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The Citizen Participation Plan

Five-Year Consolidated Plan for the HUD Program Year 2020-2024

PR-15 Citizen Participation Plan –24 CFR 91.105, 91.115, and 91.401

Introduction to the Consolidated Plan and its purpose

The City of Albany receives four entitlement grants from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) each year. These grants are secured and managed by Albany Community Development Agency (ACDA). ACDA allocates the HUD funds to sub-recipients through strategic grants or to the community through housing programs and City-wide neighborhood development or public improvement projects. The primary purpose of these programs is to create viable communities by providing decent housing, a suitable living environment, and economic opportunities principally for low- and moderate-income people.

The decisions for allocating funds are made based on a data-driven needs assessment, extensive consultation and citizen participation. These determinations are defined and summarized in the City's five-year Consolidated Plan in a very transparent process involving multiple reviews and feedback sessions from the community. The consolidated planning process is a federal requirement for states and jurisdictions that receive entitlement resources through HUD. The document outlines ACDA's strategic objectives and initiatives that guide the HUD entitlement spending over the course of five years. It also provides a local planning process, determines the neighborhood strategy areas for project implementation, and creates a unified vision that best serves our community. This serves as a complete application for the four HUD Entitlement Grants awarded to the City. The Consolidated Plan is updated every five years and submitted to HUD.

ACDA is currently in the process of updating its FY 2020 – 2024 Consolidated Plan. The priorities and policies adopted in this plan will shape the allocation of nearly \$12 million in federal investment anticipated each year. The federal funds are disbursed yearly and the grant amount varies depending on the funding decisions at the federal level and then allocated to each community based on population and levels of poverty. Citizen participation is essential in developing the goals and objectives for the 5-Year Consolidated Plan. Community identified needs, and funding priorities for the City's affordable housing, and community and economic development activities will redefine the programs and its objectives for the upcoming program year. The specific project and program information indicating the priorities each year for funds are detailed in the Annual Action Plan. At the end of each year, ACDA submits a Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) detailing how the City spent the federal funds and whether or not the City met the goals set forth in the Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan.

ACDA is committed to providing all members of the community with opportunities to participate in an advisory role in the planning, implementation and evaluation of the City's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnership (HOME), Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), and Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA). ACDA is the lead agency responsible for establishing and implementing policies related to the use of these funds and recommends action to the Common Council, which approves the submission of the plan to HUD.

As the lead agency and administrator of these funds for the City, ACDA presents this document as the Citizen Participation Plan (CPP) to outline the process that will be followed to engage with the community and provide residents, organizations, and other stakeholders an opportunity to help shape the Consolidated Plan and comment on a draft prior to the submission to HUD. The process will include both formal and informal opportunities for participation. The CPP is designed especially to encourage participation by low- and moderate-income persons, particularly residents of blighted areas and low- and moderate-income neighborhoods. Participation is also

encouraged by non-English speaking persons, persons with disabilities and residents of public and assisted housing developments, residents of targeted revitalization areas and other special populations. This document details the special accommodations and translation services that will be made available to ensure equal participation by all members.

What is the Citizen Participation Plan?

The Citizen Participation Plan (CPP) is a description of the public participation process envisioned for the development of the 5-year Consolidated Plan, including but not limited to public hearings and public comment periods. The CPP sets forth the City's policies and procedures for citizen involvement. It establishes the City's roadmap to encourage citizens and entitlement grant beneficiaries to participate in the planning, execution, and evaluation of the five-year Consolidated Plan (ConPlan), the Annual Action Plan (AAP), and the Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER).

Citizen input is crucial in shaping the allocation of HUD entitlement resources and evaluation of the strategic planning process for Program Years 2020-24. This document provides information about the various opportunities available for involvement of affected persons and other concerned citizens in the planning process. The City will ensure that there is complete transparency in the planning process and complete access to the draft Plans. There are detailed instructions in this document to guide the public's submission of comments and redresses. In an effort to ensure continuity of participation throughout all stages of the Plan's development, this document provides the timelines of the public hearings and meetings, along with the locations where physical copies of the survey and draft plans will be made available.

What is the role of the community in developing the Consolidated Plan?

It is in the best interest of the residents of the City to participate in the consolidated planning process. The CPP lays out a pathway for all citizens to exercise their voice and influence decisions that affect their communities, neighborhoods and way of life. This is a collaborative planning process which relies on the feedback and input from residents to prioritize programs that meet their needs and create viable communities by providing decent housing, a suitable living environment, and expanding economic opportunities principally for low- and moderate-income people. ACDA encourages all members of the community to help make the federal funds work in their neighborhood by helping identify and prioritize the programs and incentives that benefit low-and moderate income people.

