



To: John Cooley, Chairman, Future Fort Smith Committee  
From: Candyce Gabucci, Director of Community Development  
Date: September 30, 2022  
Re: Status Report

#### Community Development

The Community Development division is responsible for administering the costs and charges related to the planning and implementation of community development projects funded in whole or in part by the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME grant programs. Program activities include responsibility for the rehabilitation of privately owned residential properties for low and moderate income households and other programs to help provide affordable housing.

Each year, the Community Development Advisory Committee recommends CDBG and HOME funds for local non-profit organizations as well as community development housing organization to the Fort Smith Board of Directors. These funds are administered for the purpose of benefiting low to moderate income citizens, eliminate slum and blight, and meet urgent needs.

This supports the following Comprehensive Plan goals, policies, or actions:

HN 3.1.1	Work closely with appropriate agencies or entities involved in regional housing initiatives.
----------	--

HN 1.5	Improve public participation in the revitalization process of Fort Smith neighborhoods.
HN 2.1.1	Locate diverse housing opportunities accessible to shopping, parks, recreation centers, schools, medical care, and public transit.
ED 7.1	Encourage the development of housing product types which help to diversify Fort Smith's existing housing stock.

In 2021 the Five Year Consolidated Plan for Program Years 2021-2025 was released. The process started out with community needs assessment surveys in December 2020. The plan is a compilation of census data and information gathered locally including the Fort Smith Continuum of Care and a survey of citizens that is used to assist in prioritizing needs. The intention of the Consolidated Plan is to meet the federal government statutory requirement and serves as the baseline for measuring program effectiveness including the analysis of the local housing market and housing and homeless needs. To view the current Consolidated Plan (PY 2021-2025) in its entirety please visit the Community Development page of [www.fortsmithar.gov](http://www.fortsmithar.gov). This plan supports the following Comprehensive Plan goals, policies, or actions:

HN 3.1.1	Work closely with appropriate agencies or entities involved in regional housing initiatives.
HN 1.5	Improve public participation in the revitalization process of Fort Smith neighborhoods.
HN 2.1.1	Locate diverse housing opportunities accessible to shopping, parks, recreation centers, schools, medical care, and public transit.
ED 7.1	Encourage the development of housing product types which help to diversify Fort Smith's existing housing stock.

For the actions to support these goals, the Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) is prepared on an annual basis. These reports can be accessed on the same Community Development webpage as noted above.

Community Development Block Grant funds for the upcoming program year have been targeted to provide case management at the River View Hope Campus. The funding towards these activities total \$16,782. Block Grant funds have also been allocated for the relocation of Next Step Homeless Services in the amount of \$289,876. This supports the following goal, policy, and action:

HN 2.3.1	Continue to support, the recommendations made by the Homelessness Task Force and adopted by the City Board.
----------	---