new construction.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lake Agassiz Habitat for Humanity: Budget \$200,000 • Cass Clay Community Land Trust: Budget \$200,000 <p><i>National Objective: Low-Mod Housing Benefit, HOME Eligible Activity under 92.205(a)(1)</i></p>	\$400,000 HOME
Contingency Funds	Funds held in contingency for issues that may arise during the program year.	\$16,912 CDBG \$4,199 HOME

Contingency Provisions/Potential Adjustments to 2020 Activities & Budget:

- Budget adjustments transferring amounts greater than 10% of the amount allocated to the City's entitlement grant programs for program year 2020 are considered substantial amendments and will be implemented in accordance with Fargo's Citizen Participation Plan
- Unanticipated program income may result in a substantial amendment to amend activities and budgets in accordance with Fargo's Citizen Participation Plan
- To match actual 2020 allocation amounts, any increase or decrease in funding will be applied to the Emergency Subsistence Payments/Homeless Prevention & Diversion Efforts project
- All funding levels indicated above are estimated amounts

Comments & Suggestions

Comments and suggestions from the public are encouraged through a public comment period and/or at the public hearing (schedule below). The 2020-2024 (including 2020 Annual Action Plan) draft plan are available online at www.fargond.gov/planninganddevelopment/plansandstudies or by request through the Planning and Development Department. See contact information below.

The City of Fargo, in an effort to exercise the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines pertaining to social distancing and gatherings, is encouraging all stakeholders in the Community Development Block Grant and HOME Programs to participate in the public comment period remotely. Comments submitted by email or telephone are preferred. Email: Planning@FargoND.gov, Telephone: 701.476.4144. To address the City Commission virtually during the January 25 public hearing, please contact the Planning Department at 701.241.1474 for instructions.

City Hall Commission Chambers are accessible and can accommodate persons with disabilities. Alternative formats of this information or reasonable accommodations for persons with hearing loss, vision loss, disabilities or limited English proficiency, including the availability of interpretation and translation services, will be made upon request (a 48 hour notice is required). Anyone who requires these services or an auxiliary aid to fully participate should contact the Planning and Development Department at 701.241.1474 / Planning@FargoND.gov, or the City of Fargo's Section 504/ADA Coordinator Brock Morrison at 701.298.6966 to arrange for services. To access North Dakota Relay dial 711. In accordance with Federal regulations and City of Fargo policies, the City of Fargo provides services without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, familial status, religion, marital status, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, public assistance, domestic violence, lawful activity, or condition protected by applicable federal and state laws. The City is an equal employment/equal housing opportunity agency.

Public Comment period:

January 14-25, 2021

Per the City of Fargo's Citizen Participation Plan for HUD programs and HUD waiver authorized through the CARES Act, expedited citizen participation procedures have been adopted. Fargo citizens are provided with notice and a reasonable opportunity to comment for a minimum of five (5) days.

Send written comments or phone: City of Fargo
Planning and Development Department
Attn: Community Development Planning Coordinator
225 4th Street North, Fargo ND 58102
701.476.4144

Electronic Comments: planning@FargoND.gov

**Public Hearing &
Final City Commission Consideration:** Monday, January 25, 2021 - 5:15 pm
Fargo City Commission Chambers Virtual
225 4th Street North, Fargo, ND 58102