Below is a brief description of the four HUD Entitlement Grants administered by ACDA:

1. The **Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)** program is a flexible funding resource that can be used for both housing and community development activities that must directly benefit at least 51% low- and moderate-income persons. Public service activities qualify under this category in most circumstances, including prevention or elimination of blight, aiding revitalization of neighborhoods, promoting economic development, and improving community facilities, infrastructure and services in low to moderate income communities. Expenditures under this category are limited to 30 percent of the City's expenditures. The City anticipates receiving \$4,000,000 each year.
2. The **HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME)** program supports Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDO). HOME CHDO funds are set aside for assisting the purchase of newly constructed or rehabilitated housing, developing newly constructed affordable housing, and purchasing an existing building and rehabilitating it for use as affordable housing. The City anticipates receiving \$750,000 each year.

3. The **Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)** program provides assistance to persons who are homeless or at risk of homelessness to quickly regain stability in permanent housing. The City receives approximately \$260,000 each year.
4. **The Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA)**
The Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) Program is the only Federal program dedicated to the housing needs of people living with HIV/AIDS. HOPWA funds are provided to organizations in Albany, Schenectady and Rensselaer Counties and may be used for a wide range of housing, social services, program planning, and development costs. These include, but are not limited to, the acquisition; rehabilitation; or new construction of housing units; costs for facility operations; rental assistance; and short-term payments to prevent homelessness. The City anticipates receiving roughly \$550,000 each year.

Applicability and adoption of the Citizen Participation Plan

The Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) for the Consolidated Plan (24 CFR Part 91 Sec. 91.105) requires the City to adopt a Citizen Participation Plan that sets forth the City's policies and procedures for citizen participation. CPP establishes the standards for community involvement and review throughout the planning, execution, and evaluation of the Consolidated Plan, the AAPs, and the CAPERs. In addition, HUD Final Regulations for the Assessment of Fair Housing (AFH) requires the City to adopt a Community Participation Plan (CoPP), setting forth the City's policies and procedures for the solicitation of views and recommendations from members of the community and other interested parties, consideration of the views and recommendations received, and incorporation of such views and recommendations into decisions and outcomes (24 CFR §5.152). CoPP policies and procedures mirror those of the CPP, with the addition of requirements regarding HUD-provided data and other supplemental information and required consultation with other public and private agencies. This Citizen and Community Participation Plan serve to meet the federal requirements described above concurrently.

Citizens are encouraged to review this document and provide comments and feedback and request amendments. There is a 30 day comment period from the date this document is published. The CPP will be published online and will also be made available at various locations across the City. Please refer to the appendix for details. **For CDBG funding under FY 2019-2020, FY 2020-2021, and the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act or CARES Act, the ACDA may provide a 5-day notice of a proposed off-cycle change or substantial amendments beginning April 22, 2020 as allowed under a HUD waiver.**

Criteria for Amendments

In the course of administering federally funded programs, the City may need to amend the Consolidated Plan or an Annual Action Plan. All minor and substantial amendments will be subject to the more stringent of the City's or HUD's program requirements, including, but not limited to, funding approval. Records of all amendments will be maintained by the City for public review and will be fully described in the annual performance report submitted to HUD.

1. Substantial Amendment

A substantial amendment requires public hearing and a 30-day public comment period. These amendments will be reflected in Integrated Disbursement and Information System (IDIS), reported to HUD accordingly, and approved by Common Council where required.

A substantial amendment will be undertaken in the following circumstances:

1. New activity or program not previously described in the AAP or Consolidated Plan;
2. Change the purpose, scope, location or beneficiaries of an activity;
3. Change in the City's allocation priorities, including establishing new activities;
4. Change in the use of federal funds from one eligible activity to another in excess of 25% of a single activity budget.

2. Minor Amendment

When the change involves a shift of funds between budget lines in order to accommodate changing project needs over the course of the program year, without any addition or deletion of programs and projects, the proposed change will be treated as a minor amendment. In these cases, no formal public hearing is required, but HUD will be notified of the budget revision. A minor amendment does not require a public hearing or public comment period. Minor amendments will be reflected in IDIS, reported to HUD accordingly, and approved by Common Council where required.

A minor amendment will be undertaken in the following circumstances:

1. Change in the method of distribution of funds;
2. The reallocation of funds not expended after an activity is completed as approved to a previously approved activity;
3. Increase, or decrease of funds for a previously approved activity; not exceeding 25% of the total project budget;
4. Increase or decrease of funding for an approved activity; not exceeding 10% of the City's total annual grant allocation;
5. Cancellation of a previously approved activity due to unforeseen circumstances that have caused significant delays or unreasonable cost burdens.

