

## OREGON HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

## 2019 AAP Agency's Evaluation of Public Comments

The opportunity for Citizen Participation is a critically important aspect in development of an Annual Action Plan. The 2019 Plan offered Oregonians the ability to comment on the Community Development Block Grant program through a public notice announcing a public hearing and public comment period which was published in 'The Oregonian' on Monday, February 11, 2019. The notice was also placed on Business Oregon's website and "pushed out" through the agency's marketing and communications section to persons signed up to receive CDBG listserv notifications. The 30-day public comment period was from February 11, through March 15, 2019 and the Public Hearing was held on March 11, 2019. No comments were received during the public comment period.

Oregonians could also comment on the entire 2019 AAP as this document was advertised using various methods of outreach. Five newspapers requesting public comment were utilized and comments were received from May 14, 2019 - June 13, 2019. Advertisements were made in English and Spanish in 'The Bulletin', and an English advertisement with contact information also in Spanish was made available through 'The Oregonian', 'Salem News', 'East Oregonian' and the 'Medford Mail Tribune'. Information was also posted on the OHCS website. There were four public comments received by OHCS all of which will be provided within the 2019 AAP as attachments. All the public comments were specific to funding Pod Villages similar to Phase 2 of the Kenton Women's Village in Portland Oregon. These villages are small scale (approximately 20 unit) neighborhood based temporary housing programs that provide safety and support for chronically homeless individuals. These units share kitchen and bathroom spaces. Three of the four comments sought funding for utility infrastructure assistance for a Pod Village project in the planning phase called "The Grotto".

In response to these comments, the State of Oregon congratulates Catholic Charities for their continued support of families in need of housing. We appreciate their efforts and partnership in working to end homelessness in Oregon. Infrastructure assistance is an eligible expense for the CDBG program. However, the State of Oregon does not provide CDBG funding in Portland, Oregon as the City of Portland is an Entitlement City which means they receive CDBG money directly from the Department of Housing & Urban Development. We encourage the commenters to contact the City of Portland to see what priorities have been set for their CDBG program. The State of Oregon would also be able to provide this contact information if requested.

### **6/18/2020 - CARES Act Amendment**

In accordance with CARES Act guidance, OHCS displayed ESG-CV modifications to the 2019 Annual Action Plan on its website beginning June 18, 2020. On June 19, 2020 these modifications were combined with the HOPWA program CARES Act updates. The HOPWA CARES Act public comment period was open from June 19, 2020 and closed on June 26, 2020. CDBG CV-1 & CV-2 (CARES Act) information was advertised through Business Oregon for 5 days starting on June 22, 2020 and was available for Public Comment. OHCS added the CDBG information to its combined document displayed on the OHCS website beginning June 24, 2020 and extended public comment for CDBG through the combined document through June 29. OHCS did not receive any public comment through its advertisement and public comment process but Business Oregon received multiple public comments. Comments and responses to these comments are summarized in the below matrixes.

### **10/1/2020 – CARES Act Amendment**

In accordance with CARES Act guidance, OHCS displayed ESG-CV2 modifications to the 2019 Annual Action Plan on its website beginning October 1, 2020.

### **10/17/2020 – CARES ACT Amendment CDBG-CV3**

Additional funding for CDBG CARES Act (CV3) information was advertised through Business Oregon for 5 days starting on October 17, 2020 and was available for Public Comment. Business Oregon did not receive any public comment through its advertisement and public comment process from this particular period.