Public Notice and Publication of Amendments

In the case of a proposed substantial amendment, the City will publish a public notice in the *Albany Times Union* describing the project, the amount to be spent, the proposed amendment and an explanation for the same. A 30-day public comment period will be provided, unless instruction is provided by HUD that allows a shorter public comment period. The public comment period will be scheduled to end any time before the plan is approved by Common Council and the date, time, and location of the public hearing will announced 15 days in advance to allow citizens sufficient time to plan and request for special accommodations. The public hearing will occur at least 10 days prior to the Common Council meeting at which the plan is slated for adoption. The public notice will list the locations where copies of the proposed amendment may be examined. The amendment will be posted on the City's website, distributed electronically to neighborhood associations, and sent out through the City's media list. The City is committed to ensuring transparency and citizen participation. Each plan will be made available for review and feedback in a manner that affords citizens, public agencies, and other interested parties a reasonable opportunity to examine its contents and submit comments.

Disaster/emergency events that may require expedited substantial amendments:

It may be necessary to expedite substantial amendments to the Consolidated Plan in the event of a declared disaster or emergency. There are three types of disasters/emergency events that may necessitate an expedited substantial amendment including (1) Man-Made-disasters, (2) Natural disasters, and (3) Terrorism. Man-made disasters can include chemical spills, mass rioting, power outages, dam failure, plant explosions, etc. Natural disasters can include earthquakes, tsunamis, hurricanes, tornadoes, wild fires, flooding and public health issues such as wide-spread disease such as the recent coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). Terrorism events include bomb threats, biochemical attacks like the spread of anthrax, or cyber-attacks like hacking, phishing, and virus distribution, etc.

These expedited substantial amendments may include funding new activities and/or the reprogramming of funds including canceling activities to meet needs resulting from a declared disaster or emergency. Therefore,

the ACDA may utilize CDBG, HOME, HOPWA or ESG funds to meet these needs with a 5-day public comment period instead of a 30-day public comment period, which is otherwise required for substantial amendments. For CDBG funding under FY 2019-2020, FY 2020-2021, and the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act or CARES Act, the ACDA may provide a 5-day notice of a proposed off-cycle change beginning April 22, 2020 as allowed under a HUD waiver. Special HOPWA and ESG funding under the CARES Act referred to as HOPWA-CV and ESG-CV to address the COVID-19 pandemic do not apply to citizen participation requirements that would otherwise apply to ESG funds; however, the City will publish how the HOPWA-CV and ESG-CV funding has or will be used on the ACDA website.

With respect to a declared disaster, the ACDA may elect to use CDBG, HOME, HOPWA or ESG funds to address needs not provided for by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Small Business Administration (SBA), or other disaster relief efforts. Funding for disaster relief may not duplicate other efforts undertaken by federal or local sources unless allowed by the federal government. Potential eligible uses of funds are those that are included in this Citizen Participation Plan, the Consolidated Plan, or any other CDBG, HOME, HOPWA or ESG eligible use.

HUD may provide new guidance on eligible uses in which the City will comply with and may utilize as well.

All eligible CDBG activities, including those to address declared disasters or emergencies, must meet one of three national objectives which are: (1) Benefit to low- and moderate-income (LMI) persons; (2) Aid in the prevention of slums or blight; and (3) Meet a need having a particular urgency (referred to urgent need). The ACDA may carryout eligible CDBG activities to meet needs resulting from declared disasters or emergencies under any one of the three national objectives.

Responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic

The City may reprogram up to 50% of FY 2019-2020 funding and use up to 100% of FY 2020-2021 and future CDBG, HOME, HOPWA and ESG funding to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Funding for activities that have required in-person interaction including, but not limited to, housing rehabilitation, emergency repair programs, and a variety of community services may be reprogrammed into activities that allow for social distancing. Meal delivery services, online programming for a variety of clientele including, but not limited to, youth and senior citizens, and various business and microenterprise assistance identified below to respond to or recover from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Please see below for other possible activities that may be funded. Any other possible eligible activity not included below may also be considered.

Potential eligible CDBG Activities that may be undertaken to support the COVID-19 response include, but are not limited to:

- Building and Improvements, including Public Facilities such as constructing testing and diagnosis, or treatment facility; rehabilitation of a community facility to establish an infectious disease treatment clinic; acquisition and rehabilitation, or construction of a group living facility that may be used to centralize patients undergoing treatment; rehabilitation of a commercial building or closed school building to establish an infectious disease treatment clinic, e.g. by replacing the HVAC system; acquisition and rehabilitation of a motel or hotel building to expand the capacity of hospitals to accommodate isolation of patients during recovery; or to make interim improvements to private properties to enable an individual patient to remain quarantined on a temporary basis;
- Assistance to Businesses, including Special Economic Development Activities such as providing grants or loans to support new business expansion to create jobs and manufacture medical supplies necessary to respond to infectious disease; avoid job loss caused by business closures related to social distancing by providing short-term working capital assistance to small businesses to enable retention of jobs held by low- and moderate-income persons; or to provide technical assistance, grants, loans, and other financial assistance to establish,

stabilize, and expand microenterprises that provide medical, food delivery, cleaning, and other services to support home health and quarantine;

- Public Services such as job training to expand the pool of health care workers and technicians that are available to treat a disease within a community; provide testing, diagnosis or other services at a fixed or mobile location; increase the capacity and availability of targeted health services for infectious disease response within existing facilities; provide equipment, supplies, and materials necessary to carry out a public service; deliver meals on wheels to quarantined individuals that need to maintain social distancing due to medical vulnerabilities;
- Planning, Capacity Building, and Technical Assistance such as gathering data and developing non-project specific emergency infectious disease response plans; and
- Any other activity allowed under current CDBG regulations.

Urgent Need National Objective: To comply with the national objective of meeting community development needs having particular urgency, an activity will alleviate existing conditions that the ACDA or city certifies:

- Pose a serious and immediate threat to the health and welfare of the community;
- Are of recent origin or recently became urgent;
- The city is unable to finance the activity on its own; and,
- Other resources of funding are not available to carry out the activity.

A condition will generally be considered to be of recent origin if it is developed or became critical within 18 months preceding the ACDA's or participating city's certification.

*If HUD allows, such as through a waiver, activities under the urgent need national objective to be funded without the requirement that the City is unable to finance the activity on its own and other resources of funding are not available to carry out the activity, the ACDA will only certify that the activity poses a serious and immediate threat to the health and welfare of the community and is of recent origin or recently became urgent.

Urgent need activities may include, but not limited to, the following:

- Clearance of Debris;
- Demolition, clearance and/or reconstruction of damaged property posing an immediate threat to public safety;
- Emergency reconstruction of essential water, sewer, electrical, medical, and telephone facilities;
- Emergency repair of streets and sidewalks; and
- Providing a variety of relief services to individuals.

Performance Report Approval Process

The Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) is an annual update on accomplishments and progress toward Consolidated Plan goals. Each year ACDA submits a CAPER to HUD. This report is due 90 days after the close of the program year. To ensure that the public is able to review and assess the progress in achieving the goals and objectives defined in the five-year Consolidated Plan, the City will issue public notices, hold a public hearing, and accept public comments. This report does not require Common Council approval and may be presented as an informational item.

Public Notice & Publication of the CAPER

The City will publish a public notice in the *Albany Times Union* announcing the availability of the CAPER and establishing a 15-day public comment period. All comments, written or verbal, will be accepted during this time frame. The public comment period will be scheduled to end any time before the plan is submitted to HUD. The public notice will include a date, time and location for a public hearing which shall be held before or during the 15-day public comment period.

A summary of all comments or views, and a summary of any comments or views not accepted and the reasons therefore, shall be attached to the final CAPER before submittal to HUD. The public notice will list the locations where copies of the proposed amendment may be examined. The amendment will be posted on the City's website, and distributed electronically to neighborhood associations, and sent out through the City's media list. The City is committed to ensuring transparency and citizen participation. Each plan will be made available for review and feedback in a manner that affords citizens, public agencies, and other interested parties a reasonable opportunity to examine its contents and submit comments.

Public Hearings for the Consolidated Plan

ACDA will hold two public hearing during the development of the Consolidated Plan to gather input from citizens and respond to proposals and questions. The first hearing will be held before the proposed consolidated plan is published for comment. This will be an open house format, focused on understanding the needs and priorities of the community. The second hearing will be after the Consolidated Plan has been published. The purpose is to obtain citizens' views on housing and community development needs, including non-housing community development needs, as well as to respond to proposals and questions.

Public notice will be published in the *Albany Times Union* and will describe the purpose of the public hearing and provide the date, time, and location of the hearing. The notice will be announced 15 days in advance to allow citizens sufficient time to plan and request for special accommodation. Upon request, reasonable accommodations will be provided to meet the needs of non-English speaking residents. The City will also take whatever actions are appropriate to serve the needs of persons with disabilities.

Public Comments for the Citizen Participation Plan and Consolidated Plan

The City will provide a period of at least 30 days to receive comments from citizens and other stakeholders on the Citizen Participation Plan, the adopted Consolidated Plan, and any Substantial Amendment proposed to these Plans. The Annual Action Plan will have a 15 day comment period and is due 60 days after allocations from HUD are received. The CAPER report is due 90 days after the close of the program year and has a 15-day public comment period. All comments, written or verbal, will be accepted during this time frame. All comments and views of citizens and other stakeholders received orally, by email, or in writing will be responded to in writing. A summary of comments or views received throughout the planning process shall be attached to the final adopted plan. This will include a summary of any comments or views not accepted and the reasons for not accepting the same.

Availability to the Public

The Citizen Participation Plan, the adopted Consolidated Plan, Annual Action Plan, the Performance Plan and any Substantial Amendment proposed to these Plans will be made available to the public on the ACDA website. Hard copies of all documents will be available at the below identified locations. The City will make these records available in a form accessible to persons with disabilities, upon request.

Location	Address
Albany Community Development Agency	200 Henry Johnson Blvd, Albany, NY 12210

Access to Plan Records

ACDA will provide access to records for the current program year and the preceding five years of programs. These records include, but are not limited to, the Citizen Participation Plan, the Consolidated Plan as adopted, annual action plans, performance reports, and substantial amendments. The City will make these records available in a form accessible to persons with disabilities, upon request. Records are maintained in the offices of the Albany Community Development Agency and are hosted on their website - www.albanyny.gov/Government/Departments/ACDA.

Records less than two years old shall be readily available for public inspection. Records from two- to six-years old shall be accessible for public inspection within 48 hours of a written request. ACDA maintains records of public notices, applications for funding, funded projects, audit findings, correspondence (including complaints), and the Environmental Review Records.

Technical Assistance to Groups Applying for HUD Funding

The City is required to provide technical assistance to groups that representing low- and moderate-income people who request such assistance to develop proposals for funding assistance under any of the programs covered by the Consolidated Plan. ACDA staff will host technical sessions to talk about the requirements of the proposals and provide a handbook that details the process. The City's technical assistance shall be advisory only and will not include the actual preparation work, nor shall it be interpreted as advocacy for a particular plan or application or tacit approval of one. This assistance by the City shall be provided free of charge. To request assistance, please contact the Albany Community Development Agency.

Responses to Public Comments

Written response will be provided to all comments regarding the Annual Action Plan, Consolidated Plan, CAPER, or individual activities undertaken by the ACDA. All responses shall be completed within 15 days after receipt unless additional research is needed and a copy of the response will be provided to the complainant if requested by the complainant. Comments or views not accepted, and the reasons, will also be attached to the document(s). This policy shall apply to comments received at public hearings for the Consolidated Plan in general as well as for the CAPER and for substantial amendments. For ease of understanding, a summary of comments and responses will be kept on record and will be attached to appropriate submissions to HUD.

Complaint Procedure for the Consolidated Plan

ACDA is the point of contact for all questions, comments, complaints, and requests, written or verbal, relating to the Consolidated Plan. Citizens can send their complaints via email: communitydevelopment@albanyny.gov. If preferred, they may stop by the ACDA office at 200 Henry Johnson Blvd. Office Hours are Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Complaints can also be mailed by post to Albany Community Development Agency, 200 Henry Johnson Blvd, Second Floor, Suite #1, Albany, NY 12210 or call (518) 434-5265. All complaints will be documented and included in the final report.

Responses to Complaints

Written response will be provided to all complaints regarding the Annual Action Plan, Consolidated Plan, CAPER, or individual activities undertaken by the ACDA. All responses will be provided within 15 working days of receipt of the complaint or prior to submission for approval, whichever is sooner if no further deliberation is required.

If the complaint involves a policy issue that requires deliberation of one or more policy groups, the individual or organization submitting the complaint shall be notified of this fact within 15 days. The issue will be brought to the attention of the appropriate stakeholders at their earliest availability and a response will be developed after their consideration.

Displacement of Persons or Businesses

The City is required to set forth plans to minimize displacement of persons and to assist any person displaced, specifying the types and levels of assistance the City will make available (or require others to make available) to persons displaced, even if the City expects no displacements to occur. In keeping with the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Act passed by the U.S. federal government in 1970, the term "displaced person" means any person who moves from real property, or moves his personal property from real property as a direct result of a written notice of intent to acquire or the acquisition of such real property in whole or in part for a program or project undertaken by a Federal agency or with Federal financial assistance; or on which such person is a residential tenant or conducts a small business, a farm operation, or a business as a direct result of rehabilitation, demolition. Displacement does not include a person who has been determined, according to criteria established by the head of the lead agency, to be either in unlawful occupancy of the displacement dwelling or to have occupied such dwelling for the purpose of obtaining assistance. It also excludes cases in which the displacing agency acquires property for a program or project, any person (other than a person who was an occupant of such property at the time it was acquired) who occupies such property on a rental basis for a short term or a period subject to termination when the property is needed for the program or project.

Displaced persons and entities are eligible for relocation assistance under federal law and as per HUD requirements, the City is required to describe its plans to minimize displacement of persons and to specify types and levels of assistance the City will make available to persons who are displaced. The City is required to specify the types and levels of assistance the jurisdiction will make available (or require others to make available) to persons displaced, even if the jurisdiction expects no displacement to occur.

ACDA will ensure that the City does not acquire or demolish occupied structures unless the structure is owner-occupied and a voluntary acquisition takes place. When displacement is unavoidable, the City will offer the following types of assistance:

For residential displacements:

1. Provide relocation advisory services to displaced tenants and owner occupants;
2. Provide a minimum of 90 days written notice to vacate prior to possession;
3. Provide reimbursement for moving expenses;
4. Provide payments for the added cost of renting or purchasing comparable replacement housing.

For nonresidential displacements (businesses and nonprofit organizations):

5. Provide relocation advisory services;
6. Provide a minimum 90 days written notice to vacate prior to possession;
7. Provide reimbursement for moving and re-establishment expenses;
8. Provide payments for the added cost of renting or purchasing comparable commercial space.

Contact Information for Responses to the Consolidated Plan

Albany Community Development Agency is the point of contact for all questions, comments, complaints, and requests. We encourage citizens to engage with our staff for information and clarification. Questions and comments can be sent to the below address:

Albany Community Development Agency
200 Henry Johnson Blvd
Second Floor | Suite #1
Albany, NY 12210

Phone: (518) 434-5265

Fax: (518) 434-5294

Email: communitydevelopment@albanyny.gov

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Appendix A
Tentative Citizen Participation Schedule

The program year for the City of Albany starts June 2020.

Tentative Date	Purpose	Comment Period
January 31, 2020	Publish the Citizen Participation Plan	30 day comment period
January 31, 2020	Public Survey for Needs Assessment	Throughout the planning process End Date: April 10, 2020
February 03, 2020	Public Notice for Public Hearing 1	Request for accommodation and translations accepted till Feb 14 th
February 19, 2020	Public Hearing 1	Written and/or verbal comments, feedback, inputs, complaints and requests are encouraged.
March 14, 2020	Publish Annual Action Plan/Consolidated Plan	30 days comment period
March 19, 2020	Public Notice for Public Hearing 2	Request for accommodation and translations accepted till Feb 27 th
April 03, 2020	Public Hearing 2	Written and/or verbal comments, feedback, inputs, complaints and requests are encouraged.
April 15, 2020	Adoption of the Consolidated Plan	30 days comment period
August 15, 2020	Publish the CAPER for review	15 days comment period

Appendix B - Definitions.

Annual Action Plan: This document is an annual submission to HUD for the entitlement grants. ACDA allocates the anticipated one (1) year HUD Entitlement Grants to specific projects and activities for the CDBG, HOME, HOPWA and ESG programs.

At risk of homelessness.

(1) An individual or family who:

- (i) Has an annual income below 30 percent of median family income for the area, as determined by HUD;
- (ii) Does not have sufficient resources or support networks, e.g., family, friends, faith-based or other social networks, immediately available to prevent them from moving to an emergency shelter or another place described in paragraph (1) of the “Homeless” definition in this section; and
- (iii) Meets one of the following conditions:
 - (A) Has moved because of economic reasons two or more times during the 60 days immediately preceding the application for homelessness prevention assistance;
 - (B) Is living in the home of another because of economic hardship;
 - (C) Has been notified in writing that their right to occupy their current housing or living situation will be terminated within 21 days after the date of application for assistance;
 - (D) Lives in a hotel or motel and the cost of the hotel or motel stay is not paid by charitable organizations or by federal, State, or local government programs for low-income individuals;
 - (E) Lives in a single-room occupancy or efficiency apartment unit in which there reside more than two persons or lives in a larger housing unit in which there reside more than 1.5 people per room, as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau;
 - (F) Is exiting a publicly funded institution, or system of care (such as a health-care facility, a mental health facility, foster care or other youth facility, or correction program or institution); or
 - (G) Otherwise lives in housing that has characteristics associated with instability and an increased risk of homelessness, as identified in the recipient's approved consolidated plan;

(2) A child or youth who does not qualify as “homeless” under this section, but qualifies as “homeless” under section 387(3) of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5732a(3)), section 637(11) of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9832(11)), section 41403(6) of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 14043e-2(6)), section 330(h)(5)(A) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254b(h)(5)(A)), section 3(m) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2012(m)), or section 17(b)(15) of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1786(b)(15)); or

(3) A child or youth who does not qualify as “homeless” under this section, but qualifies as “homeless” under section 725(2) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11434a(2)), and the parent(s) or guardian(s) of that child or youth if living with her or him.

Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER): This document reports on the progress made in carrying out the Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan. ACDA prepares the report annually in accordance with 24 CFR Part 91.105.

Certification. A written assertion, based on supporting evidence, that must be kept available for inspection by HUD, by the Inspector General of HUD, and by the public. The assertion shall be deemed to be accurate unless HUD determines otherwise, after inspecting the evidence and providing due notice and opportunity for comment.

Chronically homeless means:

A “homeless individual with a disability,” as defined in section 401(9) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11360(9)), who:

Lives in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter; and

Has been homeless and living as described in paragraph (1)(i) of this definition continuously for at least 12 months or on at least 4 separate occasions in the last 3 years, as long as the combined occasions equal at least 12 months and each break in homelessness separating the occasions included at least 7 consecutive nights of not living as described in paragraph (1)(i). Stays in institutional care facilities for fewer than 90 days will not constitute as a break in homelessness, but rather such stays are included in the 12-month total, as long as the individual was living or residing in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or an emergency shelter immediately before entering the institutional care facility;

An individual who has been residing in an institutional care facility, including a jail, substance abuse or mental health treatment facility, hospital, or other similar facility, for fewer than 90 days and met all of the criteria in paragraph (1) of this definition, before entering that facility; or

A family with an adult head of household (or if there is no adult in the family, a minor head of household) who meets all of the criteria in paragraph (1) or (2) of this definition, including a family whose composition has fluctuated while the head of household has been homeless.

Consolidated plan. The document that is submitted to HUD that serves as the comprehensive housing affordability strategy, community development plan, and submissions for funding under any of the Community Planning and Development formula grant programs (e.g., CDBG, ESG, HOME, and HOPWA), that is prepared in accordance with the process described in this part 24 CFR Part 91.

Continuum of Care. The group composed of representatives of relevant organizations, which generally includes nonprofit homeless providers, victim service providers, faith-based organizations, governments, businesses, advocates, public housing agencies, school districts, social service providers, mental health agencies, hospitals, universities, affordable housing developers, law enforcement, organizations that serve homeless and formerly homeless veterans, and homeless and formerly homeless persons that are organized to plan for and provide, as necessary, a system of outreach, engagement, and assessment; emergency shelter; rapid re-housing; transitional housing; permanent housing; and prevention strategies to address the various needs of homeless persons and persons at risk of homelessness for a specific geographic area.

Cost burden. The extent to which gross housing costs, including utility costs, exceed 30 percent of gross income, based on data available from the U.S. Census Bureau.

Emergency shelter. Any facility, the primary purpose of which is to provide a temporary shelter for the homeless in general or for specific populations of the homeless, and which does not require occupants to sign leases or occupancy agreements.

Extremely low-income family. Family whose income is between 0 and 30 percent of the median income for the area, as determined by HUD with adjustments for smaller and larger families, except that HUD may establish income ceilings higher or lower than 30 percent of the median for the area on the basis of HUD's findings that such variations are necessary because of prevailing levels of construction costs or fair market rents, or unusually high or low family incomes.

Homeless.

An individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, meaning:

An individual or family with a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, including a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport, or camping ground;

An individual or family living in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements (including congregate shelters, transitional housing, and hotels and motels paid for by charitable organizations or by federal, state, or local government programs for low-income individuals); or

An individual who is exiting an institution where he or she resided for 90 days or less and who resided in an emergency shelter or place not meant for human habitation immediately before entering that institution;

An individual or family who will imminently lose their primary nighttime residence, provided that:

- (i) The primary nighttime residence will be lost within 14 days of the date of application for homeless assistance;
- (ii) No subsequent residence has been identified; and
- (iii) The individual or family lacks the resources or support networks, e.g., family, friends, faith-based or other social networks needed to obtain other permanent housing;

Unaccompanied youth under 25 years of age, or families with children and youth, who do not otherwise qualify as homeless under this definition, but who:

- (i) Are defined as homeless under section 387 of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5732a), section 637 of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9832), section 41403 of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 14043e-2), section 330(h) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254b(h)), section 3 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2012), section 17(b) of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1786(b)), or section 725 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11434a);
- (ii) Have not had a lease, ownership interest, or occupancy agreement in permanent housing at any time during the 60 days immediately preceding the date of application for homeless assistance;
- (iii) Have experienced persistent instability as measured by two moves or more during the 60-day period immediately preceding the date of applying for homeless assistance; and
- (iv) Can be expected to continue in such status for an extended period of time because of chronic disabilities, chronic physical health or mental health conditions, substance addiction, histories of domestic violence or childhood abuse (including neglect), the presence of a child or youth with a disability, or two or more barriers to employment, which include the lack of a high school degree or General Education Development (GED), illiteracy, low English proficiency, a history of incarceration or detention for criminal activity, and a history of unstable employment; or

(4) Any individual or family who:

- (i) Is fleeing, or is attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or other dangerous or life-threatening conditions that relate to violence against the individual or a family member, including a child, that has either taken place within the individual's or family's primary nighttime residence or has made the individual or family afraid to return to their primary nighttime residence;
- (ii) Has no other residence; and
- (iii) Lacks the resources or support networks, e.g., family, friends, faith-based or other social networks, to obtain other permanent housing.

Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). The information system designated by the Continuum of Care to comply with HUD's data collection, management, and reporting standards and used to collect client-level data and data on the provision of housing and services to homeless individuals and families and persons at risk of homelessness.

Homeless person. A youth (17 years or younger) not accompanied by an adult (18 years or older) or an adult without children, who is homeless (not imprisoned or otherwise detained pursuant to an Act of Congress or a State law), including the following:

An individual who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence; and

An individual who has a primary nighttime residence that is:

A supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designed to provide temporary living accommodations (including welfare hotels, congregate shelters, and transitional housing for the mentally ill);

An institution that provides a temporary residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized; or

A public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.

HUD: The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Jurisdiction. A State or unit of general local government.

Low-income families. Low-income families whose incomes do not exceed 50 percent of the median family income for the area, as determined by HUD with adjustments for smaller and larger families, except that HUD may establish income ceilings higher or lower than 50 percent of the median for the area on the basis of HUD's findings that such variations are necessary because of prevailing levels of construction costs or fair market rents, or unusually high or low family incomes.

Middle-income family. Family whose income is between 80 percent and 95 percent of the median income for the area, as determined by HUD, with adjustments for smaller and larger families, except that HUD may establish income ceilings higher or lower than 95 percent of the median for the area on the basis of HUD's findings that such variations are necessary because of prevailing levels of construction costs or fair market rents, or unusually high or low family incomes. (This corresponds to the term "moderate income family" under the CHAS statute, 42 U.S.C. 12705.)

Moderate-income family. Family whose income does not exceed 80 percent of the median income for the area, as determined by HUD with adjustments for smaller and larger families, except that HUD may establish income ceilings higher or lower than 80 percent of the median for the area on the basis of HUD's findings that such variations are necessary because of prevailing levels of construction costs or fair market rents, or unusually high or low family incomes.

Needs Identification Report: This report provides an examination of current community needs, and identifies strategies, priority needs, and objectives for meeting housing, community development, and economic development goals. It also provides a basis for prioritizing project proposals for CDBG, HOME and ESG funding consideration

Person with a disability. A person who is determined to:

Have a physical, mental or emotional impairment that:

Is expected to be of long-continued and indefinite duration;

Substantially impedes his or her ability to live independently; and

Is of such a nature that the ability could be improved by more suitable housing conditions; or

Have a developmental disability, as defined in section 102(7) of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act (42 U.S.C. 6001-6007); or

Be the surviving member or members of any family that had been living in an assisted unit with the deceased member of the family who had a disability at the time of his or her death.

Poverty level family. Family with an income below the poverty line, as defined by the Office of Management and Budget and revised annually.

Program Year: The twelve (12) month period in which HUD funds are to be spent for eligible activities

Public Meeting: Public meetings are any assemblies or gathering, (such as conferences, informational sessions, seminars, workshops, or other activities) which the responsible agency intends to be open to anyone wishing to attend. Public meetings are less formal than public hearings. They do not require formal presentations, scheduling of presentations and a record of proceedings.

Public Hearing: A public hearing is an official proceeding of a governmental body or officer, during which the public is accorded the right to be heard. It bears emphasizing that any hearing held by a public body will necessarily constitute “conducting public business” within the meaning of the Open Meetings Law. The body must therefore have a quorum present, and must comply with the requirements of the OML as well as with the specific requirements found elsewhere that relate to the hearing itself. Many public hearings are required by law on particular matters, such as those that must be held prior to adoption of a local law, or prior to a determination by a planning board on a subdivision plat application. Many others need only be held at the option of a public body, because it may desire merely to gauge public opinion on a matter. Where a public hearing is required by law, the particular statute governing the subject matter usually sets forth the applicable procedural requirements.

Rapid re-housing assistance. The provision of housing relocation and stabilization services and short- and/or medium-term rental assistance as necessary to help a homeless individual or family move as quickly as possible into permanent housing and achieve stability in that housing.

Relocation: The movement of a person as a direct result of the implementation of federally assisted acquisition, demolition, conversion, or rehabilitation activities.

Severe cost burden. The extent to which gross housing costs, including utility costs, exceed 50 percent of gross income, based on data available from the U.S. Census Bureau.

State. Any State of the United States and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

Transitional housing. A project that is designed to provide housing and appropriate supportive services to homeless persons to facilitate movement to independent living within 24 months, or a longer period approved by HUD. For purposes of the HOME program, there is no HUD-approved time period for moving to independent living.

Victim service provider. A private nonprofit organization whose primary mission is to provide services to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking. This term includes rape crisis centers, battered women's shelters, domestic violence transitional housing programs, and other programs.

Unit of general local government. A city, town, township, county, parish, village, or other general purpose political subdivision of a State; an urban county; and a consortium of such political subdivisions recognized by HUD in accordance with the HOME program (24 CFR part 92) or the CDBG program (24 CFR part 570).

Subrecipient: A public or private nonprofit agency, authority or organization, or a for-profit entity receiving CDBG, HOME or ESG funds from the County or another subrecipient to undertake activities eligible for assistance. The term does not include contractors providing supplies, equipment, construction or services subject to the procurement requirements in 24 CFR Part 85.36 or in 24 CFR Part 84, as applicable.

Substantial Amendment: A substantial amendment is a change to the jurisdiction's planned or actual activities as published in the Consolidated Plan or Annual Action Plan.